Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence
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Statement

By

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Gun violence continues to destroy the sanctity of life in many societies across the globe. The illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons fuel armed conflicts and have a wide range of negative humanitarian, human rights, developmental and socioeconomic consequences, particularly on the security of civilians in settings of armed conflict and pervasive crime.

Some 55,000 people perish annually as a direct consequence of armed conflict. And currently more than 33 million people are displaced because of conflict and violence.

Worse still, children are recruited and used by armed forces and groups, killed and maimed, forced into displacement and made victims of sexual violence in over 20 conflict situations around the world.

It is essential to stop gun violence and preserve the right to life – an inalienable human right.

This year’s Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence coincides with the biennial debate in the Security Council on the issue of small arms and light weapons.

It is encouraging that the UN Security Council continues to pay special attention to the nexus between international peace and security and the wide-spread availability and illicit use of weapons and their ammunition.

It is particularly heartening that in 2013, the Security Council adopted its first-ever resolution on the issue, which speaks to the urgency of the challenge posed by illicit small arms and light weapons. We look forward to the Council building upon this resolution at its forthcoming debate.
The Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence is a reminder of the crucial role civil society plays in our efforts to address this issue. Moreover, it brings together the entire global community to raise awareness of the urgent need to stop gun violence. It is an important reminder to all of us to never give up this good fight and to continue to do all that is in our power to stem this loss of human lives around the world.