



## Firearms trafficking; an enabler and multiplier of violence.

On July 15th 2020, the UN reported that the illicit trafficking of firearms is an enabler and multiplier of violence and crime in every part of the world posing a grave threat to human life and security.

Organized crime which is the core of firearms trafficking manifests itself in many forms and activities. The illicit trafficking and misuse of firearms is linked to these organized crimes as tools to propagate power and fuel conflicts of crime and insecurity.

No region in the world is exempt from the dramatic consequences of firearms violence. The problems associated with criminality and firearms are of such a complex nature, that curtailing them requires tailored interventions involving corresponding criminal justice responses in terms of prevention, investigation and prosecution of crimes.

It is a major concern in the context of human security, and it is central in law enforcement efforts and activities. The most common form of weapons trafficking involves small arms and light weapons; however, the character of this trafficking can vary significantly in different geographical contexts and in relation to different weapons.

### Key Facts

- The 2020 Global Study on Firearms reports that many countries in Africa and Asia have a lower capacity to intercept and report trafficked firearms.
- Each year, 36,383 Americans die from gun violence.
- Firearms trafficking remains a largely invisible phenomenon, which only emerges once trafficked weapons are used to commit other crime.
- Cross-border trafficking of firearms sometimes takes the form of so-called “ant-trafficking”, by which the illicit flow involves numerous individuals transporting one or a small number of firearms in order to lower the risk of detection.
- Data from 81 countries in the study reveals that around 550,000 firearms were seized in 2016 and 2017, with pistols the most commonly trafficked. This may be explained by the high number of responses received from the Americas, where pistols made up, on average, more than half of all seizures. Meanwhile, in Africa and Asia, at 38 and 37 percent respectively, shotguns were the most prominent firearms seized and in Oceania, rifles were top, at 71 percent. Europe seems to be the most heterogenous in terms of seizures, with pistols accounting for 35 per cent, rifles 27 percent, and shotguns, 22 percent.

### How tech is being used to control firearms:

- How gun detection technology is being used to help prevent mass shootings: ([Learn more](#))
- Smart guns: ([Learn more](#))
- The gun detector: [Watch now](#).
- The smart gun could save lives: ([Watch now](#))