



**OBSERVATÓRIO
GÉNERO E VIOLÊNCIA ARMADA**
CES - Centro de Estudos Sociais - UC.PT



Press Release

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Disarm Domestic Violence in the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence

This is the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence, and events are being held in 85 countries to draw attention to the human toll of small arms proliferation and misuse.

For women, the greatest risk of gun violence is in their own home. The statistics are shocking. Women are three times more likely to die violently if there is a gun in the house. Usually the perpetrator is a spouse or partner, often with a prior record of domestic abuse. For every woman killed or physically injured by firearms, many more are threatened.

This is why activists in Portugal are joining their colleagues from more than 28 countries to demand policies which would keep women safe from gun violence.

Within this campaign, the recently created Observatory on Gender and Armed Violence (OGAV), based at the Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra, organizes the premier of the documentary “Luto como Mãe” [“Right to Mourn”], directed by Luís Carlos Nascimento, on June 29th, in Coimbra. The documentary is based on the stories of the survivors – mothers, sisters and widows – who have lost their relatives in urban armed violence incidents and who now have to cope with family disruption, financial distress, impunity and stigma. Following the exhibition, a debate will take place, with the documentary’s director and one of the main characters of the long-feature, Elizabeth Paulino. The differentiated impacts of armed violence as well as examples of collective activism against violence will be discussed.

Disarming Domestic Violence is the first international campaign aimed at protecting women from gun violence in the home. The main goal is to ensure that people with a history of domestic abuse are denied access to firearms, or have their licenses revoked. Of the nearly 900 million small arms in the world today, more than 75% are in the hands of private individuals – most of them men. Given this, women are paying a disproportionately heavy price for the multi-billion dollar trade in small arms.

OGAV, a member of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), is pressing for spouses and partners to be consulted before a gun license is granted, as an essential measure to protect women. In many cases, the man who kills a woman has previously threatened or committed violence, without coming to the notice of police.

“This week is an opportunity for the government to announce its support for strong and effective policies to Disarm Domestic Violence. With so many people – and especially women – suffering from gun violence in our country, there is no time to lose”, said Tatiana Moura, OGAV’s coordinator.

During the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence, the government should recognise that family killings are the only category of homicide in which women outnumber men as victims, and pledge to protect women in their homes.

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For more information about the Week of Action worldwide, visit www.iansa.org

Notes to editor:

- The Observatory on Gender and Armed Violence (OGAV) intends to develop studies, analyses and policy recommendations on femininities, masculinities (in)security in armed violence contexts, namely in Latin America and in Portuguese speaking countries. Its main objectives are to establish a platform of articulation for research and programmes in this domain.
- The Observatory on Gender and Armed Violence (OGAV) is a member of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), the global movement against gun violence. IANSA is a network of 800 civil society organisations working in 100 countries to stop the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALW). More info at www.iansa.org
- First launched in 2001, the Global Week of Action has grown to be the largest coordinated gun violence prevention event in the world.