

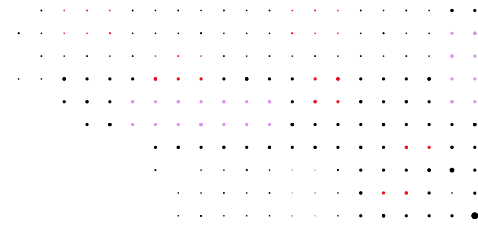
# CAMPALCW TO STOP KILLER ROBOTS

**Annual Report 2020**



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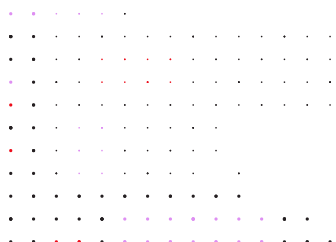
## Mission

Established in 2013, the **Campaign to Stop Killer Robots** is a global coalition of member organizations calling for new international law on autonomy in weapons systems.

The Campaign's goals seek:

- to build and strengthen social norms that reject autonomous killing by machine in warfare, policing, border control and other circumstances;
- to demand meaningful human control, which ensures responsibility and accountability, in any use of force;
- to counter digital dehumanisation and to protect human rights, now and in the future;
- to build recognition that we are individually and collectively responsible for developing and shaping the technologies that frame interaction between us;
- to challenge the inequalities and oppressions in society that are reproduced or exacerbated through technology.

In furtherance of these goals, **we are working for an international legal instrument that prohibits machines that determine whom to kill and requires meaningful human control over the use of force.**



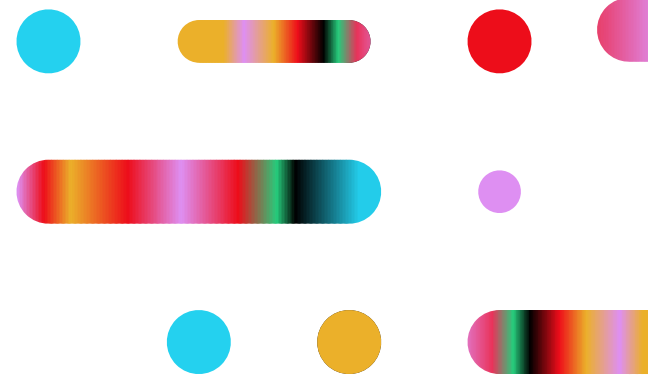
## Vision

In November 2020, the Campaign developed a new **vision and values statement** to better articulate and clarify our vision, goals, and our values and principles. To that end, the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots is working for a world:

- in which we respect each other's inherent dignity;
- where we all take responsibility for how our choices regarding technology change the relationships between us, individually and collectively;
- in which technology is developed and used to promote peace, justice, human rights, equality and respect for law; and
- where people work together, as activists, to build a better society and overcome inequalities and systems of oppression.

It is a world that **rejects the automation of killing and instead, promotes the principle of human control** over emerging technologies that affect our lives, livelihoods and relations with each other.

# Message from the Campaign Coordinator



This annual report by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots shows how our far-flung coalition of non-governmental organizations spent the first year of the 2020s adapting, innovating, and pushing its work forward to prevent machines from killing humans in warfare, policing and other circumstances.

The report covers the Campaign's activities, actions, and achievements during the first year of dislocation brought about by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Multilateralism has been disrupted, including diplomatic talks at the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) on lethal autonomous weapons systems. Nations met at the CCW to discuss killer robots for just one week in 2020, but the subsequent meetings planned in 2021 brings hope for renewed commitment ahead of the CCW Review Conference at the end of 2021.

However, the CCW looks unlikely to deliver a credible outcome and political interest is growing in creating new international law to address the fundamental concerns raised by removing human control from the use of force. With the potential to negatively shape our relationship with automated decision making across all areas of society, the consequences of inaction on autonomous weapons systems are too serious to ignore. New international law to prohibit killer robots is a legal necessity, moral imperative and ethical obligation.

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots looks forward to working with states, the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and others to achieve this goal as quickly as possible.

The Campaign moved to a new hosting and coordination arrangement in March 2021 that is seeing the Campaign staff grow into their crucial leadership and representational roles under the guidance of Steering Committee member Article 36. It has been a privilege to coordinate the Campaign from its inception in 2012 and together, with the rest of Human Rights Watch, I look forward to contributing fully towards our collective goal.

