

Developing a Humanitarian Advocacy Plan (Part 1)

The UNICEF toolkit reminds us Public Health (PH) advocacy must address inequities and inequalities, encourage inclusion and democracy (1) and persuade decision makers to adopt policies that protect human rights and reduce morbidity and mortality. (2) Currently the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) indicates a record number, 68.5 million refugees displaced by war. (3)

Policy

The global Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) prohibits international transfer of arms to be used to commit/facilitate genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes. Despite ATT, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) data shows global arms trade industry continues to supply weapons into the most deadly armed conflicts. (4)

Barriers to Peace

Resource Wars

War is a PH concern. Resource wars cause morbidity and mortality, damage infrastructure, waste valuable resources displace people and violate human rights. Dependence on oil fuels oil wars. (5)

Oil in non-renewable energy source

An energy scarcity exists and massive amounts of money are spent on oil imports. (6) The largest global consumer of oil is the US military, consuming more than 100 million barrels of oil per year. (7) The US is the largest global consumer of petroleum (a crude oil product) using 330 million barrels of oil per year in plastics production alone. (8)

Conflict Minerals

Current EU regulation only cover tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold, meaning other resources such as diamonds and precious stones are not covered. The EU must broaden their list of conflict minerals to included all potential conflict minerals and precious stones and also ensure companies that import minerals used as components in products such as mobile phones and cars are not, as they currently are, exempt. Intel is a positive example. (9, 10)

Military carbon exemptions

The US military is the main driver of the global oil economy, yet US military bases were exempt from complying with US environmental regulations until 1992. (11) Under the Paris Agreement global armed forces including US military, will no longer be exempt from carbon emissions. (12)

The UN wage war

The UN Security Council create what they call “intervention brigades” to root out extremist militia in the Democratic Republic of Congo. (13)

Stigma

Pacifists are hippies.

Religious Barriers to world peace

Protestant/ Catholic; Sunni/ Shiite. (14)

Einstein

“3 great forces rule the world: stupidity, fear and greed” (15)

Global Arms industry Scale

In 2016 the world spent \$1.69 trillion on the military (2% global GDP). SIPRI indicates since 2002, top 100 arms companies have sold over \$ 5 trillion USD. (16)

Economy before Ecology

In order to maintain sustainable economic growth in G7 countries, when considering carbon footprint, environmental and energy policies must recognise differences between militarisation, energy consumption and economic growth. (17)

Lack of political will

Despite commitment to regulate irresponsible arms trade, key states continue to sell arms to governments that commit serious human rights abuses. SIPRI data indicates the global arms trade industry is supplying weapons to deadly armed conflicts. (18)

The arms industry has been internalised

SIPRU researcher Elizabeth Skons explains the growing perpetuity of the arms industry as being due to internalisation. Internalisation refers to accepting norms and values, established by others, through socialisation. Increase in R&D costs led to companies applying strategies to internalise the arms industry. (19)

3 forms of internalisation;

1. Exports
2. Foreign direct investment
3. International cooperation arrangement (20)

Exports

Irish military exports worth €10.7bn in last 3 years, (21) €90 million from sales of ammunition/arms equipment for guns/weapons sensors, the remaining €10.6bn came from sales of dual-use (day-to-day/military use), hi-tech electronics and telecommunications products. The international community require strict controls on sale of these products yet Ireland is licensed to export to Libya, Iraq, Egypt, Algeria, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Lebanon. (21) Weapons sales in Ireland were \$26 USD million in 2013. (22) Whilst Ireland has the lowest percentage of GDP spent on its Defence Forces of any EU member states (23) defence spending will increase by €47.5m to almost €1b. (24)

According to the Billion Dollar-o-Gram, the US government is estimated to spend \$3000 billion USD on the Iraq war, comparing to \$435 billion USD needed to feed/educate every child on earth for 5 years. (25)

Foreign direct investment FDI

Ireland has 1,200 overseas ICT, life science, financial services, engineering and business services company operations; many undertake advanced manufacturing and R&D. (26)

International cooperation arrangements

The end of cold war led to a relaxation of government attitudes towards military technology transfers. We have NATO, the OECD and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

DASA

Aerospace company Deutsche Aerospace Aktiengesellschaft (DASA) was founded to consolidate Euromissile development. (27)

Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)

PESCO is the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) whereby 25 member states, including Ireland's armed forces, pursue structural integration. (28) PESCO requires an EU coordinated approach to arms industry, development, production and procurement. As a neutral country Ireland should not to get involved in conflict. (29) 57% of people want to see Ireland's neutrality enshrined within our constitution. (30)

Other recent cooperation agreements include The European Defence Industrial Development Programme (€500 million), Military Mobility (€6.5 billion) the European Defence Fund (€13 billion). (31)

Conflict Resolution Advocacy Plan (Part 2)

