



DISEC

**THE ROLE OF THE YOUTH IN COMBATING INTOLERANCE,
PERSECUTION, INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSONS, BASED
ON RELIGION/BELIEF**

BACKGROUND GUIDE

SAIMUN 2021

Honourable delegates,

Greetings!

We are grateful to be welcoming you to the Disarmament and International Security Committee of this session of the annual Sub-Saharan Africa International Model United Nations conference, held here in Nairobi, Kenya. As always, this conference is catered to those interested in diplomacy, international relations, politics and human rights, economics among others, while allowing space for healthy and rigorous debate. Over the course of the next four days, we will undertake the task of addressing the promotion of Multilateralism in the Area of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation.

The members of the dais this session are:

1. Hellen Keller - Chair
2. Muyaka Muyundo - Co-Chair
3. Daniel Kivuva – Committee Secretary

The following pages of this document will function as an informative guide on the basics of the discourse. However, we strongly encourage you investigate the further reading sections of the topic, and research your Member State's own views. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact either the SAIMUN Secretariat through their email or us through our committee email, both of which are listed below. We wish nothing more for you to have a safe and enjoyable Conference! Here's to fruitful debate! All the best,

Kindest Regards,

DISEC Dais.

Email: disec@saimun.net

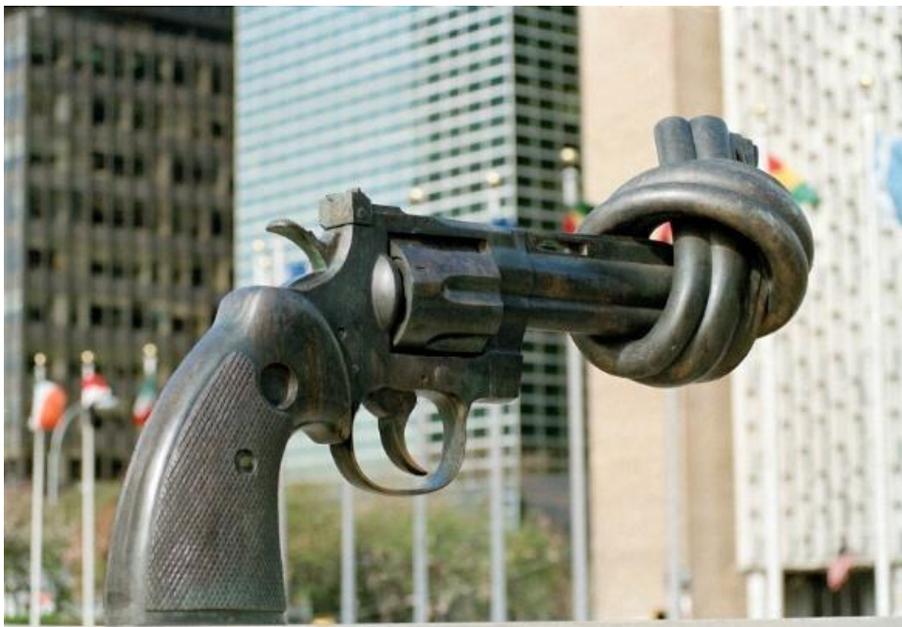
DISEC

Known as the First Committee, the Disarmament and International Security Committee is a committee in the General Assembly of the United Nations. The First Committee is mandated to deal with an array of topics ranging from:

- Nuclear weapons
- Other weapons of mass destruction
- Outer space (disarmament aspects)
- Conventional weapons
- Regional disarmament and security
- Other disarmament measures and international security
- Disarmament machinery

It seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime.

It considers all disarmament and international security matters within the scope of the Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any other organ of the United Nations; the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments; promotion of cooperative arrangements and measures aimed at strengthening stability through lower levels of armaments.



The Committee has two main bodies that report to it: The Disarmament Commission (UNDC) and the Conference on Disarmament (CD).

The Disarmament Commission meets yearly in New York for three weeks hosting both plenary meetings and working groups. The work of the Commission is usually divided between two working groups, with each group tackling one topic from the whole range of disarmament issues for that session, one of which must include nuclear disarmament. The Commission reports to the General Assembly via the First Committee at least once a year.

While the Conference on Disarmament is not formally part of the United Nations machinery, it still reports to the General Assembly annually, or more frequently, as appropriate. Its budget is also included in that of the United Nations. The Conference meets in Geneva tri- annually and focuses on:

- Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament.
- Prevention of nuclear war.
- Prevention of an arms race in outer space.
- Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.
- New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons including radiological weapons.
- Comprehensive programme of disarmament and transparency in armaments.