A handwritten signature in multi-colored ink (yellow, orange, red, purple, blue) that reads "Mary Wareham".

**Mary Wareham,**  
*Coordinator, Campaign to Stop Killer Robots*

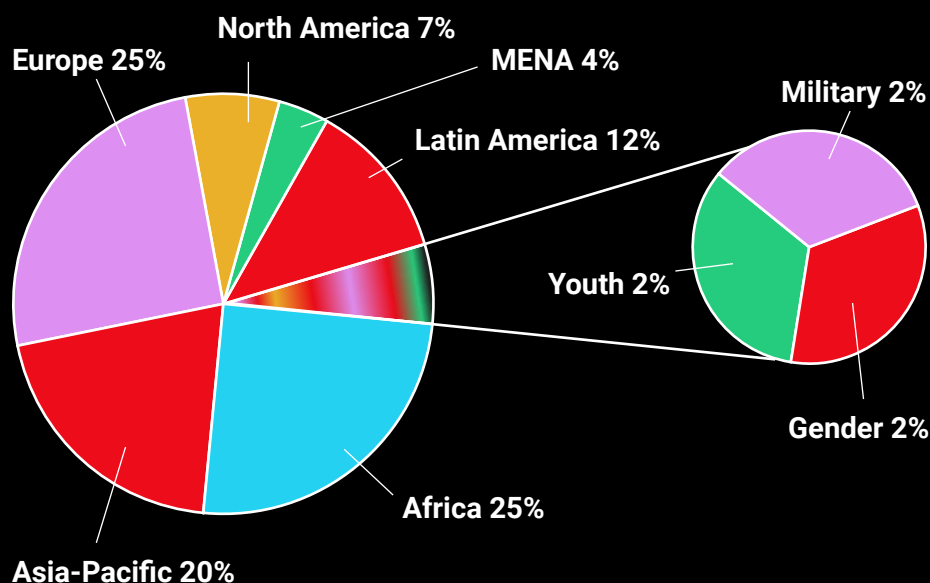


# Highlights of the Year

**174** member organizations in **66** countries



## Programmes Supported by Grants



**82** grants distributed across **62** countries



**29** webinars held by grantees across **10** countries

**29** knowledge-building workshops held by grantees across **13** countries



The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots won the **Ypres Peace Prize** in June 2020



The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots participated in **RightsCon** for the first time in June 2020

**160+** campaigners from **37** countries attended the Campaign's third annual Global Meeting, held online in March 2021

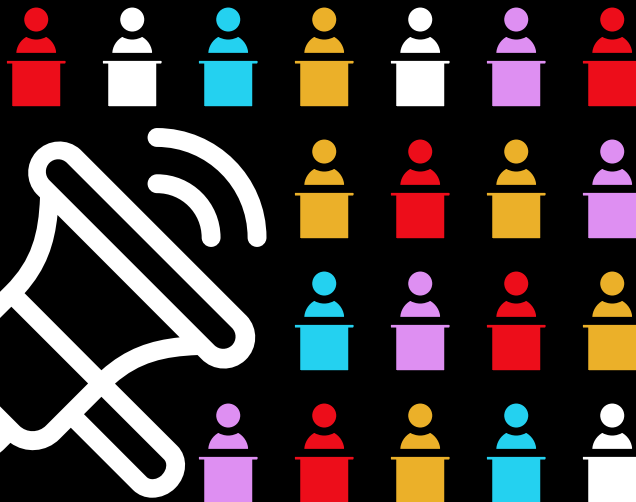


# Highlights of the Year



**115 participants** from **40 countries** attended the **Humanitarian Disarmament Forum** on race and intersectionality, co-hosted by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots & Soka Gakkai International

Over **150 people** attended the first **Global Youth Conference on Fully Autonomous Weapons** in Japan, featuring **20 youth speakers** from 20 countries



**62% of respondents** opposed using **lethal autonomous weapons** systems in a new **Ipsos survey** of 28 countries

The same survey found in 2020 that opposition to killer robots increased in 13 of the 26 countries previously surveyed in a **2018 Ipsos survey**

