

COMMUNIQUE

ISSUED BY

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs) WORKING IN THE AREA OF PEACE AND SECURITY, WOMEN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY AND THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS (NACSA) IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL ACTION NETWORK ON SMALL ARMS (IANSA)

IN ACCRA, ON TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2023

Organizations Present:

1. Ghana National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons (NACSA)
2. Foundation for Security and Development in Africa (FOSDA)
3. Women Mediators, Ghana
4. Women in Law and Development in Africa, Ghana (WILDAF- Ghana)
5. Women, Media, and Change (WOMECE)
6. Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII)
7. Gender Center for Empowering Development (GENCED)
8. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Ghana (WILPF-GH)
9. Abantu for Development
10. African Women Leaders Network (AWLN)

Preamble

The CSO Interface meeting with the Ghana National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons (NACSA) was organized by the Foundation for Security and Development in Africa (FOSDA) with the support of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) with institutional representation from GENCED, AWLN, WOMECE, WILPF-GH, WILDAF, Women Mediators Network, GII, Abantu for Development and Starr FM. This meeting was held in Accra on Tuesday, July 11, 2023.

The meeting's goal was to contribute to ending gun proliferation and gender-based gun violence in Ghana, especially through the promotion of gender dynamics in small arms control mechanisms. The meeting was also held to sensitise CSOs on the NACSA's mission and the small arms control mechanisms in Ghana.

Gender mainstreaming small arms control is a strategy where both women's and men's concerns and experiences are integrated into all aspects of small arms control processes so that activities, policies, and legislation are benefitting all genders equally.

Therefore, as part of the Global Week of Action against gun violence, the joint program by FOSDA and IANSA seeks to strengthen efforts to curb the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. It is also targeted at increased understanding of gender and small arms control-related linkages. The Global Week of Action was under the theme, "Promoting Dialogue and a Culture of Peace: Taking Action to End Gun Proliferation and Gender-based Gun Violence!" In view of this, CSOs in the gender, peace and security sectors were selected as participants in the meeting.

Key issues discussed

Participants at the meeting deliberated on the following issues:

1. Mission and mandate of the NACSA.
2. Gun laws in Ghana and small arms control mechanisms in the country.
3. The implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and the Ghana National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 (GHANAP 2).
4. Gender-based gun violence and women's participation in gun control in Ghana.
5. Low public education, sensitisation, and engagement in gun control mechanisms.
6. Regulation of locally produced guns, their control and legalization.
7. Gun registration and control of illicit arms in the society including marking and tracing the movement of arms within the country.
8. The role of the commission in conflict situations in Ghana.
9. Collaboration with the National Peace Council, National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) and other related institutions.

After careful deliberations on the above issues, the participants arrived at the following resolutions:

Recommendations for NACSA

1. Increase sensitization and public awareness of gun laws in Ghana using relevant and strategic media outlets to create awareness of small arms and their control.
It is important that such programs are strategically segmented to meet the various needs of the public including gender considerations, age and time.
2. Partner and collaborate with CSOs to work together toward ending gun violence. This includes commemorating the GWOA against gun violence in subsequent years.
3. Amend the Ammunition and Arms Act 1972 (NRCD 9), the NACSA Act and all other relevant laws to improve arms control in Ghana.

Recommendations for Government

1. Increase funding for the Commission to facilitate the effective execution of their mandate across the country.
2. Amend the Ammunition and Arms Act 1972 (NRCD 9), the NACSA Act and all other relevant laws to improve arms control in Ghana.

Recommendations for CSOs

1. Advocate against "official corruption" in arms control.

2. Leverage on various platforms to educate citizens especially women on small arms control mechanisms especially in Ghana.
3. Partner and collaborate with other CSOs toward ending gun violence. This includes commemorating the GWoA against gun violence in subsequent years.

Following the discussions and interactions held, the participants of the CSO interface meeting with NACSA have adopted the above resolutions for implementation towards promoting gender dynamics in small arms control mechanisms and promoting CSO efforts in minimising gender-based gun violence, particularly in Ghana.

Signed

Convenor

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Executive Director FOSDA