

Recommendations

- Centralise information collection on military and civilian issues.
- Address links between military and civilian light weapons issues in international fora and develop control measures that deal with the blurring between the two categories.
- Enforce existing laws governing sales of weapons
- Provide sufficient resources to control national borders.

4. International laws on certain classes of weapons

One option is to ban entire categories of weapons that are especially indiscriminate in their effects. International agreements on particular types of weapons, such as dumdum bullets, have successfully banned these weapons, largely based on outspoken international opinion in favor of a ban on humanitarian grounds. Similar approaches are being taken internationally towards blinding lasers and anti-personnel landmines. Although national efforts have successfully banned classes of light weapons such as assault rifles. Domestic legislation banning certain weapons is not always matched with similar export bans. For example, Japanese and UK regulations ban certain weapons domestically but do not necessarily ban exports of the same weapons.

Recommendations

- Promote international agreements to ban the manufacture, import, export, and possession of junk guns (handguns which lack essential safety features) and other dangerous weapons such as Saturday Night Specials (non-sporting, low-quality handguns) and weapons deemed to be a particular public health risk (e.g. armour piercing ammunition, non-detectable firearms, casuals ammunition).
- Encourage consistency between domestic control and export policies - a weapon deemed dangerous for import/manufacture/sale in one country should then, by definition, be banned for export.

5. Strengthen domestic gun control

The global nature of weapons trafficking makes it essential that control measures address the domestic element of the trade. While active gun lobbies in countries such as the United States and Australia have been vocal in their opposition to both domestic and international measures, the connections cannot be ignored. Much like the drug trade, light weapons are well-suited to smuggling.

Recommendation

- Develop more stringent domestic controls. Domestic measures, such as the proposed one-gun-a-month law under consideration in the United States, could considerably reduce the incentives for large-scale trafficking.

6. Limit ammunition supplies

Limiting ammunition holds promise in helping to break the cycle of violence. Even if all transfers of light weapons were stopped today, the world would still be awash in them decades from now, because light weapons can last that long. But ammunition is rapidly consumed in conflict. Ammunition is also unattractive for smuggling, since it has