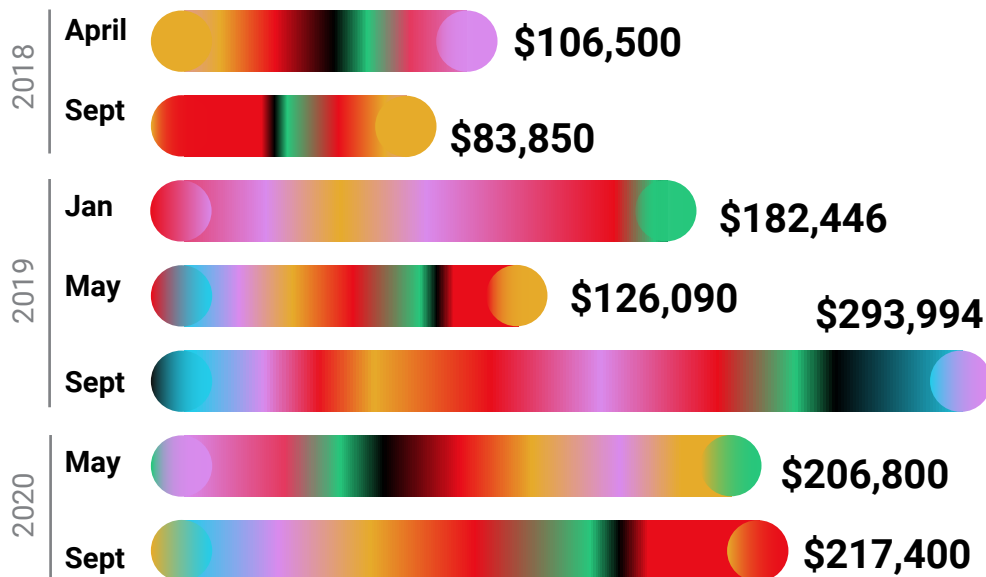
**22,558 #TeamHuman Followers**



**3817 views** of our new Instagram Live series

# Building Political Will

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots continued to run its small grants programme with two rounds of grant funding (Round VI and Round VII) in the reporting period. Due to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, campaigners carried out grant activities virtually, learning to connect with new audiences in imaginative and innovative ways, including hosting podcasts and Instagram lives, holding informative webinars, and online conferences.



**Total Distribution of Small Grants Funding (Rounds I-VII)**

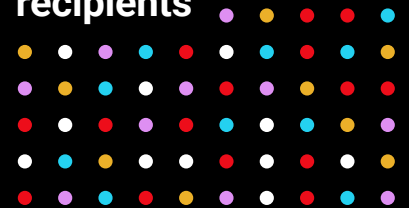
## Key Highlights from this reporting period

**\$425,100 (US)**



**distributed to member organizations globally**

**55 total grant recipients**



**Activities reached 93 countries globally**



The programme welcomed the start of campaigning and advocacy activities in new countries of work including **Chile, Costa Rica, Nepal, Paraguay, Somalia, Sweden, Switzerland, and Uruguay**

## Impacts from our Campaigning

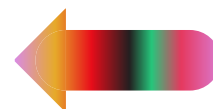
These impacts are a small snapshot of the incredible work of campaigners around the world who have continued to drive momentum through digital diplomacy and virtual activities.



### Australia

Following consistent engagement and outreach by Safeground, Member of Parliament Andrew Leigh of the Labor Party delivered a [speech](#) to the House of Representatives in February 2021, calling on the government of Australia to regulate fully autonomous weapons.

### Costa Rica



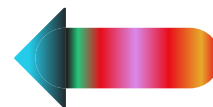
During a [virtual workshop](#) hosted by Fundación para la Paz y la Democracia (FUNPADEM), the Vice Minister of Justice and Peace, Jairo Vargas, voiced [support](#) from the Costa Rican government for the negotiation of ethical guidelines and collective agreements regulating fully autonomous weapons systems. This was followed by FUNPADEM's [launch](#) of the national campaign, "For a country free of autonomous weapons: technology at the service of peace" in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Science, Innovation, Technology, and Telecommunications.



### Netherlands

PAX gathered **170 Dutch scientists** to co-sign an open letter against autonomous weapons in December 2020, drawing national media attention in [Trouw](#) and [NPO Radio 1](#).

