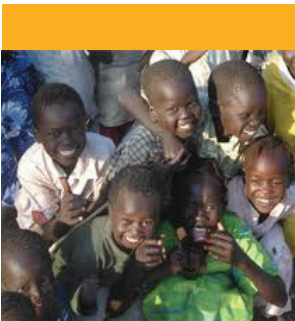
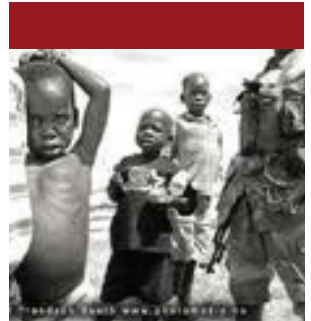
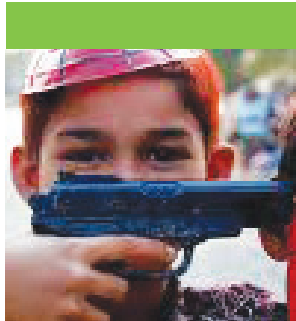
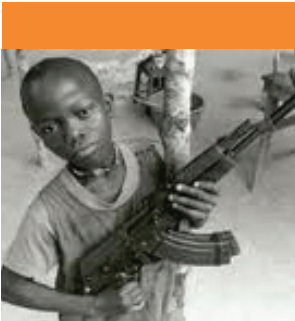




Small Arms and Children Parliamentary Handbook 2011





The Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons supports parliamentarians in their small arms related work, contributes to the advancement of the small arms agenda, and provides space for parliamentarians and civil society to meet and join forces.

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Protecting the future

The impact of small arms and light weapons on children is a violation of fundamental human rights and constitutes a major security threat, both for children and adults as well as for the community as a whole. The Forum recognises that the impact of small arms and light weapons on children is a global problem and that small arms act as a multiplier of violence impacting on children, both directly and indirectly.



During conflicts, small arms and light weapons devastate children's lives and these firearms cause the vast majority of casualties among children both during and after the conflict. The prevalence of child soldiers, possessing and routinely using firearms, is just one example of the negative impact that these weapons have on children. Generations of children have been physically traumatised and emotionally affected through the prevalence of small arms in conflicts. Even after the resolution of the conflict a culture of violence often remains and weapons are seen as a requirement for economic survival. A cycle of crime and violence can then develop with children being constantly exposed to small arms and light weapons within their own homes and communities.

The Forum is engaging with parliaments and parliamentarians across all regions to jointly address these challenges, and to ensure that we place the protection of children firmly within the Small Arms and Light Weapons agenda. We hope that this handbook will provide parliamentarians with background information that they may need to take an effective parliamentary interest in this important national and global issue.

The central question is always what to do with this situation. The first response should be from the arms-producing countries on the measures to be taken to better control production and trade of weapons. The second response is the commitment of the different nations, creating comprehensive policies of Security and Coexistence, in which it is important to regulate and limit the proliferation of arms as well as to prevent violence and strengthen peaceful coexistence. Preventing violence involves the generation of more and better opportunities for youth and children, by increasing the educational training, access to the arts, health, recreation, employment opportunities and especially by not excluding them. This presupposes a commitment to enhancing and improving the functioning of state institutions to meet these obligations to ensure and promote the rights and obligations of children.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benito Lara', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Benito Lara

Member of Parliament of El Salvador and
President of the Parliamentary Forum on SALW



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Acronyms

CASA	Coordinating Action on Small Arms (UN)
CRC	Convention on the Rights of a Child
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (OECD)
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
IANSA	International Action Network on Small Arms
IASC	Inter Agency Standing Committee (UN)
ICC	International Criminal Court
IDP	Internally Displaced Person(s)
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPU	International Parliamentary Union
ISACS	International Small Arms Control Standards
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SCR	Security Council Resolution (SCR)
UN	United Nations
UNHCHR	United Nations High Commission for Human Rights
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
UNSG	United Nations Secretary General



Small Arms¹ and Children Parliamentary Handbook

'We owe our children – the most vulnerable in any society – a life free from violence and fear. In order to ensure this, we must be tireless in our efforts to attain peace, justice and prosperity for countries, but also for communities and members of the same family. We must address the roots of violence.'

