



## Press Release

### NATIONAL FOCAL POINT MEETING AND TRAINING ON SMALL ARMS

The Malawi Police Service in conjunction with the Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation with support from Saferworld will organise the first full meeting of the Malawi National Focal Point on small arms (NFP) at the Riverside Hotel in, Lilongwe from 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> April 2006. This meeting will be followed by a one-day training workshop for members of the Co-ordinating Committee of Malawi's NFP on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2006. These activities are expected to be officially opened by the Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security, Mrs Anne Kachiko MP. Official opening will also be graced by the Acting Inspector General Mr. Often Thyolani, Government Officials, Members of the Diplomatic Community and the media.

The objectives of the NFP meeting will be to:

- Finalize an annual workplan for the NFP;
- Agree the NFPs Standard Operating Procedures;
- Agree next steps for the functioning of the NFP; and
- Discuss the development of Malawi's draft Firearm Policy.

The objectives of the training will be to:

- Deepen understanding of the small arms policy context in Malawi;
- Deepen understanding of factors driving the supply of, and demand for, small arms within Malawi;
- Deepen understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Malawi's NFP.
- The training workshop is designed for members of the NFP's Co-ordinating Committee which is responsible for ensuring the effective functioning of the NFP.

This is coming as a follow up from the National Stakeholders Workshop on Small Arms Control which was held in November 2005 where participants endorsed the establishment of the National Focal Point and *identified and prioritized measures* that the National Focal Point should take to develop initiatives on small arms control in Malawi.

**Proposed Composition of the NFP:**

The full proposed composition of the National Focal Point is as follows:-

**Government Ministries and Agencies:**

1. Office of the President and Cabinet, (OPC)
2. Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security
3. Ministry of Defence
4. Malawi Army
5. Ministry of Justice
6. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
7. Ministry of Finance
8. Ministry of Trade and Industry
9. Ministry of Education
10. Ministry of Health
11. Ministry Local Government
12. Department of Immigration
13. Department .of Customs/Malawi Revenue Authority, (MRA)
14. Department of Prisons
15. Department of Parks and Wildlife
16. National Youth Council
17. Malawi Human Rights Commission
18. Malawi Law Commission
19. Malawi Police Service

**Civil Society Organisations:**

20. Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation- (CHRR)
21. Public Affairs Committee -(PAC)
22. Centre for Conflict Management and Women Development Affairs -CECOWDA
23. Church and Society of Livingstonia CCAP Synod
24. Youth Watch
25. Amnesty International- Malawi Chapter
26. Regional Community Policing Forums- (North, Center, South and East)

**Members of Parliament:**

27. Parliamentary Committee on Defence and Security

For more information contact Deputy Commissioner Willie Chingaru on **Tel:.....** or the Interim Chairperson on **Tel: 01 761 122/700, email: chrr@sdp.org.mw.**



Undule D.K. Mwakasungura  
**Interim Chairperson**  
**Malawi National Focal Point on Small Arms**

*15<sup>th</sup> April, 2006*