

## The Gendered Impacts of Small Arms and Light Weapons

Prepared for the  
Security Dialogue Session at the  
Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) on the topic of  
Gender-responsive Disarmament,  
By  
Vanessa FARR (Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, UNDP)  
in co-operation with the Gender Section of the OSCE  
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### Brief history

- More than a decade of feminist activism on gender and guns but little published research
- Very little serious public dialogue until late 1990s
- MDGs created in 2000 – but no connection to violence and development impacts
- SCR 1325 (2000) as entry point
- Early confusion and misinformation about 'gender' and guns – where were the men?

## Why consider gender?

- Human rights
- Human security
- Development and 'de' -development
- Do No Harm
- The 'efficiency' argument – increased and more sustained results
- Understanding access to power/authority and its peace and security implications

## Why consider gender AND age?

- Danger of 'women and children' argument
- Attraction to, use of and impacts of SALW appear to vary with age as much as with sex
- SADA increase the accuracy of knowledge about the problem
- SADA allow for more effective targeting of advocacy and programmes

## Examples of actions to date

- Research – data production, e.g. *Sexed Pistols*
- International actions, e.g. IANSA Women's Network
- International Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Standards
- Development of training materials on gender and SSR (DCAF)
- Looking at connections – e.g., arms and people trafficking
- Further SCRs -- 1820 (2008), 1888 and 1889 (2009)
- International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS)...in progress

## Intersections with OSCE activities

- Understand and address the people behind the guns?
- Raise awareness of, and collect data on the domestic impacts of prolific SALW?
- Become more proactive in helping states draft arms control legislation – connecting to domestic violence laws?
- Invite civil society to talk about the gendered impacts of SALW in a Security Dialogue (FSC) process?

## Recommendations

- Gender responsive SALW control requires:
  - Programme and government commitment to relevant global and regional SALW control agreements as well as to those specifically designed to address gender and women's issues in general, and gender and women's considerations in regards to war, peace and violence in particular.
  - Local ownership at all levels
  - Donor support
  - Coordination mechanisms ensuring women's organisations and community full participation
  - Gender responsive baseline assessment and programme design
  - Gender training for government officials, service providers, media and civil society
  - Gender responsive budget
  - Gender expertise that can be provided by women's groups representatives or other expert
  - Appropriate service delivery to men as well as women

## Ongoing challenges

- We have the analysis and the recommendations, but don't use them in DDR and SALW collection operations
- Financial constraints (or choices!)
- Difficulties of overcoming patriarchal norms about women's involvement in peace and security