



TEMPLATE LETTER

Your Excellency / Dear Minister etc

I am writing following the launch of *Joint Policy Paper on Gender and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)*, a copy of which is attached to this letter.

I support the call outlined in this Paper and urge [INSERT NAME of your government] to take concrete steps to support a strong ATT and the inclusion of a specific gender criterion in the negotiated text. The criteria of an Arms Trade Treaty should require States not to authorise an international transfer of conventional arms where there is a substantial risk that the arms under consideration are likely to be used to perpetrate or facilitate acts of gender-based violence, including rape and other forms of sexual violence.

In this Joint Paper, four international organisations - Amnesty International, the Women's Network of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and Religions for Peace - outline why and how the ATT can address armed gender-based violence.

This July 2012 presents a historic opportunity as Member States of the United Nations (UN) gather to negotiate an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) meant to establish common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms. If the ATT is to be an effective legal instrument in regulating the international arms trade, recognition of the potential gendered impacts of international transfers must also be included. Accordingly, there should be strong references to gender in the treaty text and the criteria in the treaty should address risks of gender-based armed violence.

Yours sincerely,

[SIGN NAME/ORGANISATION]