Nelson Mandela

1 Who counts as a child?

Children are often among one of the first populations to be affected in times of conflict, and because of this, are given special protection under international law, as well as retaining their general protection, due to their special vulnerabilities.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), under international law, defines a child as **“every human being below the age of eighteen years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier”** (Article 1, Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989)².

International humanitarian law also stipulates the rights of children during conflict. Under the Geneva Conventions children have the right to receive education (Fourth Geneva Convention, Articles 50 and 94). They also have the right to be protected from combat and not having to serve in armed forces. (Additional Protocols of the Geneva Conventions, 1997).

Note: Although the UN definition is universally applicable there is considerable difference between different countries their context and legal systems in defining the age of a child. Social economic and cultural systems often define the age limits for specific roles and responsibilities of children, youth and adults.

2 What impact do Small Arms have on children?

SALW misuse and SALW violence continue to impact on children negatively in many ways in both conflicts and non-conflict settings. It is estimated that since 1990, more than 2 million children have been killed in wars; 6 million have been seriously injured; 1 million have been orphaned; and more than 25 million have been driven from their homes³. UNICEF attributes SALW

Direct Impacts of SALW on Children

- Death and injury
- Human Rights Abuses
- Displacement
- Psychosocial Trauma

¹ For the purposes of this handbook the term 'Small Arms' includes small arms, light weapons, ammunition and explosives of 100mm calibre and below.

² The Parliamentary Forum on SALW's Policy Statement on this issue urges legislators to impose a minimum age of 18 years old on the purchase, possession and use of firearms and in recruitment to military service.

³ Children at War, P. W. Singer, Pantheon Books, 2005.



directly as the cause of the majority of the casualties. Impacts can be visible, invisible, short, medium, long-term, and can be intergenerational.

SALW are used to commit or facilitate human rights abuses against children and deny children their rights to freedom from violence and exploitation, survival and development, health care, education, and care. As such the negative impacts of SALW misuse include: psychosocial trauma, disrupted access to education, displacement, loss of opportunities, sexual violence, physical injury, intimidation, abuse and sometimes death. The easy availability and presence of SALW is contributing to fuelling violent behaviour (peer violence, gang violence, physical and sexual violence, abduction and trafficking).

Children under the age of 18 are, or were recently, fighting in wars and conflicts. Estimates show that around 300,000⁴ children and youth are members of armed groups, often fighting alongside adults. Research also indicates that the majority of the recruited are young men, although girls and young women are also recruited along with child soldiers of 10 years of age or younger.

The availability of relatively cheap, small and user-friendly small arms have increasingly encouraged armed groups to use children and young people as voluntary or forced combatants. SALW such as, for example, the AK-47 assault rifle requires very little physical strength to carry and use effectively.

Research covering conflicts over the last 30 years demonstrates that governments and rebel armies alike have been recruiting child soldiers. There are clear indications that children and youth from poverty-stricken and marginalised backgrounds along with those displaced and separated from their families are most at risk of becoming child soldiers.

Children and youth in armed groups will most probably commit atrocities. They also witness violence and become victims of violence. Their experience in armed groups will have severe negative effects on their physical and mental health, well-being and future development.⁵

It is clear that the presence of easy available SALW contributes to fuelling violent behaviour and that the involvement of SALW in fights, disputes and arguments often lead to injuries and death. SALW are both an enabler and multiplier of violence. Boys and young men are at greater risk of exposure to violence from the community, while girls and young women are at risk of becoming victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

Indirect Impacts of SALW on Children

- Family and Community Breakdown
- Loss of Access to Healthcare
- Loss of Access to Education
- Lack of Food Security
- Loss of Humanitarian Assistance
- Loss of Opportunities
- Insecurity and the Culture of Violence

⁴ UN Secretary General's *Study Report on Violence against Children* October 2006.

⁵ For a detailed discussion on DDR for children and youth please see IDDRS: www.unddr.org/iddrs



Children are victims, witnesses and perpetrators of SALW related violence and misuse. However, children must also be viewed as powerful agents of change.

2.1 Direct impacts

Direct impacts of SALW violence on children are visible and deal with fore and foremost with death, injury and psychosocial trauma.