### Phillipines



Following advocacy efforts of Nonviolence International Southeast Asia and individual campaigners in the region, the Philippines delegate [stated](#) a "legally binding instrument remains the best option for addressing [humanitarian and international security] challenges" during the September CCW meeting. This marks the first time the Philippines has spoken out in support of a legally binding instrument.



### Sweden

For their first grant, WILPF Sweden produced a 30-page [policy paper](#) and drew support from two national political parties: the *Miljöpartiet de gröna* (Environmental Party the Greens) and *Vänsterpartiet* (the Left Party). Following advocacy efforts, the Swedish government [announced](#) that "Sweden will take a leading role in the work for a ban on lethal autonomous weapons systems".

## Zimbabwe



After inviting **30 women and girls** to attend a national awareness-raising workshop, WILPF Zimbabwe established an alliance of women and youth-led civil society organizations to engage in lobbying and national advocacy work on fully autonomous weapons.

## Regional Campaigning

Shifts in high-level decision-making bodies, such as the European Parliament, Central American Integration System (SICA), and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) demonstrate the impact of our campaigners' multi-regional efforts.

### African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

Sustained advocacy efforts by African campaigners in the region led the **African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)** to adopt **Resolution 473** on AI technologies in March 2021. This is the first Resolution on AI technologies to be adopted by a regional body of the African Union, and marks the first time that African countries have jointly established a new framework to address concerns in emerging technologies. The resolution calls for meaningful human control over existing and emerging artificial intelligence technologies, noting that it should be codified as a human rights principle.

### European Parliament

Through advocacy work with political parties in the **European Parliament**, PAX provided input to the draft 2020 **resolution text**, focusing on the need for an international treaty ensuring meaningful human control. The accompanying report called for the establishment of an EU legal framework on artificial intelligence, including principles for the use of AI in military contexts.

### Central American Integration System

ECPAT and SEHLAC hosted a virtual conference with representatives from the **Central American Integration System (SICA)**, including Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. Following the conference, representatives committed to promoting an international treaty on autonomous weapons in their respective countries.



## Thematic Campaigning

Under the thematic programme, campaigners conducted outreach to new audiences beyond a national and regional context.



### Faith

In February 2021, Pax Christi Northern California, in partnership with Soka Gakkai International and the World Council of Churches, launched an interfaith [statement](#) on fully autonomous weapons entitled “A Plea for Preserving Our Shared Humanity.” By the end of March 2021, **33 faith communities and interfaith organizations had publicly endorsed the statement.**

### Intersectionality

Fundación Instituto de Ecología Política (FIEP) in Chile grew **intersectional and inclusive outreach** efforts by producing a [video](#) to explain the disproportionate risks of fully autonomous weapons on gender, race, disability, immigration status, and indigenous culture.



### Military

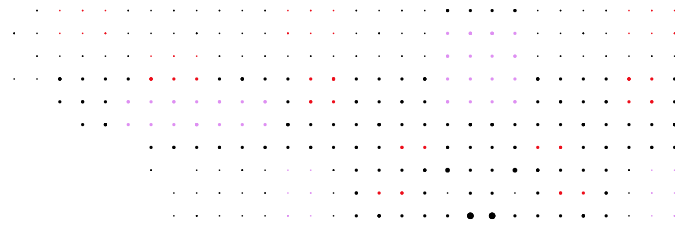
Partnering with an actively serving Commodore in Argentina’s naval force, Centro de Estudio de Política Internacional (CEPI) and Asociación para el Análisis de Política Pública (APP) developed and presented a paper on lethal autonomous weapons from a military perspective ([Spanish](#), [English](#)). This is the first time an active naval officer from the region has voiced opposition to fully autonomous weapons.

### Youth

After developing a [virtual youth toolkit](#) for Scouts, Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas (CCCM) established new partnerships with Scouts in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Venezuela, expanding regional engagement and bringing more youth activists into the Campaign.



# Encouraging International Cooperation

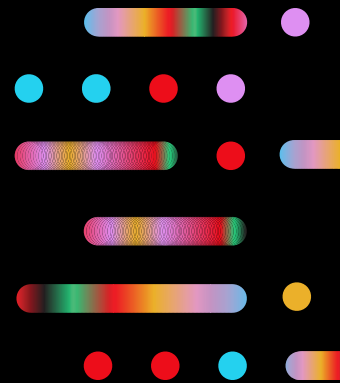


Beyond strides made in national campaigning, the Campaign has also seen major shifts on the diplomatic stage. Despite the setbacks of delayed and cancelled diplomatic meetings at the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), we continued to see positive high-level political statements and movement in other international and parliamentary fora.

