



FWCC Oral Statement to be delivered at the 49th Session of the Human Rights Council

Item 3 General Debate

FWCC (Quakers) appreciates the opportunity to welcome report 49/41 on the important and topical issue of the impact of the civilian acquisition, possession and use of firearms by children and youth.

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We welcome its recognition that most firearms are legally manufactured - indeed, we should not only focus on illicit or diverted weapons at the detriment of the impact of legal arms transfers or acquisitions. It also recognizes that the use of firearms by children contributes to the widespread indirect impacts of violence on the enjoyment of human rights in society. We would add that arms proliferation in society contributes to the increased militarisation of society which legitimises and perpetuates the use of violence.

In light of these recognitions, we would encourage:

- States to
 - take preventative measures and address root causes of armed violence in communities, tailoring interventions to the particular needs of children and youth
 - adopt stricter requirements for or prohibit the legal acquisition and possession of firearms by civilians, in particular by children.
- States and all business enterprises to
 - ensure their actions are consistent with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
 - carry out heightened human rights due diligence, and refrain from transferring arms when there is a clear risk of civilian acquisition, in particular by children.
- All HRC mechanisms to consider including weapons related risks and impacts into their work to continue identifying opportunities to address this cross-cutting issues from a prevention perspective.

ENDS

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