2.1.1 Death and injury

The involvement of SALW in non-peaceful resolution of conflicts, (fights, disputes and arguments), invariably leads to severe injuries and possibly death. The fact that SALW are relatively cheap, lightweight, easy to use and their fairly easy availability contributes directly to children's participation in armed violence and conflict. In over 20 conflict zones there are tens of thousands children considered to be part of, or associated with armed forces or armed groups. There are also many children that participate in organised armed violence in urban settings worldwide. Children's experience in participating, witnessing, or being a victim of armed violence will have negative effects on many aspects of their well being and future development.

Children are particularly at risk at become victims of sexual abuse and gender-based violence, (rape, prostitution, sexual humiliation, trafficking and domestic violence). In this context SALW misuse is a multiplier of violence. SALW trafficking is often linked to other types of trafficking, such as drugs, precious minerals and human trade. While children continue to be victims of human trafficking, traffickers sometimes use children as smuggling agents and informers.

Children can also be involved in violence such as "honour killings", dowry related violence, hate crime, revenge killing, sexual violence as well as self directed violence and suicide, which are all aggravated and facilitated by the availability of small arms.

2.1.2 Psychosocial trauma

The effects of being a perpetrator, witness or a victim of SALW related violence can be very negative in terms of the child's well being. Negative impacts on the physical and mental health can lead to psychosocial trauma and suffering. Nevertheless, research indicates that children can also develop great resilience subsequent to experiencing SALW related violence, which in turn can help them recuperate from these difficult experiences.



2.2 Indirect impacts

Indirect impacts of SALW misuse and violence are perhaps not as visible but can be as harmful and damaging for a child as the direct impacts of SALW misuse.

2.2.1 Death and injury of family members and peers

The loss or injury of family members and peers as a result of SALW violence will not only affect children psychologically and emotionally, but can also force children to take on responsibilities that are not fit for a child to undertake, (for example, paid jobs or household maintenance).

2.2.2 Displacement

A majority of the world's displaced people are women, girls and boys. Forced displacement, militarization of refugee camps, and the withdrawal of humanitarian assistance in areas affected by armed violence involving illicit and licit SALW, has a severe impact on access to basic services for those most in need. Families are separated and for a child this means the separation from the major source of a child's emotional and physical source of security. SALW violence continues to affect refugees and displaced children even after the conflict has ended.

2.2.3 Reduced access and quality of education

In conflict-affected areas the misuse of SALW can negatively affect the access and security of schools. Fear that students, (and/or teachers), will be attacked, or schools being used as targets deny children their right to education. In violent urban settings armed gangs are using schools to sell drugs and recruit new members. In these contexts armed gang members are carrying SALW in or around school grounds.

2.2.4 Reduced access and quality of health care

Armed violence can negatively impact the easy access to healthcare a child is entitled to, or can reduce the quality of such care. Dis-functional health care services will undermine children's requirements during their physical development.



3 What are the linkages between child protection and small arms related programmes?

SALW are inherently dangerous and children should not have to be exposed to such weapons. SALW related violence against children is often preventable. Death and injury to children can be avoided or significantly reduced by appropriate actions that protect children from SALW. Adults are responsible for ensuring the protection of children and the protection of their rights. One effective way for such prevention is the use of appropriate programmes for SALW control.

Children are the future and will be part of shaping that future. The inclusion of children in SALW control programming will bring sustainability, expertise, energy, capacity and links to the communities they live in. SALW misuse and its impact on children take place in many different settings. Therefore SALW control programmes targeting children must take into consideration the specific circumstances which include, but are not limited to; 1) post-conflict contexts; 2) societies in time of peace; 3) transitional environments; 4) urban settings; and 5) rural settings.

Operational experience demonstrates a range of functional areas where there are clear links between SALW control programmes and the work in support of child protection.



