

### **Physicians for Global Survival (PGS)**

Contact: Debbie Grisdale, Executive Director

Address: 208-145 Spruce St., Ottawa, Ontario., K1R 6P1

Email: [pgs@web.ca](mailto:pgs@web.ca)

Website: [www.pgs.ca](http://www.pgs.ca)

Telephone: (613) 233-1982 / Fax: (613) 223-9028

#### Organization's mandate/goals:

The Physicians for Global Survival (PGS) is a physician-led organization, which out of concern for global health, is committed to the abolition of nuclear weapons, the prevention of war, the promotion of non-violent means of conflict resolution and social justice in a sustainable world. PGS, often in cooperation with other organizations, uses its health expertise as the basis for education campaigns directed to the public and governments to promote policies that will create a healthier, safer and more sustainable world. PGS is the Canadian affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), which has over 60 active affiliates around the world. IPPNW was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985 for its work to educate health professionals, political leaders and the public about the medical consequences of nuclear war. IPPNW has UN consultative status.

PGS physicians believe that the greatest single threat to public health and human survival is nuclear war. At the same time, PGS are deeply disturbed by the major public health catastrophes and human suffering caused by localized wars and the reliance on violence for the resolution of political conflicts. PGS works to prevent wars and limit the scale of suffering caused by war. PGS is committed to fostering student participation in the organization.

#### Areas of expertise relevant to 2001 UN Conference on Small Arms:

Human and Social Development -- *Building good governance and transparency*

PGS uses its health expertise as the basis for education campaigns directed to the public and governments. These campaigns promote policies that will create a healthier, safer and more sustainable world. PGS has on going programs such as Abolition of Nuclear Weapons, Current Citizen Action, War Prevention, Peace through Health and Youth Voice that are a result of this drive.

#### Consultation, Co-operation and Information Exchange

PGS co-founded the Canadian campaign to ban land mines through Mines Action Canada (MAC), which led the civil society campaign in Canada for an international treaty to ban land mines. In 2001, four years after opening the Mine Ban Treaty for state signatures, 117 countries are Parties to the Treaty.

#### Research

PGS is active in collecting and analyzing research related to the health effects of small arms in cooperation with its international affiliate IPPNW.

#### Working with Vulnerable Groups -- *Advocacy*

Approximately 200,000 people die annually in armed conflict due to small arms and light weapons. A large percentage of these casualties are women and children. PGS works to support initiatives to limit the spread of small arms and light weapons.