THE ROLE OF THE YOUTH IN COMBATING INTOLERANCE, PERSECUTION, INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSONS, BASED ON RELIGION/BELIEF

INTRODUCTION

The **United Nations Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition (Firearms Protocol) supplementing the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)** defines illicit trafficking as “the import, export, acquisition, sale, delivery, movement or transfer of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition from or across the territory of one State Party to that of another State Party if any one of the States Parties concerned does not authorize it (...) or if the firearms are not marked in accordance with (...) this Protocol”. This definition focuses on the cross-border movement of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition without authorization or without the proper marking of the firearms.

To prevent illicit trafficking, the Firearms Protocol therefore requires State parties to establish or maintain “an effective system of export and import licensing or authorization, as well as measures on international transit, for the transfer of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition” (Article 10 Firearms Protocol). State parties need to establish the illicit manufacturing and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition as criminal offences (Article 5 Firearms Protocol), and the Protocol provides internationally agreed definitions that help shaping the legal or illicit nature of certain conducts. Other provisions of the Firearms Protocol require States to mark and record firearms, to establish preventative and security measures to impede the theft and diversion of these arms into unauthorized hands, and to consider licensing and recording brokers and brokering activities inter alia. Through this set of provisions, the Firearms Protocol has created a significant barrier to illicit manufacturing, acquisition and trafficking, a barrier that actors in the illicit market must deal with.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

¹“There is a rising tide of incitement to discrimination, hatred and violence against persons based on religion or belief, both online and offline, often fuelled by radical nationalist politics. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, an upsurge in hate speech and discrimination targeted at Jews, Muslims,

¹ Report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, [A/HRC/46/67](#), 11 January 2021

Christians, Baha'is and minority groups has been observed. To stem that tide, it is critical that States step up their efforts to fight discrimination, hatred and violence ...”

Since March 2011, the General Assembly and Human Rights Council have adopted resolutions on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief. In resolution [75/187](#) of 16 December 2020, the General Assembly:

1. Calls upon all States to take the following actions, as called for by the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, to foster a domestic environment of religious tolerance, peace and respect by:
 - a. Encouraging the creation of collaborative networks to build mutual understanding, promoting dialogue and inspiring constructive action towards shared policy goals and the pursuit of tangible outcomes, such as servicing projects in the fields of education, health, conflict prevention, employment, integration and media education;
 - b. Creating an appropriate mechanism within Governments to, inter alia, identify and address potential areas of tension between members of different religious communities and assisting with conflict prevention and mediation;
 - c. Encouraging the training of government officials in effective outreach strategies;
 - d. Encouraging the efforts of leaders to discuss within their communities the causes of discrimination and developing strategies to counter those causes;
 - e. Speaking out against intolerance, including advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence;
 - f. Adopting measures to criminalize incitement to imminent violence based on religion or belief;
 - g. Understanding the need to combat denigration and the negative religious stereotyping of persons, as well as incitement to religious hatred, by strategizing and harmonizing actions at the local, national, regional and international levels through, inter alia, education and awareness-raising;
 - h. Recognizing that the open, constructive and respectful debate of ideas, as well as interreligious, interfaith and intercultural dialogue, at the local, national, regional and international levels, can play a positive role in combating religious hatred, incitement and violence;
2. Also calls upon all States:
 - a. To take effective measures to ensure that public functionaries, in the conduct of their public duties, do not discriminate against individuals on the basis of religion or belief;

- b. To foster religious freedom and pluralism by promoting the ability of members of all religious communities to manifest their religion and to contribute openly and on an equal footing to society;
 - c. To encourage the representation and meaningful participation of individuals, irrespective of their religion or belief, in all sectors of society;
 - d. To make a strong effort to counter religious profiling, which is understood to be the invidious use of religion as a criterion in conducting questioning, searches and other investigative law enforcement procedures;
3. Further calls upon all States to adopt measures and policies to promote full respect for and protection of places of worship and religious sites, cemeteries and shrines and to take protective measures in cases where they are vulnerable to vandalism or destruction;
 4. Calls for strengthened international efforts to foster a global dialogue for the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights and diversity of religions and beliefs.

The Secretary-General has submitted annual reports to the General Assembly that include information provided by the High Commissioner on steps taken by States to combat intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief. Furthermore, the High Commissioner for Human Rights has prepared and submitted to the Human Rights Council comprehensive follow-up reports with elaborated conclusions based upon information provided by States on the efforts and measures taken for the implementation of the action plan outlined above, and views on potential follow-up measures for further improvement of the implementation of that plan.

Gun violence is a contemporary global human rights issue. Gun-related violence poses a great threat our most fundamental human right, **the right to life**.

Gun violence is a daily tragedy affecting the lives of individuals around the world. More than 500 people die every day because of violence committed with firearms.