SALW Control Functional Area	Impact Synergies on CP ⁶ areas	Remarks
<p>Legislative and Regulatory Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ratification of the Optional Protocol of the involvement of children in armed conflict. ■ Ratify the Rome Statue of the International Criminal Court. ■ Ensure that the SALW legal frameworks are formulated so that consideration to the protection of the child has been maximised. 	<p>Legislation reform processes should include child expertise and shall ensure the representation of child experts in the teams responsible for the assessment, drafting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of SALW legislation. This ensures that all aspects of the protection of the child is considered and included.</p> <p>The UN definition of a child might not be reflected in national legislation. It is important to understand how the national age milestones might impact on the legal issues concerning SALW.</p>
<p>Management Information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Collection and analysis of SALW data specific to SALW impact on children. ■ Strengthen national injury surveillance systems to monitor the impact of armed violence on boys and girls, men and women. ■ Setting up an early warning system with gender and age indicators. ■ Collaboration with regional organisations to address cross border child protection concerns in the framework of SALW control. 	<p>Information can be collected from police records, prosecutors/ judiciary, morgues, health institutions, Ministries of Health, doctors, human rights monitors, children´s interest groups, peacekeeping operations and local NGOs involved in the relevant areas. Family shelters may also have records of family violence affecting children.</p> <p>Early warning systems can benefit from using possible flash points and analysing weapons flows.</p> <p>Alternatively, an urban youth violence observatory may benefit from knowledge of violence triggering factors and small arms possession and circulation patterns that will affect young people and children.</p>

⁶ Child Protection. SALW programmes should always include a component to address the aspect of child protection as an important prevention element.



SALW Control Functional Area	Impact Synergies on CP ⁶ areas	Remarks
SALW Awareness and Communications Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Public awareness and information campaign to make children aware of the on the dangers and negative impacts of SALW. ■ Targeted education campaigns for children and young people. ■ Supporting existing international campaigns such as the Arm Trade Treaty and UNICEF campaigns. 	<p>Children represent a valuable resource that should be included in SALW awareness, education and advocacy. Children bring sustainability, expertise, energy, capacity and links to communities they live in.</p> <p>The starting point for participatory work with children shall be based on a Child Protection Policy. There must be a duty of care of children that participate and mitigation of risks related to abuse and exploitation.</p>
SALW Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ When disarming/collecting weapons from children consideration must be given to their special needs, experiences and expectations. ■ Symbolic collections of SALW involving children linked to educational programmes can serve as catalyst of change and develop new behaviour patterns. 	<p>Please refer to IDDRS 05.30 (Children) and 05.20 (Youth).</p>
SALW Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ SALW Surveys may explore context specific impacts on children, which can inform policies and programmes. ■ Map armed violence pattern, hotspots, risks and protective factors where children are involved or affected. ■ Analysis of historical, economic and cultural factors which influence SALW proliferation that impact children. ■ Provide a picture of the factors for SALW demand among children. ■ Identify possible drivers for change within the context of children. ■ Seek mechanisms for data collection on SALW related to children. ■ Indicate entry points for short-term initiatives and the phasing of long-term initiatives. 	<p>The SALW survey data shall serve as the reference framework for SALW control and children. It can be used as a baseline to develop benchmarks and performance indicators.</p> <p>It is important to remember that maturity, gender age, culture, education, experiences and family backgrounds can be as relevant considerations as age in the analysis of children and SALW. This must be taken into consideration when analysing the outcomes of the survey.</p>



4 The role of parliaments in protecting children from SALW

To protect children from SALW violence and misuse there is a requirement for effective and efficient executive bodies. This requires representation and accountability: two of the core functions of parliaments. Parliaments connect citizens with the State and can hold governments to account for their actions or lack of action. Parliament is a natural place for mediation, where competing points of view can be articulated and where dialogue can build consensus. These core functions are essential in mitigating and resolving human security issues.

The effective control and management of SALW within the wider agenda of child protection falls within these responsibilities. Parliaments are strategically positioned to assist governments in formulating and then monitoring the small arms control and management policies relevant to child protection within the framework of SALW control. Key areas where parliaments may exercise their power and influence include:

- **Establishment of an effective legislative framework.** Parliaments should create specific legislation on the protection of children. They should promote revisions and updates on existing national legislation to protect children from (armed) violence, in order to avoid loopholes and better address the needs of children. All this will reduce the exposure of children to violence and threats.
- **Oversight of the implementation of internationally agreements.** Parliamentarians should ensure that Parliament engages with the government in a regular debate on global and regional SALW control agreements. In particular focusing on those international mechanisms specifically designed for the protection of children in general, and children's special needs in relation to war, peace and violence. This should include discussions on recommending the initiation or improvement of international agreements.
- **Promotion of participation of children in policy-making processes.** Parliaments should promote children's participation in decision-making relevant to SALW control. Children should be included in processes relevant to their security and safety. In the context of SALW control children should have the right to have a voice and be represented. Children should be given access to SALW decision makers, the opportunity to influence, participate in the planning and implementation of SALW activities as well as be beneficiaries of SALW programmes.
- **Oversight and control of the executive.** Parliaments should ask the government to provide a targeted plan to ensure full protection of children, in which to measures to combat SALW related violence against children should be included. These should consist of concrete measures to prevent all forms of violence, with the view to protect victims and prosecute perpetrators.



5 The role of parliamentarians in reducing the impact of small arms on children

Children are as diverse as adults. The needs and experiences of children in addressing the human costs of armed violence, in which small arms play a central role, must be acknowledged. The needs and experiences of older children and SALW are generally different from younger children. Policy making on small arms requires greater recognition of these multiple roles and the differential impacts of armed violence on females and males, old and young. Parliamentarians have at their disposal many effective instruments that they could apply to address the issue of small arms and the protection of children:

- Parliamentarians in their **representative role** can raise issues of concern. For example, safety and security for children at home and in the public sphere, impacts on children of civilian possession of SALW, etc with the executive. They can then raise awareness of the issue with the media, and within their constituency and civil society, by identifying threats to local communities suffering the impacts of SALW related violence. They may influence the government to act by making a political issue of the effective control and management of small arms within a child protection framework.
- Parliamentarians in their **legislative role** can introduce new legislation, or propose a thorough review of existing legislation on SALW related issues impacting negatively on children. This may also include initiating or proposing improved international agreements.
- Parliamentarians in their **oversight role** can ensure that the executive honours and implements its international commitments (e.g. treaties, conventions etc). They should also ensure that the issue is considered regularly and effectively by the relevant Parliament Committees, and that appropriate budgetary levels are allocated to the issue by the Ministry of Finance.

Annex C suggests a more detailed range of activities that parliamentarians may engage in to support activities designed to reduce the impact of small arms on children within SALW control and armed violence reduction initiatives and activities.



Annex A - Small arms and children definitions⁷

Children

Based on the “UN Convention on the Rights of the Child” a child is aged from birth to 18 years.

Child Protection

The protection of children against violence, exploitation and abuse. It includes the situation of children in conflict with the law and children without customary caregivers (such as orphans, children in institutions and those separated from families in time of conflict or disaster)-conditions that render children particularly vulnerable to violence, abuse and exploitation.

SALW Awareness

A programme of activities carried out with the overall goal of minimizing, and where possible eliminating, the negative consequences of inadequate SALW control by carrying out an appropriate combination of SALW advocacy, SALW risk education and media operations/public information campaigns, which together work to change behaviours and introduce appropriate alternative ways attitudes over the long term.

Note: Wherever it exists, the operational objectives of a national SALW control initiative will dictate the appropriate type of SALW awareness activities.

Note: SALW awareness is a mass mobilization approach that delivers information on the SALW threat. It may take the form of formal or non-formal education and may use mass media techniques.

Note: In an emergency situation, due to lack of time and available data, it is the most practical way of communicating safety information. In other situations it can support community liaison.

SALW Control

Activities that, together, aim to reduce the social, economic and environmental impact of uncontrolled SALW proliferation and possession.

Note: These activities include cross-border control issues, legislative and regulatory measures, SALW awareness and communications strategies, SALW collection and destruction operations, SALW survey and the management of information and SALW

⁷ These definitions have been primarily obtained from ISACS 01.20 *Glossary of terms and definitions*.

stockpile management.

SALW Survey

A systematic and logical process to determine the nature and extent of SALW spread and impact within a region, nation or community in order to provide accurate data and information for a safe, effective and efficient intervention by an appropriate organisation.

Note: The following terms have been used in the past, though the preferred one is as indicated above: 'national assessment', 'base-line assessment' and 'mapping'.

Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)

Any man-portable lethal weapon, (including its ammunition), that expels or launches, is designed to expel or launch, or may be readily converted to expel or launch a shot, bullet or projectile by the action of an explosive, excluding antique small arms and light weapons or their replicas.