Regarding the role of Public Health Advocates in relation to armed conflict and war, the American Public Health Association recommends that PH schools incorporate an understanding of the political, economic, social and cultural determinants of war, in particular militarism, into their programmes. (32)

WHO Health as a Bridge for Peace (HPB)

The HBP programme aims to provide a policy and planning framework to integrate the delivery of health care with conflict management. (33) For example PAHO Immunisation programmes create a truce, whereby guerrilla forces cease fighting to join local volunteers in administering vaccinations. (34)

“The role of physicians and other health workers in the preservation and promotion of peace is the most significant factor for the attainment of health for all” (World Health Assembly, Resolution) (35)

Health-peace mechanisms

- **Conflict management:** Medical diplomacy can be adopted to resolve, lessen or contained conflict.
- **Solidarity:** Healthcare workers can use their power and freedom of action to support people and groups working to expand peace.
- **Strengthening the social fabric:** Conciliatory methods of healthcare delivery can restore and reinforce diversity.
- **Dissent:** A person or group can use healthcare expert advice to disagree with governing policies.
- **Restricting the destructiveness of war:** Using international law HCWs can call for a restriction or abolition of military policies and weapons. (36)

Humanitarian Advocacy Plan

Define situation

Main stakeholders are the 68.5 million people displaced by war. (3)

Goals and objectives

To applying a social pressure on leaders, law makers, decision makers and policy makers to be held politically accountable and shape the political agenda towards peace (see below) , to remove socio-cultural barriers to health thus increase diagnosis and treatment reduce burden of disease.

Key Messages

- Advocate Pacifism
- Removes barriers to peace
- Enforce ATT/ Paris agreement (no military exemptions)
- Expose accelerated militarisation of the EU
- Withdraw from PESCO
- Ban single use plastics/Incentivise bioplastic
- Support companies with a conscience
- Demilitarise; calls to disarm

Identify target

Elected representatives, Oireachtas, EU commission, UN.

Turn into issue

Despite ATT, arms are being sold to nations that commit/facilitate genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. (4) Despite climate change military carbon exemptions exist. (11)

Providing Strategic Leadership

MEPs Luke Ming Flannigan.

Oireachtas members: Richard Boyd Barrett TD, Clare Daly TD, Aengus O Snodaigh TD, Mick Wallace TD, Catherine Connolly TD, Thomas Pringle TD, Brid Smith TD, Joan Collins TD.

Industry champions/Celebrity endorsement

Actors/ Artists: Sinead Cusack (Actor) Stuart Dunne (Actor/Artist), Felim Egan (Artist), Margaretta D'Arcy (Activist, Playwright, Actor), Raymond Deane (Composer)

Media: Frank Mc Donald (Journalist)

University: Goretti Horgan (Ulster University), Dr Karen Devine (Lecturer in International Relations & EU politics), Marcin Wojcik (Lecturer DIT), Ms. Deirdre Judge (DCU).

Councillors/ former councillors: Tina Mc Veigh

Campaigners: Patrick Comerford (President Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament CND), Claudia Hyadt (Campaigner on military policy and member of German Die Linke party), Aleida Guevara (Daughter of Che Guevara), Roger Cole (Chairman of the Peace and Neutrality Alliance).

Former politicians: Patricia Mc Kenna (former MEP), Eamonn McCann (former MLA for PBP), Enda Fanning (former Councillor) Mr Proinsias de Rossa (former MEP).

Private sector: “Conscience companies”, companies that do not invest in unethical industry such as the arms industry, for example the UK’s Co-operative Bank. (37)
Private sector i.e. from antiwar business executives. (38)

Partnerships

Encourage TDs to form an Oireachtas Group

International, European, UK and Irish Pacifist NGOs

- Green Peace
- Irish Peace Society
- International League of Peace
- League of Peace and Freedom (39)

Community groups

Raging Grannies Feminist Eco Pacifist Working Advocacy Group: Gauge public opinion, get attention, disseminate antiwar messages, sing songs of peace, war is not a social norm.

The People’s Movement and PANA: Irish antiwar movement campaigning for immediate withdrawal by the state from all military and financial commitments under PESCO and to work with local and national groups, organisations, likeminded elected representative Oireachtas members and EU groups to expose the accelerated militarisation of the EU. (40)

Mobilise with core and support activities

- **Seminars/public meetings:** Inviting industry champions to raise awareness about barriers to peace and goals and objectives.
- **Lobby TDs and MEPs:** Sending letters/ petitioning Members of Parliament, Members of the European Parliament, and Members of the Local government seeking support.
- **Campaigning:** Speak publically at Peace not Pesco Rallies, raise money for campaign (sell cranes/take donations), gauge public opinion via surveys, petition.
- **Build media support:** Press releases; Peace not Pesco. Maintain Ireland’s neutrality, 68.5 million people won’t be home for Christmas. Emailing/letters to editor.
- **Build a coalition of Irish/EU leaders:** To increase capacity/maintain momentum.
- **Produce literature:** Leaflets/ posters.
- **Social Media:** Build/link to websites providing information on campaign
- **Monitor and evaluate:** Qualitative surveys/ quantitative stats/petitions.