Anyone can be affected by firearm violence but more often than not gun violence disproportionately impacts communities of colour, women and other marginalized groups in society.

Sometimes, the mere presence of firearms can make people feel threatened and fearful for their lives with severe and long-term psychological effects on individuals and whole communities.

When people are afraid of gun violence, this can also have a negative impact on people's right to

education or health care when they are too afraid to attend schools or health facilities or if these services are not fully functioning due to firearm violence in their community.

Easy access to firearms – whether legal or illegal – is one of the main drivers of gun violence.

The state has an obligation to maximize the protection of human rights, creating the safest possible environment for the most people, especially those considered to be at the greatest risk. If a state **does not exercise adequate control** over the possession and use of firearms in the face of persistent gun violence, this could amount to a breach of their obligations under international human rights law.

This is where the problem arises, and the purpose of this committee is to come up with a solution as to how youth can call on their states to fulfil their obligations to introduce and implement strict gun violence prevention laws and regulations.

States also have the duty to establish measures they can use to intervene at community level to reduce and prevent gun violence in people's daily lives.

Youth campaigns for governments to use common-sense gun reform to stop gun violence and protect people's right to life. Our human rights are not protected if our leaders fail to tackle and stop gun violence and gun deaths.

HISTORY

Gun violence is violence committed with the use of firearms, for example pistols, shotguns, assault rifles or machine guns.

- More than 500 people die every day from gun violence
- 44% of all homicides globally involve gun violence
- There were **1.4 million firearm-related deaths** globally between 2012 and 2016

The majority of victims and perpetrators are young men, but women are particularly at risk of firearms violence perpetrated by an intimate partner. Sexual violence can also be facilitated by firearms.

- An estimated 2,000 people are injured by gunshots every single day
- At least 2 million people are living with firearm injuries around the globe

Millions of people suffer the severe and long-term psychological effects that gun violence – or the threat of gun violence – brings to individuals, families and their wider community.

In the USA, nearly 134,000 people were shot and injured by firearms in 2017.

Gunshot injuries are often life-changing and have an indelible impact on the victims' long-term

mental and physical health. Some need permanent, lifelong care, and many others lose their ability to work, particularly in physically demanding jobs. Yet programmes offering adequate long-term care, rehabilitation and job retraining are virtually non-existent. The toll that gun violence has on victims, family members and the medical services has resulted in a chronic public health crisis – with remarkably little government response. Access to affordable and quality health care services in the USA should include necessary long-term health interventions, including long-term pain management, rehabilitation and other support services, and mental health care.

DEVELOPMENT

ENACT a new American backed project that will start in 2022 that will include the involvement of judges, prosecutors, social service providers, law enforcement officers, crime victims, community-based organizations, and others to improve the juvenile justice system and reducing youth violence. The project should support interagency law enforcement teams, or task forces, that coordinate the investigative efforts and suppression tactics of Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies in weapons, drug, and gang arrests as a global initiative to begin in the U.S.

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

1. How much gun violence is there?
2. How many guns are there?
3. How do mass shootings differ from other types of gun violence?
4. What gun control laws currently exist?
5. What could be done to reduce gun violence?
6. Would fewer guns result in less gun violence?
7. Would gun control result in fewer guns?
8. Won't criminals kill with other weapons if they don't have guns?
9. What has worked to reduce gun violence?
10. Are the recent proposals likely to be effective?
11. What don't we know yet?

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https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_General_Assembly

Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes: A Tool for Prevention:
http://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/publications-andresources/Framework%20of%20Analysis%20for%20Atrocity%20Crimes_EN.pdf

Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence, and violence against persons based on religion or belief:

[\(A/HRC/RES/16/18\)](#)

Prohibiting Incitement to Discrimination, Hostility and Violence:

<https://www.article19.org/data/files/medialibrary/3572/12-12-01-PO-incitement-WEB.pdf>

Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence:

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Opinion/SeminarRabat/Rabat_draft_outcome.pdf

The Camden Principles on Freedom of Expression and Equality:

<https://www.article19.org/data/files/pdfs/standards/the-camden-principles-on-freedom-of-expression-and-equality.pdf>

Preventing Incitement: Policy options for Action:

http://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/our-work/Doc.10_of%20incitement.Policy%20options.Nov2013.pdf

Regional Plan of Action for Europe:

http://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/our-work/Doc.13_Europe%20Plan%20of%20Action.pdf

Regional Plan of Action for the MENA region:

http://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/our-work/Doc.14_MENA%20Plan%20of%20Action.FINAL.pdf

Regional Plan of Action for the Americas:

http://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/our-work/Doc.15_Plan%20of%20Action%20for%20the%20Americas.FINAL.pdf

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