Note: Antique small arms and light weapons and their replicas will be defined in accordance with domestic law. In no case will antique small arms and light weapons include those manufactured after 1899.

Note: 'Small arms' are, broadly speaking, weapons designed for individual use. They include, inter alia, revolvers and self-loading pistols, rifles and carbines, sub-machine guns, assault rifles and light machine guns.

Note: 'Light weapons' are, broadly speaking, weapons designed for use by two or three persons serving as a crew, although some may be carried and used by a single person. They include, inter alia, heavy machine guns, hand-held under-barrel and mounted grenade launchers, portable anti-aircraft guns, portable anti-tank guns, recoilless rifles, portable launchers of anti-tank missile and rocket systems, portable launchers of anti-aircraft missile systems, and mortars of a calibre of less than 100 millimetres.



Annex B - International resolutions, agreements, frameworks and instruments

Resolutions: instruments: frameworks and agreements that relate directly to the impact of Small Arms and Children are limited but there are specific agreements on the protection of children during combat. Although there are a wider range of resolutions: frameworks: and agreements and instruments relating to SALW; these can be found in the SALW Parliamentary Handbook⁸

RESOLUTION, FRAMEWORK, INSTRUMENT OR REPORT	SUMMARY
UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). (1989)	Recognises that children must be afforded particular protection in light of their special needs and vulnerabilities. It reinforces the protection afforded by the Geneva Conventions and establishes the definition of children.
Optional Protocol to the CPC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. (2000)	Requires States' to take all feasible measures to ensure that members of their armed forces under the age of 18 years do not participate in hostilities. Prohibits the conscription of anyone under the age of 18 years into armed forces. The same restrictions apply to rebel or other non-governmental armed groups.
UN Security Council Resolutions on Children and Armed Conflict: 1261(1999); 1314 (2000); 1379 (2001); 1460 (2003); 1539 (2004); 1612 (2005); 1882 (2009); and 1998 (2011).	Major advances in the effort to stop the use of children in armed conflict and ensure that the issue is firmly placed on the Security Council's agenda.
UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children (1997)	The UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children revealed disturbing levels of violence against children and the lack of awareness of adults, both at the individual and policy making levels.
Geneva Convention IV, (Articles 50 and 94).	This establishes the right to education during conflicts.
Additional Protocol 1 of the Geneva Conventions (Article 70)	Affords children privileged treatment and special protection during conflict.
Additional Protocol 1 of the Geneva Conventions (Article 77)	Outlines the special protections afforded to children with regard to the recruitment and use of children in conflict.

⁸ SALW Parliamentary Handbook. SALW/PF and SEESAC. ISBN 86-7728-033-2. 30 October 2006.



RESOLUTION, FRAMEWORK, INSTRUMENT OR REPORT	SUMMARY
Additional Protocol 2 of the Geneva Conventions (Article 4)	Prohibits the recruitment of children under the age of 15 for use in armed hostilities.
International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 182	Legally recognises the use of child soldiers as the worst form of child labour. However, it does not protect voluntary recruits as it is restricted to forced or compulsory recruitment of children.
Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). (1998).	Makes it a war crime to conscript or enlist children under the age of 15 into the armed forces, or armed groups, or to use them as active participants in hostilities.
Paris Principles (2007)	Commitment expressed by 76 Member States to the Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated With Armed Forces or Armed Groups, which provide guidelines on the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of all categories of children associated with armed groups.
African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child (1999)	The Charter is a comprehensive regional instrument that sets out rights and defines universal principles and norms for the status of children. It covers the whole spectrum of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.



Annex C – What you can do as a parliamentarian

PARLIAMENTARIANS' ROLES	
AREA	OVERSIGHT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor the work of government in implementing laws and policies to protect children and secure their rights and the international treaty obligations (see Annex B) including concrete measures to prevent violence, protect victims, and prosecute perpetrators.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate legislation reform processes, including a review of national legislation with a focus on child protection. The proposal may propose revision, for example, of laws sustaining violence against children. Ensure that SALW legislation is harmonised with existing legislation, and vice versa. For example, national SALW legislation and policies should be harmonised with other efforts to protect children from any form of participation in hostilities and having access to SALW. Support a legal framework that armed forces or armed groups do not include children under the age of 18. Ensure that relevant national laws and policies are improved, and supported by the development of national action plans, which include child protection issues.
Legislative and Regulatory Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate a mapping on existing legislation on related to child protection in the context of SALW control. Organise special conferences or seminars to be attended by representatives of political bodies, civil society and social institutions with the aim of contributing to a process of developing more coherent policies addressing all SALW related forms of violence. Encourage respect for arm embargoes including the criminalization and punishment of violators. Engage deeply with Civil Society as to what they believe the contents of future legislation on this issue should include.