## Pushing Forward

### Berlin Forum on Lethal Autonomous Weapons

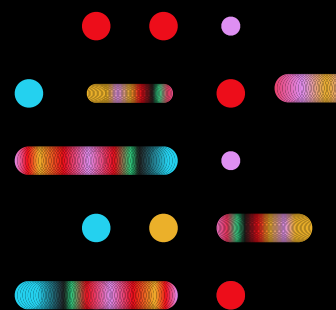
From 1-2 April 2020, 63 countries participated in the virtual Berlin Forum on Lethal Autonomous Weapons, launched by German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas. States, along with experts from the fields of politics, industry, military affairs and civil society came together to discuss the risks posed by fully autonomous weapons and the urgent need to regulate them.



Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas opened the Berlin Forum with a clear message: **“Letting machines decide over life and death of human beings runs against all of our ethical standards. It undermines human dignity itself. It’s a red line we should never cross.”** During the meeting, Bonnie Docherty of Human Rights Watch and the Harvard Law Clinic spoke on possible elements of a normative and operational framework by presenting the Campaign’s desired elements of a treaty. Docherty reiterated the need for meaningful human control, while also outlining general and positive obligations, as well as prohibitions.

## Ninth CCW GGE Meeting on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems

From 21-25 September 2020, 56 representatives participated in the ninth CCW GGE meeting in Geneva. Chaired by Ljupcho Gjorgjinski of the Republic of North Macedonia, the meeting discussed substantive concerns on fully autonomous weapons systems and the way ahead.



Following a series of cancelled GGE meetings over the summer, the September CCW GGE [meeting](#) was the only CCW meeting to take place this year. Held both physically distanced and virtually, representatives tuned in to share their concerns, questions, and suggestions for moving forward on the issue of fully autonomous weapons. Government Relations Manager, Ousman Noor, was one of the few civil society participants in-person and made a [statement](#) highlighting the urgent need for a new legally binding instrument.

Despite pushback from countries such as France, Israel, the Netherlands, and the United States stating that a new international treaty would be “premature”, there were also new interventions from Iraq (on behalf of the 12 Arab States parties to the CCW<sup>1</sup>) and the Philippines. Both countries were clear in calling for a new international treaty to prohibit and restrict lethal autonomous weapons systems. Campaigners including [Article 36](#), [SEHLAC](#), [Human Rights Watch](#), and [Mines Action Canada](#) also made statements to the CCW meeting calling upon states to negotiate new international law to prohibit the development and use of fully autonomous weapons and to retain meaningful human control over the use of force. The meeting generated coverage in [Just Security](#) and [Peace Research Institute](#).

When the annual meeting of CCW states parties in November was cancelled at the last minute, campaigners instead recorded statements that were shared on social media. **Statements emphasised the importance of continuing to engage in digital diplomacy and urged countries to take action to negotiate a new legally binding instrument.** Statements covered topics on [gender](#), [youth](#), [military](#), [policy](#), [humanitarian aid](#), [tech](#), [human rights](#), [international law](#), [elements of a new treaty](#), and [bias](#) as they relate to the development and use of fully autonomous weapons.

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1      Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates.

## 75th UN General Assembly

The 75th session of the UN General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security met from 6 October–6 November 2020 with limited in-person representation in New York and a public webcast. The Campaign’s participation was limited to online, while concerns over fully autonomous weapons featured prominently at the high-level opening session and UNGA First Committee on Disarmament and International Security.

During UNGA First Committee, **37 states** referred to killer robots in their statements<sup>2</sup>, in addition to group statements made by the European Union, Non-Aligned Movement, and Nordic countries as well as civil society statements by the [Campaign](#) and the [International Committee of the Red Cross](#) (ICRC).

