

**PRESS RELEASE****UN REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT TO HOLD  
WORKSHOP ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY FOR NGOS AND  
PARLIAMENTARIANS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

**New York, 2 July 2018:** The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD), through its regional project on women, peace and security, is organizing a “Workshop for Southeast Asia on Gun Violence and Illicit Small-Arms Trafficking from a Gender Perspective” in Bangkok on 3-6 July 2018.

The event will gather senior-level representatives of leading national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) focused on gender issues and women’s empowerment, members of parliaments from Southeast Asia dealing with arms-control issues, international experts and UN officials. By applying a gender perspective, the workshop will address strengthening control of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and promoting women’s participation in decision-making processes in the field of arms control in the region. The workshop aims to enhance gender-sensitive decision making with respect to the impact of gun violence on women.

The workshop will also seek to empower the participating NGOs to initiate advocacy, raise awareness regarding the combatting of the illicit small arms trade, and promote key international arms-control instruments, such as the Arms Trade Treaty and the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects. It will afford the participating NGO representatives and parliamentarians from various Southeast Asian countries the opportunity to exchange ideas, discuss strategies, and consider possibilities for joint initiatives to address the challenge of illicit small arms trade and its evident impact on women.

The United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council have, in numerous resolutions, called for full and meaningful participation of women in peace, disarmament and arms control efforts, which the workshop also aims to promote. Besides strengthening national control of SALW and compliance with related international instruments, the workshop will contribute to realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 5 on gender equality and Goal 16 on peaceful societies.

The workshop is funded by the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR).

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