Millennium Development Goals MDG

World leaders adopted the UN Millennium Declaration in 2000. (41) The MDGs has been limited and uneven across countries. 15.5% of the world population still suffers from hunger, and many countries. The African continent in particular, has high rates of in child mortality. The reduction in maternal mortality has been slow and mortality remains alarmingly high. 80% of people in sub-Saharan regions and Southern Asia live in extreme poverty and progress has been very limited. (42, 43) Peace-building was totally ignored in the MDGs.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Violence is addressed in the WHO's SDGs. Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. (44) Specifically SDG Target 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls SDG Target 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation and SDG Target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere SDG Target 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children. (45)

As an example, Nigeria is lagging behind SDGs targets for a variety of reasons, including bureaucracy, poor resource management in the healthcare system, subsequent healthcare worker industrial action, Boko Haram insurgency in north Nigeria and kidnappings in the south. (46)

Peace Building

Peaceful, reasonably well governed countries prosper and the majority of those in extreme poverty live in conflict-affected states. The inclusion of peace-building is critical to the success of ending hunger and poverty yet was totally ignored in the MDGs. It is seen as controversial in the SDGs, but so far it has remained there. (47)

Goals

- Ban oil derived plastics, incentivise bioplastics.
- Ban conflict minerals in all forms including end products.
- Meet SDGs.
- Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.
- End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.
- Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.
- By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organised crime.
- Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.
- Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.
- Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.
- Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.
- By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.
- Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.
- Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.
- Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development. (48)

The risk of global destruction is unacceptable

Our governments are failing to enforce international environmental and humanitarian law and are guilty of war profiteering. (49) The economic benefits derived from selling weapons and associated goods work to further the divide in socioeconomic status, with rising poverty and worsening health and education indicators. The suffering we are witnessing is unprecedented, to the point that the current Yemen humanitarian crisis itself is being used as weapon of war. (50) Humanitarian programmes must move beyond a band-aid approach and mitigate underlying causes by demanding our governments not support war on civilians, either through direct action or through inaction at the United Nations Security Council. As Public health humanitarian advocates, we need to integrate conflict resolution with health protection and health sector development strategies.

Carina Harkin BSc.Nat.BHSc.Hom.BHSc.Acu.

Cert IV TAE. MPH (pending)

www.carahealth.com

0834736745

1. David Cohen NBK, David Stewart, Nicholas Rees, Julia Coffman Advocacy Toolkit a Guide to Influencing Decisions that Improve Children's Lives. New York: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); 2010.
2. UNICEF. Humanitarian Advocacy 2018 [Available from: <http://www.unicefemergencies.com/downloads/eresource/advocacy.html>.
3. Agency) UNHCR. Forced displacement at record 68.5 million 2018 [Available from: <https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/2018/6/5b222c494/forced-displacement-record-685-million.html>.
4. UN. The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Promoting responsibility in international transfers of conventional arms 5th Conference. Geneva 2019.
5. Klare MT, Levy BS, Sidel VW. The public health implications of resource wars. American journal of public health. 2011;101(9):1615-9.
6. Jennings MD. Oil and war: we had the warning 30 years ago. Nature. 2003;423(6935):15.
7. Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy I, and Environment. Operational Energy 2018 [Available from: https://www.acq.osd.mil/eie/OE/OE_index.html.
8. UK P. Plastic Production 2018 [Available from: <http://www.petroleum.co.uk/plastic-production>.
9. Intel. What are Conflict Free Minerals? 2019 [Available from: <https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/corporate-responsibility/conflict-free-minerals.html>.
10. Witness G. CONFLICT MINERALS IN EUROPE Stop the EU supporting a Deadly Trade 2016 Nov 03 [Available from: <https://www.globalwitness.org/fr/campaigns/conflict-minerals/conflict-minerals-europe-brief/>.
11. Cristaldi M, Foschi C, Szpunar G, Brini C, Marinelli F, Triolo L. Toxic emissions from a military test site in the territory of Sardinia, Italy. International journal of environmental research and public health. 2013;10(4):1631-46.
12. Neslen A. Pentagon to lose emissions exemption under Paris climate deal. The Guardian. 2015 Dec 14.
13. Verini J. Should the United Nations Wage War to Keep Peace? National Geographic. 2014 27 Mar.

