

**Will Canada do justice to gun victims at the UN gun summit this week?
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All the world's governments are meeting at the UN in New York this week to discuss how to reduce the death toll from gun violence. Around 1000 people die from bullet wounds every day with a further 3000 severely injured. Guns are breaking hearts and spines at this very moment but little is done at the international level.

All countries, including Canada, will report to the summit on their progress in implementing the UN Programme of Action (PoA) on small arms. Under the PoA, our government has committed itself to keep its citizens safe from gunfire and ensure that Canada is not responsible for causing gun violence in other countries. Our PoA responsibilities include:

- Imposing strict regulation on arms brokers who are Canadian citizens or operating on Canadian territory
- Marking all Canadian produced guns at the point of manufacture and marking all guns imported to or exported from Canada to enable tracing
- Managing arms stockpiles and ensuring safe disposal of surplus weapons
- Liaising with states in need of assistance in solving the gun violence epidemic

Wendy Cukier, President Coalition for Gun Control said: "Canadians want action to prevent gun violence. Canadians want their government to take a strong stand on the fight against the illicit trade in small arms. Last November, Canada's three major policing organizations – the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, the Canadian Association of Police Boards and the Canadian Police Association all called on the Conservative Government to fulfil its international obligations and move forward to pass the regulations on marking firearms. Instead, the Government caved to pressure from the gun lobby and postponed the regulations for another two years. Canada used to be leading the way on the international effort to combat the illicit trade in small arms but its position is steadily slipping."

The UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms in All its Aspects was agreed at the UN in July 2001. Since then, most states have been painfully slow to implement their obligations and find multidimensional measures to reform their small arms policies.

Rebecca Peters, Director of the International Action Network on Small Arms said: "There are millions of stories of suffering and devastation around the world caused by guns. Hundreds of solutions will be discussed at the UN this week and we cannot afford to let the opportunity pass. This is a chance to learn from countries such as Australia, Brazil and South Africa, which have all taken credible steps to regulate the gun trade, and brought down the death toll."

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