

On 22 October 2015, the Permanent Mission of Denmark, in cooperation with the Reaching Critical Will (RCW) programme of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), hosted a side event on Arms Trade, Small Arms, and Gender Based Violence. Speakers included Ray Acheson and Mia Gandenberger (WILPF Reaching Critical Will), and Katherine Ronderos (WILPF-Colombia).

Ray Acheson, director of RCW, presented one of the most recent work of RCW: "[Women, Weapons, and War](#)". The paper, as well as exploring the synergies related to gender and women in a number of multilateral instruments such as resolutions, treaties, and commitments on conventional weapons and women's rights and participation, also provided a comprehensive "gendered feminist critique" of these instruments. By offering several concrete recommendations to states and other actors, the final aim of work was to underline problems with categorising women as a vulnerable group, with undermining women's participation and gender diversity in disarmament, with reinforcing violent masculinities, and with perpetuating structures of patriarchal militarism.

The second panelist of the event was Mia Gandenberger, program manager at RCW, who presented another recently published work of RCW entitled: "[Gender Based violence and the Arms Trade Treaty](#)". The briefing paper, as well as providing some background on the terminology around Gender Based Violence (GBV), also tried to highlight relevant questions for risk assessments under article 6 and 7 of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

The last intervention was made by Katherine Ronderos, who offered a local perspective on GBV and on the ATT, explaining how they both strongly apply to and influence the local context. Ronderos analysed the impact of weapons proliferation in Colombia by providing alarming statistics on the number of women killed by illegal guns and the linkages between the abusive use of weapons, also by police and security forces, and sexual violence. Taking Colombia and its over five decades conflict as an example, she expressed the importance of and necessity for disarmament and demilitarisation efforts in post conflict situations.