

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

Kathmandu, 17 September 2018 (Office for Disarmament Affairs) - 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 South Asia on Gun Violence and Illicit Small-Arms Trafficking from a Gender Perspective” in Kathmandu from 18 to 21 September 2018.

The event will gather senior-level representatives of leading national non-governmental organizations focused on gender issues and women’s empowerment, members of parliaments from South Asia dealing with arms-control issues, international experts and United Nations officials. By applying a gender perspective, the workshop will address the importance of strengthening control of small arms and light weapons and promoting women’s participation 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. It follows a similar training held for Southeast Asian countries in Bangkok, in July 2018.

The workshop will also seek to empower the participating non-governmental organizations 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 Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. It will afford the participating non-governmental organizations and parliamentarians from various South 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 distinct 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 small arms and light weapons 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.

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