

**INTERNATIONAL ACTION NETWORK ON SMALL ARMS  
(IANSA)**

**MEMBERS' CHARTER**

*Recommended by Members' Meeting, New York, 15 June 2010*

*Approved by IANSA Board, London, 27 July 2010*

*Final*

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**The International Action Network on Small Arms is the global movement against gun violence, linking civil society organisations working to stop the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons. IANSA supports efforts to make people safer by reducing demand for such weapons, improving firearm regulation and strengthening controls on arms transfers. Through research, advocacy and campaigning, IANSA members are promoting local, national, regional and global measures to strengthen human security.**

(IANSA Mission Statement)

As members of IANSA, we value the strength we can have together, we each value the contributions that others are making, and we are therefore committed to playing our own part in the international action network to further IANSA's mission. Each of us has a crucial role to play: in our local arena, in working with others to influence national laws and regional agreements, or through our collective work in the international network pressing for strong global treaties.

As IANSA members, we recognise that to have the impact we want on gun violence, we must work effectively together. This Charter defines our expectations of ourselves, and of others, to make this possible.

Taking action in our own arena

**Our IANSA mission will be achieved if we all play our own part, in the arena appropriate to our organisation.**

*We are committed to*

- Taking action on gun control issues in the local/national/regional/global arena appropriate to our own organisation's mandate and capabilities
- Respecting the contributions, actions and capabilities of others in the network

*We expect others in the network to*

- Respect our actions, and support them through solidarity if we ask for it
- Help us to strengthen ourselves through guidance and the provision of information relevant to our situation

*We expect national, regional and international ANSAs to*

- Help us to understand the wider context for the issues in our arena

Participation in the action network

**IANSA can only be strong if we, as members, play a full part in shaping its agenda and taking action on its priorities.**

*We are committed to*

- Participating in the forums of our national and/or regional ANSA that set national and regional priorities and policy positions
- Playing our part in the work to achieve national and/or regional ANSA priorities
- Participating in IANSA's working groups and other forums appropriate to our mandate and the issues on which we focus
- Participating in the consultative and advisory structures of IANSA through elections and consultations
- Respecting, supporting and reflecting in our own statements and work the priorities, policy positions and strategies decided in the national, regional and international forums of the action network

*We expect others in the network to*

- Participate alongside us

*We expect national, regional and international ANSAs to*

- Keep us informed of opportunities to participate
- Listen to our views and perspectives, and ensure strong consultative and collective decision-making processes

Keeping ourselves knowledgeable and informed

**We can take effective action, and engage in the action network's debates, only if we know our subject well.**

*We are committed to*

- Knowing the legal situation on small arms and light weapons in our own arena
- Respecting the knowledge and expertise of other members

*We expect others in the network to*

- Know the legal situation on small arms and light weapons in their arenas
- Respect our own knowledge and expertise

*We expect national, regional and international ANSAs to*

- Respect our own knowledge and expertise
- Inform us of any intelligence on forthcoming changes to the legal situation in our arena

Speaking for IANSA and ensuring it is respected

**We can only be strong if we are seen to have a united voice. We will have the vigorous debates we need, but we will do this internally and respect collective decisions. To the outside world, we will have a consistent, united presence.**

*We are committed to*

- Respecting decisions taken on policy and negotiating positions in legitimate forums of national, regional and international ANSAs and their working groups
- Reflecting those policy and negotiating positions when representing IANSA or parts of it to governments, inter-governmental bodies, the media and other external audiences and when formulating communications to the public

- Behaving in ways that enhance, and do not undermine, the reputation of our action network
- Using the IANSA and ANSA brands and logos responsibly, within any guidelines set down by those responsible for their reputation

*We expect others in the network to*

- Similarly respect and reflect collective policy and negotiating positions
- Behave in ways that enhance, and do not undermine, the reputation of our action network
- Use the IANSA and ANSA brands and logos responsibly, within any guidelines set down by those responsible for their reputation

*We expect national, regional and international ANSAs to*

- Ensure that decision making on policy positions is responsibly and legitimately undertaken
- Ensure that those decisions are reflected in the positions taken by all spokespeople for the action network and in all communications to the public
- Establish, and use, mechanisms to review and take appropriate action on any cases of behaviour which may undermine the reputation of our action network

#### Sharing information

**We are strong as a network because we share intelligence, information and lessons about what works. We all have a role to play in this.**

*We are committed to*

- Informing others at national, regional and global levels about the situation in our arena; our successes and challenges; and the lessons we learn about what works

*We expect others in the network to*

- Share similar information with us, so that we understand better the reality of our situation and realise the potential of our work

*We expect national, regional and international ANSAs to*

- Set up mechanisms for the effective sharing and exchange of information
- Prioritise improving the quality of work of all IANSA members, by enabling us to learn from each other

#### Expanding the network

**We will be stronger if organisations, that are not yet members of IANSA, speak on our subjects and become part of the network.**

*We are committed to*

- Encouraging other organisations in our arena working on small arms and light weapons, who share IANSA's mission and values, to join IANSA
- Prioritising the formation and strengthening of survivors' organisations, and their inclusion at all levels of IANSA's work and representation

*We expect others in the network to*

- Encourage other organisations in the same way

*We expect national, regional and international ANSAs to*

- Provide the information and materials that enable us to successfully encourage other organisations to join

Managing the network

**IANSA is made up of all of its members. IANSA is its members; it is not an organisation on its own. Without working together to ensure that it works well, it will not work at all.**

*We are committed to*

- Playing out part in enabling national, regional and international ANSAs to be effective in the ways they work
- Participating fully in forums and elections through which IANSA policy, practice and modes of operation are decided

*We expect others in the network to*

- Participate fully themselves

*We expect national, regional and international ANSAs to*

- Be managed in a way that respects and develops the action-network nature of IANSA
- Be managed in a way that ensures the views and priorities of their members are reflected in their work
- Be managed efficiently and cost-effectively
- Ensure that there is fair treatment and equal opportunities between members
- Ensure transparency for members on how they are managed, governed and financed
- Provide appropriate opportunities for members' participation in the oversight and strategic direction of the network