

# Mitigating the risk of serious acts of arms-related gender-based violence, and violence against women and children

Implementing Article 7 of the ATT

**Callum Watson**

Gender Coordinator, Small Arms Survey  
callum.Watson@smallarmssurvey.org



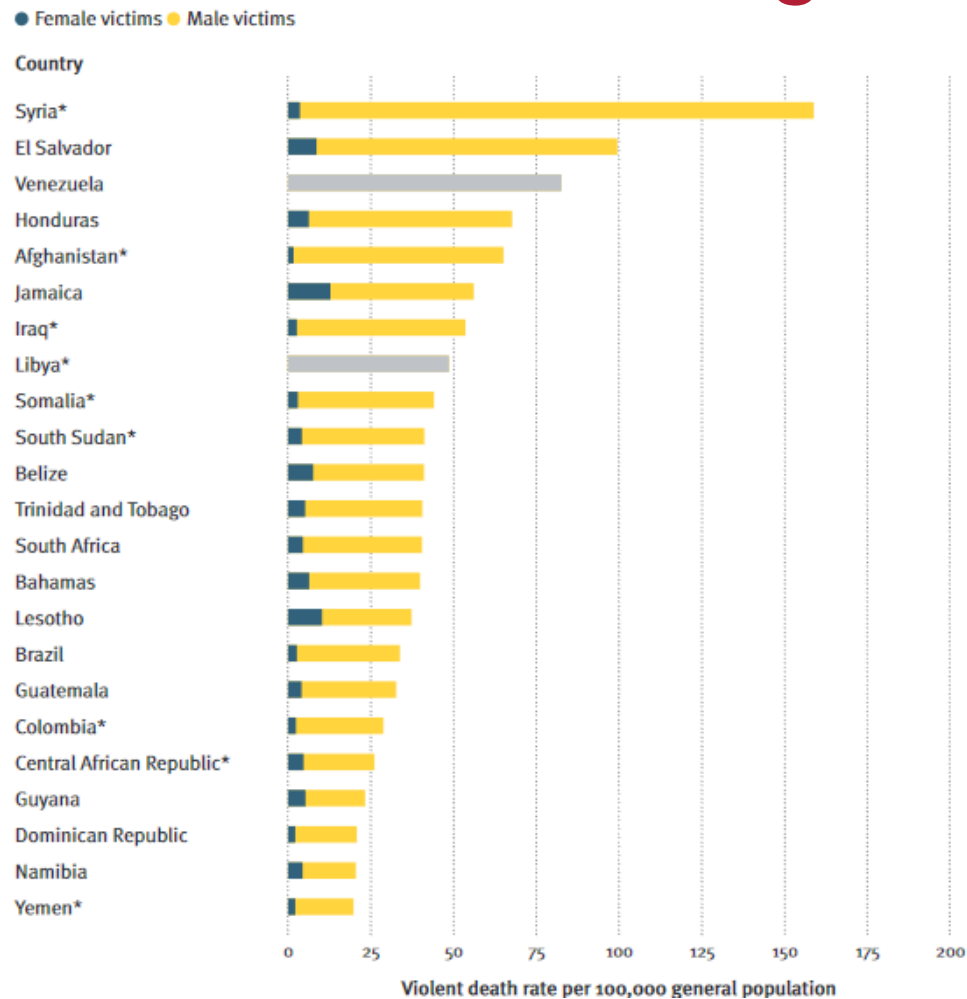
# How is GBV and VAW different to other forms?

## *Conflict Settings*

- Sexual violence in can be either (or both) a:
  - *Strategy* – whereby it is ordered (e.g. torture or genocide).
  - *Practice* – whereby it is a social behaviour tolerated by an institution.
- Sexual violence is rare when:
  - It does not conform with the commander's ideology and choices.
  - There are strong institutional disciplinary mechanisms that can override the chain of command if need be.

# How is GBV and VAW different to other forms?

## *Non-conflict settings: Verko's Static Law*



- Most victims of homicide are male.
- When prevalence of homicide is high, the proportion of women killed is low.
- When prevalence of homicide is low, the proportion of women killed is high.
- Most, but not all, victims of gender-based violence are female.
- Levels of VAW are more constant; often intimate partner violence is still main form of VAW in conflict.