AREA	PARLIAMENTARIANS' ROLES		
	REPRESENTATIVE	LEGISLATIVE	OVERSIGHT
SALW Victim Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce the issue of setting up a legal entity to deal specifically with child protection issues. Contribute to a policy discussion on specific protection for children, (and their families), that have been affected by SALW misuse. Engage deeply with Civil Society to advocate and support victim assistance programmes and initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In cases of DDR take appropriate legal measures that are needed to reintegrate children into society in a respectful manner that fosters the child's participation in society. Ensure the ratification and signature of international and regional agreements addressing the rights and protection of children. Introduce the right to assistance and support for all victims of violence including trafficked human beings, and protection of victims of domestic violence. Ensure that free legal aid can be made available to affected children and their families. Criminal acts by children should not be processed through a system designed for adults. Support mechanisms that provide access to justice that is appropriate for the age to ensure that a child is rightly protected. This can include laws, regulations and administrative procedures, (from initial police intervention to punitive measures), that protect victims and the handling of child perpetrators of SALW related crimes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor government's commitments to children related victim assistance including: emergency, medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological and social support, economic reintegration, justice, laws and policies. Ensure that the needs of children that are victims of armed violence shall be addressed through the development and strengthening of the capacities of national institutions. In particular of judicial and health systems, and of local civil society networks to provide sustainable assistance. Monitor the concrete actions taken by the executive vis-a-vis UNICEF's Protective Environment Framework. A government responsibility to address the underlying systems that fail to protect children.



AREA	PARLIAMENTARIANS' ROLES		
	REPRESENTATIVE	LEGISLATIVE	OVERSIGHT
SALW and Information Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Propose a debate on setting up an ombudsman for child protection. ■ Initiating debate on the importance of child protection issues within the framework of SALW control. ■ Ensure that Civil Society is made aware of statistical evidence as to the negative impacts of SALW on children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strengthen the possibilities of public health data measuring the impact of SALW on children. ■ Consider mechanisms to ensure that the impacts of SALW on children are being analysed and feed into political discussions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensure that records concerning violence against children are included in national Criminal Information Systems ■ Monitor that government has a coherent system to for the collection of statistics on violence against children with particular reference to SALW. This should also include statistics on violence against minors, murders committed in the family or close relationships and community related violence.



AREA	REPRESENTATIVE	LEGISLATIVE	OVERSIGHT
Civilian Possession of SALW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Maintain discussions with representatives children's organisation on the issue of child protection ■ Initiate discussions on core messages that state that the best form of protection of a child is prevention. In the SALW framework it is to remove the dangers of SALW from children ■ Ensure that the issue of negative impacts of SALW on children is included during the Security Committee's regular discussions. ■ Engage deeply with Civil Society as to what they believe the age limits and constraints on the use and possession of firearms should be. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Support legal amendments that control SALW in the home and thus reduce children's access to weapons in their home. ■ To protect children from family violence the following points can be taken into consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Spousal notification to prevent gun acquisition by individuals with a history of family violence. ■ This may include current and formal spouses to be notified before a small arms license is issued. ■ Background and criminal record checks. This may include verifying small arms license applicants past record related to family violence. ■ Prohibition for family violence offenders. This may entail a five to ten year prohibition to own a firearm while under a family violence restraining order. ■ Seizure to ensure that when a small arm owner becomes subject to a restraining order for the first time, police must seize the weapon. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Monitoring how current legislation on civilian possession of SALW is impacting on the situation of children. ■ Demanding that the executive improve its policies with regard to children as victims of domestic violence and armed violence.



