

Endorse Control Arms and support the campaign

We need support from community organizations and NGOs everywhere.

The arms trade is out of control

Millions of men, women and children live in daily fear of armed violence

From the civil wars of Liberia and Chechnya to the gangs of Rio de Janeiro and Los Angeles, arms are out of control. There are around 639 million small arms and light weapons in the world today. Eight million more are produced every year.

“...the excessive accumulation and illicit trade of small arms is threatening international peace and security, dashing hopes for social and economic development, and jeopardising prospects for democracy and human rights.” Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General, 2002

Uncontrolled arms fuel poverty and suffering worldwide. Without strict control, such weapons will continue to fuel violent conflict, state repression, crime, and domestic abuse. Unless governments act to stop the spread of arms, more lives will be lost, more human rights violations will take place, and more people will be denied the chance to escape poverty.

“I had plans for the future; I wanted to travel the world, take a modelling course, and continue my gymnastics training. From one day to the next, my dreams were shattered – all because of the irresponsibility of supposedly civilised men who only feel brave with a gun in their hands.”

Sixteen-year-old Camila Magalhães Lima from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, lost the use of her legs in 1998 when she was hit by a stray bullet in a shoot-out between thieves and private security forces while walking home from school.

Objectives of the Control Arms campaign

For many years, in our work around the world, Oxfam, Amnesty International, and the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), have witnessed the human cost of arms abuses and campaigned for tougher arms controls.

But now the situation is critical, and the three organizations have formed a joint campaign called “Control Arms”.

The campaign is ambitious. We are calling for an international Arms Trade Treaty to regulate all international arms movements and for effective arms control at regional, national and community levels. (See overleaf for the Arms Trade Treaty basic principles.)

In short, we aim to turn off the irresponsible supply of arms and drain the pool of existing weapons.

International level

The international community must adopt a global Arms Trade Treaty by 2006.

Regional level

Controls to protect humanitarian and human rights law and limit the flow and demand of arms should be enforced at regional levels.

National level

Governments must incorporate the principles of the Arms Trade Treaty into national law and must stop the misuse of arms in their country.

Local level

Communities and local authorities must work together to reduce community gun violence.

The time to act is now

“In October 1990 UNITA (União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola) came to the village, stealing things. I tried to escape, but they shot me in the leg. I got first aid, then I was brought to the hospital here in Kuito, and they had to amputate my leg below the knee...To go to the river with a bucket of washing on crutches is very difficult. Also to go and cut wood for cooking to help my husband. Washing clothes, washing dishes, fetching water: all these things are hard.”

Rodrina Faustina, aged 42, in a camp for displaced people near Kuito, Angola.

Photo description: Photo montage: All over the world, Control Arms campaigners and activists are pushing for governments to accept the need for an international Arms Trade Treaty. © Control Arms Campaign

Get involved

The success of the international campaigns to ban landmines, cancel third world debt and establish an international criminal court proved governments do take notice of public opinion. The Control Arms campaign could be just as influential in pushing governments to adopt an Arms Trade Treaty – but only if enough people join us.

Already we have made great gains. Since the launch of Control Arms hundreds of thousands of people around the world have signed the Million Faces petition, and we have statements from an increasing number of governments agreeing with our objectives.

We need your support

The impact of the widespread proliferation and misuse of arms is not an isolated issue. It is a challenge to any organization that cares about social justice or humanitarian issues and for any movement struggling for equality, solidarity and safer communities.

By joining our campaign, you can influence your community and your government.

Together we can make effective arms control a reality.

Fill in your details overleaf to support the campaign.

Frequently asked questions about the Control Arms campaign

Who can get involved?

Quite simply, any organization which supports the aims of the Control Arms campaign. From religious faith groups to trade unions; from refugee groups to medical and health organizations. If you support our objectives then join our global call to bring the arms trade under control.

Is this a global campaign?

Yes! The campaign has been launched in over 70 countries. Today, there are national coalitions working and campaigning together on Control Arms around the world.

How can we support the campaign?

Whether you're a small NGO or an international organization, there are many ways you can support the Control Arms campaign. These include:

- Promoting Control Arms. This could be through public campaigning, collecting “faces” for the Million Faces petition, joining our email petitions or setting up web links.
- Demonstrating support for the campaign. This can range from allowing us to use your logo on www.controlarms.org to sending a message of support to your government or influential people.
- Getting more involved. For instance, your organization could join one of our national coalitions or set one up!

What support would we get?

In return for supporting the campaign, we offer you regular updates, information and expertise.

How do we join?

Show your support by completing and signing the slip below on behalf of your organization, and returning it to us. We will add your organization's name to the list of supporters on the Control Arms website and send you further information on how to get involved. For more information about our campaign and policies go to: www.controlarms.org. Alternatively contact us at: joinus@controlarms.org

Photo description: Irene Khan, Barbara Stocking and Conmany Wesseh among the gravestones; the Control Arms billboard and Nelson's column are in the background. London, U.K., October 2003. © AI

YES – We support the objectives of the Control Arms campaign.

Please add us to your list of supporting organizations at www.controlarms.org

Name of organization:

Name of contact:

Position / Job title:

Nationality of organization:

Preferred language: (please tick box) English: French: Spanish: Portuguese:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Signature: Date:

Return to: Control Arms campaign, Oxfam, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 7DZ, U.K.

We must turn off the irresponsible supply of arms...

The Arms Trade Treaty basic principles

The aim of the proposal is to make comprehensive arms control a reality by having the following principles included in a UN convention.

1. International arms transfers will not take place unless authorized by a licence issued by the state. Authorizations must comply with the following minimum criteria:

(i) States should not authorize arms transfers that violate their existing obligations under international law in relation to the transfer of specific weapons or the transfer of weapons to specific end users.

(ii) States should not authorize arms transfers if they think that these arms are likely to be used in violation of the UN Charter, to commit serious violations of human rights or international humanitarian law, to commit genocide or crimes against humanity; or to be diverted for these uses.

2. States should not authorize arms transfers without taking into account the impact of the transfers on regional security and sustainable development; as well as the likelihood of diversion.

3. States should report on international arms transfers to an international authority which will be established to ensure accountability and transparency.

...and drain the pool of existing uncontrolled weapons.

www.controlarms.org

Control Arms is a campaign jointly run by Amnesty International, Oxfam and IANSA.

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