# How is GBV and VAW different to other forms?

## *Perpetrators and places*

- Intimate partner violence accounts for **most lethal deaths** against women in higher income, low-violence countries.
- Most gender-based violence against women isn't lethal. Perpetrators use the *presence* of firearms to **facilitate** domestic violence, sexual violence and other human rights abuses.
- GBV sometimes higher in families of armed public/private security agents.
- Other forms of 'serious' violations of IHL / IHRL may be committed by one person or entity. GBV may be systemic.
- GBV reinforces gender inequality; it causes particular classes of people to adapt their behaviour and limits their full enjoyment of human rights.

# Findings on 7.4 implementation

- Most risk assessments combined with art. 6 (conflict or state-sponsored perpetration).
- No exports denied under art. 7.4 specifically.
- Scattered and unstandardized evidence base on GBV not useful for risk assessments.
- No information provided on specific mitigation measures implemented.
- Some scepticism: licensing officers make ad hoc decisions; mitigation measures require medium to long-term engagement.



## AT WHOSE RISK?

Understanding States Parties' Implementation of Arms Trade Treaty Gender-based Violence Provisions

Anne-S everine Fabre, Gian Giezendanner, Paul Holtom, and Emilia Dungal



# Mitigation Measures

## *Lessons from current practice: where is the problem?*

- Connecting GBV/VAWC and firearms data and policies
  - Are the follow stats produced/analysed/accessible for arms-related crimes?
    - Gender of victim and perpetrator; relationship between them.
    - Use or presence of a firearm in GBV and VAWC crimes.
    - Whether the perpetrator legally / illegally owns a firearm.
    - Whether the perpetrator is a public / private security agent.
    - Other motivating factors (racism, homo/transphobia, disability, etc.)
  - Do national action plans and strategies address on arms GBV / VAWC, including by engaging experts / civil society working on gender equality?
  - Do gender action plans address armed violence including by engaging arms control experts and civil society?
  - Do parliamentarians and civil society engage in oversight?

# Mitigation Measures

## *Lessons from current practice: addressing the problem*

- Civilian: Connecting GBV and firearms legislation
  - Are civilian firearms registered? Can police / judges access the register?
  - Is GBV and VAWC criminalized in line with int'l conventions & standards?
  - Can licences to purchase, own and carry firearms be suspended in cases of *proven or suspected* GBV or VAWC (e.g. when protection orders issued)?
  - Do police, judges and licencing institutions do this automatically? (Trained?)
- Security Sector: Connecting GBV legislation and security sector protocols
  - Are convicted or suspected perpetrators of GBV or VAWC vetted out?
  - Are diverted weapons linked to GBV (are there efforts to improve WAM)?
  - Can service weapons be taken home (*de jure* and *de facto*)?

# Mitigation Measures

## *Lessons from current practice addressing the problem*

- Conflict / security response: Oversight and accountability in the security sector
  - Are there efforts to assess and address institutional racism, misogyny and homophobia, and to promote diversity within security institutions? Is there bystander intervention training?
  - Are there robust complaints mechanisms for internal and external cases of GBV and VAWC within security institutions?
  - Are there internal oversight mechanisms to hold leaders to account for sexist behaviour as well as when cases of GBV and VAWC are perpetrated by them and their subordinates?
  - Can commanding officers influence internal investigations into GBV and VAWC?
  - Do you need to demonstrate a commitment to human rights, gender equality and non-discrimination to become a leader in the institution?



Thank you  
callum.watson@smallarmssurvey.org



Briefing Paper  
March 2022



### AT WHOSE RISK?

Understanding States Parties' Implementation of Arms Trade Treaty Gender-based Violence Provisions

Anne-S  verine Fabre, Gian Glezendanner, Paul Holtom, and Emilia Dungal



### GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN NUMBERS

Data from Argentina's National Agency of Controlled Materials (ANMaC)



### TACKLING ARMED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA



### KEEP YOUR DISTANCE— BUT KEEP YOUR GUN, TOO

New responses from the Argentinian state to gender-based violence



### THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM

GLOBAL VIOLENT DEATHS UPDATE 2019–2020

