

Canadian Voice of Women for Peace/La Voix des femmes canadiennes pour la paix

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Organization's mandate/goals:

Since its foundation in 1960, the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW) has worked locally, nationally and internationally on issues related to peace, social justice, human rights and development, always seeking to promote a woman's and a feminist's perspective. VOW's objectives are: to unite women in concern for the future of the world; to help promote the mutual respect and cooperation among nations necessary for peaceful negotiations between world partners; to protest war or the threat of war as the decisive method of exercising power; to appeal to all national leaders to cooperate in the alleviation of the causes of war by common action for the economic and social betterment of all; and to provide a means for women to exercise responsibility for the family of humankind. The Canadian Voice of Women for peace has been active in promoting gender-based analysis of the small arms problem as well as interventions aimed at reducing their proliferation and misuse.

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

Working with Vulnerable Groups -- Advocacy

VOW groups and members provide analysis, comments and briefs to Canadian provincial and federal governments and to international organizations

Human and Social Development -- Promote efforts to counter SALW proliferation and the development of "gun cultures"

Working with this UNESCO initiative, they are developing and documenting women's contributions to the process of replacing a culture of violence with a culture of peace. As well as taking many local opportunities to become "Peace Promoters", they have had recent dialogues on what this concept means to groups from Rwanda and Mexico.