14. Okamoto AO. Religious barriers to world peace. *Journal of religion and health*. 1976;15(1):26-33.
15. Einstein A. Albert Einstein Quotes Quotable Quote: Good Reads.com; 2018 [Available from: <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/261845-three-great-forces-rule-the-world-stupidity-fear-and-greed>].
16. International A. Killer Facts: The scale of the global arms trade 2017 Sept 12 [Available from: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2017/09/killer-facts-the-scale-of-the-global-arms-trade/>].
17. Bildirici M. CO2 emissions and militarization in G7 countries: panel cointegration and trivariate causality approaches. *Environment and Development Economics*. 2017;22(6):771-91.
18. SIPRI SIPRI. SIPRI Arms Transfers Database 2018 [Available from: <https://www.sipri.org/databases/armstransfers>].
19. Internalisation (sociology). Wikipedia2018.
20. Sk, xf, ns E, Wulf H. The Internationalization of the Arms Industry. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 1994;535:43-57.
21. Ryan C. Irish military exports worth €10.7bn. *The Irish Examiner*. 2011 September 22.
22. Economics T. Ireland Weapons Sales 2018 [Available from: <https://tradingeconomics.com/ireland/foreign-direct-investment>].
23. O'Riordan S. Ireland's defence spending is lowest in Europe at 0.3% of GDP. *The Irish Examiner*. 2018 June 08.
24. Lally C. Defence Forces to get extra money for purchases of new equipment. *The Irish Times*. 2018.
25. McCandless D. Billion Dollar Gram [Internet]. 2018 [Available from: <https://informationisbeautiful.net/visualizations/the-billion-dollar-gram/>].
26. Government I. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). In: Department of Business Ial, editor.
27. DASA. Wikipedia2018.
28. Action EUE. Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) - Factsheet [Internet]. 2018 Nov 19 [Available from: https://cdn5-eeas.fpfis.tech.ec.europa.eu/cdn/farfuture/wM5QZfoVgVbC4zSzD-u--4o8E9TqYoThT3aNfAC6TQA/mtime:1542983709/sites/eeas/files/pesco_factsheet_november_2018_en_0.pdf].
29. Neutral country. Wikipedia2018.
30. Hennessy M. Poll: Should neutrality be enshrined in the Irish Constitution? *The Journal* 2016 Nov 23.
31. Flanagan LM. If we are heading for an EU army what does that mean for Irish neutrality? *The Journalie*. 2018 Nov 12.
32. Wiist WH, Barker K, Arya N, Rohde J, Donohoe M, White S, et al. The role of public health in the prevention of war: rationale and competencies. *American journal of public health*. 2014;104(6):e34-e47.
33. EHA EaHA. Health as a Potential Contribution to Peace. In: WHO, editor. 2018.
34. de Quadros CA, Epstein D. Health as a bridge for peace: PAHO's experience. *The Lancet*. 2002;360:s25-s6.
35. WHO. Health as a Potential Contribution to Peace. In: World Health Assembly R, editor. 1981.
36. MacQueen G, Santa-Barbara J. Peace building through health initiatives. *BMJ (Clinical research ed)*. 2000;321(7256):293-6.
37. Dyer O. New fund-raising scheme fuses profit with philanthropy. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*. 2006;84:257-336.
38. Corteseapril A. Private Sector; An Antiwar Chief (and Proud of It). *The Newspaper*. 2--3 Apr 06.
39. List of anti-war organizations. Wikipedia2018.
40. PANA. Peace and Neutrality Alliance 2018 [Available from: <https://www.pana.ie/>].

41. UN. News on Millennium Development Goals 2019 [Available from: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>].
42. Fehling M, Nelson BD, Venkatapuram S. Limitations of the Millennium Development Goals: a literature review. *Global public health*. 2013;8(10):1109-22.
43. Hobbes M. The Millennium Development Goals Were Bullsh*t. And That's Okay. *Huffington Post*. 2015 Oct 09
44. (SDSN) USDSN. Chapter 1: Getting to know the Sustainable Development Goals 2019 [updated 2015 Dec 13. Available from: <https://sdg.guide/chapter-1-getting-to-know-the-sustainable-development-goals-e05b9d17801>].
45. Butchart A. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and violence prevention: how do they connect? Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization Dept. of Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability.
46. Oleribe OO, Taylor-Robinson SD. Before Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): why Nigeria failed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). *The Pan African medical journal*. 2016;24:156-.
47. Coonrod J. MDGs to SDGs: Top 10 Differences: The Hunger Project; d2014 Aug 8 [Available from: <https://advocacy.thp.org/2014/08/08/mdgs-to-sdgs/>].
48. UN. 17 Goals to Transform Our World 2015 [Available from: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030.html>].
49. War profiteering. *Wikipedia*2018.
50. Mohareb AM, Ivers LC. Disease and Famine as Weapons of War in Yemen. *N Engl J Med*. 2018.