AREA	PARLIAMENTARIANS' ROLES		
	REPRESENTATIVE	LEGISLATIVE	OVERSIGHT
Civilian Possession of SALW		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Small Arms registration is an essential pre-requisite for police to be able to remove small arms in situations of family violence. ■ Restrictions and conditions on possession and use of State and private security company owned weapons; prohibit State and private security companies' employees' possession of firearms when off duty.⁹ 	

⁹ 1) Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, UNHCHR, (Adopted by UN General Assembly resolution 34/169 of 17 December 1979); and 2) Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, UNHCHR, (Adopted by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, Cuba, 27 August to 7 September 1990).



AREA	PARLIAMENTARIANS' ROLES		
	REPRESENTATIVE	LEGISLATIVE	OVERSIGHT
SALW Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Show support and join the Global Movement for Children to ensure that every child is free to grow to adulthood in health, peace and dignity. ■ Support processes/organizations that teach children constructive self-expression and non-violent conflict resolution skills. ■ Support collection and destruction of small arms and link the support to peace education programmes and other non-violent approaches to conflict resolution. ■ Initiate a discussion on the importance of the concept of SALW risk education that teaches that children are at risk of unintentional injury and death from finding and using SALW, or accidentally injuring or killing others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Consider legal provisions to support schools as “zones of peace” in which children can learn and develop, safe from violence and free from the presence of SALW. ■ Consider also including hospitals into “zones of peace”. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Monitor government efforts to ensure the training of police and other law enforcement officials, as well as representatives of the judiciary, to better understand and respect those children that are victims of violence. They should also address the issue of SALW when relevant.



AREA	PARLIAMENTARIANS' ROLES		
	REPRESENTATIVE	LEGISLATIVE	OVERSIGHT
	<p>Engage deeply with Civil Society to ensure they are aware of SALW and Children as an important issue. Advise them as to what action civil society may wish to take to support child protection initiatives and programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 		

Annex D – Useful Small Arms and Children publications

D.1 Policy recommendations and overview

ORGANIZATION	AUTHOR	PUBLICATION
OECD DAC	Wood B, et al	<i>OECD DAC Guidelines – Helping Prevent Armed Conflict. 2001.</i>
UNICEF	N/A	<i>Protective Environment Framework</i>
	Graca Machel	<i>The Machel Study 10 Years Strategic Review: Children and Conflict in a Changing World. 2009.</i>

D.2 Programme management and development

ORGANIZATION	AUTHOR	PUBLICATION
CASA	CASA	<i>International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) 06.20: Children, Youth and SALW.</i>
Hague Appeal for Peace	Hague Appeal for Peace	<i>Peace and Disarmament Education: Changing Mindsets to Reduce Violence and Sustain the Removal of Small Arms. 2005.</i>
UN	Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC)	<i>A Programme of Action to Address the Human Cost of Small Arms. http://www.unicef.org/emerg/files/isac_booklet.pdf</i>
		<i>International Standards for DDR. Operational Guide for Children (5.30) and Youth (5.20).</i>
UNDP	UNDP	<i>How to Guide: Small Arms and Light Weapons Legislation. 2008.</i>
UNICEF	UNICEF	<i>UNICEF Child Protection Strategy E/ICEF/2008/5/Rev.1</i>
UNICEF / IPU	UNICEF / IPU	<i>Handbook for Parliamentarians. Eliminating Violence Against Children. 2007.</i>



D.3 Selected background reading

ORGANIZATION	AUTHOR	PUBLICATION
Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict		http://www.un.org/children/conflict/english/index.html
Small Arms Survey	Jonah Jeff and Helen Moestue	<i>Large and Small: Impacts of Armed Violence on Children and Youth. In Shadows of War 2009.</i>
SEESAC	Marianne Wiseman	<i>Small Arms, Children and Education. 2006.</i>
UNICEF	UNICEF	<i>No Guns Please We Are Children! 2001.</i>
UNSG	Secretary-General's 10th Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict	http://www.un.org/children/conflict/_documents/S2011250.pdf
Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict		http://watchlist.org
Individual	Luke Dowdney	<i>Neither War or Peace: International Comparisons of Children and Youth in Organised Armed Violence 2005.</i>
Individual	Peter W Singer	<i>Children at War. Pantheon Books. 2005.</i>
Individual	Rachel Stohl	<i>Targeting Children: Small Arms and Children in Conflict. 2002</i>

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