

elimination of transfers of small arms from states to non-state actors; greater control and supervision of arms brokers; clarification of the legal obligations of states to enforce international legal resolutions; and greater transparency of legal shipments.

4. Sectoral Perspectives

Health: Dr. Neil Arya, President, Physicians for Global Survival, Co-Vice President, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

PGS started as a group advocating the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Since the mid-1990s PGS has participated in the international movement to retrieve, disarm and outlaw the manufacture of landmines. PGS recognizes that the proliferation of small arms is a major threat to public health in many areas of the world. The public health perspective emphasizes prevention. The abundance of weapons created by the international trade in illicit small arms undermines preventative efforts.

Health: Dr. Antoine Chapdelaine, Representative on Small Arms for the Quebec Public Health Association - affiliated with the Canadian Public Health Association

Physicians are concerned with the impact of small arms on public health. The goal of a public health strategy is to identify and break the causal chain of death and injury at its weakest link. The proliferation of small arms is facilitated by the transfer of licit arms to illicit markets. The weak link in the chain is domestic legislation concerning small arms. Physicians and public health organizations can advocate the strengthening of domestic small arms legislation in order to stem the flow of arms from licit sources to illicit uses.

Policing: Vincent Westwick, Legal Advisor, Ottawa-Carleton Regional Police Service

Communication between domestic, foreign and international police organizations is essential to combat the illicit small arms trade. Internationally recognized for expertise in small arms, Canadian law enforcement agencies are in a unique position to facilitate communication. Canada possesses one of the most sophisticated databases on small arms trafficking and transnational crime. Foreign police organizations can use this as a resource and as a model to develop similar systems. Conversely, Canadian police require information sources from other countries to effectively police illicit arms travelling across Canadian borders.

Enforcement of domestic gun control legislation and increased scrutiny of the legitimate market is part of the strategy to prevent the transfer of small arms from licit to illicit markets.

Law enforcement agencies, in cooperation with community groups and NGOs, have learned the importance of conflict control. Conflict control principles aim to reduce the severity and lethality of conflict. Reducing the accessibility of small arms is an important preventive conflict control principle.

Gendered Perspectives: Marilou McPhedran, O.C., Director, International Women's Rights Project, York University