On 29 October 2020, the Campaign hosted a UNGA side event briefing “A comprehensive response to concerns over killer robots,” which was also [livestreamed](#) to Facebook. Moderated by Government Relations Manager, Ousman Noor, the panel featured Wanda Muñoz of SEHLAC, Mitzi Austero of Nonviolence International Southeast Asia, Bonnie Docherty of Human Rights Watch and Elizabeth Minor of Article 36. Over 90 people attended, including delegates from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Italy, Lebanon, Norway, Turkey, Switzerland, and the US.

<sup>2</sup> Albania, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Peru, Philippines, Nepal, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Venezuela.

## Key Political and Parliamentary Moments

Outside of international fora, we have continued to see parliamentary changes and national shifts in a positive direction towards an international treaty:

- ▶ In his “Protection of civilians in armed conflict” [report](#), UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres highlighted the importance of moving “expeditiously” to address concerns around the development of lethal autonomous weapons, which he then [reiterated](#) at the UN Security Council’s open debate on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict.
- ▶ In his [address](#) to the UN General Assembly in September, Pope Francis publicly addressed the issue of fully autonomous weapons for the first time, expressing concern over the development of these weapons.
- ▶ On 30 September 2020, the new Belgian government [committed](#) to work towards a national regulatory framework and international prohibition of fully autonomous weapons systems.
- ▶ During the “2020. Capturing Technology. Rethinking Arms control” conference in November 2020, Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto [called](#) for innovation in response to the challenges fully autonomous weapons pose to international legal frameworks, while Swedish Foreign Minister Ann Linde insisted that human control over the use of force must be upheld.
- ▶ In December 2020, the Scottish National Party forwarded a [motion](#) in the House of Commons requesting leave to introduce a bill that would prohibit the development, production and deployment of fully autonomous weapons by the United Kingdom (UK). The bill would also enable oversight of arms exports by the UK Parliament and devolved parliaments and assemblies, and outline transparency requirements for arms exports as they relate to the use of drones and other remotely controlled weapons.
- ▶ In February 2021, the Austrian parliament adopted a [motion](#) requesting the federal government to engage multilaterally in advocating

**“[W]e must address the legal, moral and ethical implications posed by the development of lethal autonomous weapons systems. It is my deep conviction that machines with the power and discretion to take lives without human involvement must be prohibited by international law.”**

—UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, address to UN Security Council, 27 May 2020

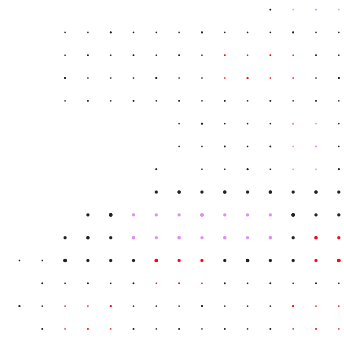
**“At present, we are witnessing an erosion of multilateralism, which is all the more serious in light of the development of new forms of military technology, such as lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) which irreversibly alter the nature of warfare, detaching it further from human agency.”**

—Pope Francis, address to UNGA, 25 September 2020



for a prohibition on fully autonomous weapons systems. The motion also calls for the government to work at the European and international levels to address the challenges of artificial intelligence, with a focus on peacekeeping and disarmament.

- After Parliamentarians for Global Action convened a webinar in February 2021 with 19 Members of Parliament (MPs) from nine countries in Africa, four additional MPs agreed to sign on to the [Global Parliamentary Declaration](#) in support of a treaty prohibiting fully autonomous weapons. MPs included the Hon. Benoit Degala of Benin, Hon. Jean-Marc Lombaku of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Hon. Suwaibou Touray of Gambia and the Hon. Shakeel Shabbir Ahmed of Kenya.



## Advancing Anti-Racism

Fully autonomous weapons would have a disproportionate impact on marginalized groups of different races, genders, abilities, socioeconomic status, and other social identities.

Relying on these machines to make life-or-death decisions on the battlefield, at the border, in policing, or other circumstances would risk reinforcing and exacerbating discriminatory acts of violence. This year, the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots committed to advancing an equal, inclusive, and anti-racist future through a variety of initiatives, including launching a new [page](#) on the website to explain how autonomous weapons systems risk perpetuating bias and discrimination.

In June 2020, the Campaign issued a solidarity statement in support of the Black Lives Matter protesters and the larger, anti-racism movement, while also committing to looking at our internal structures.

**We support those striving, searching, working for racial equality.**

**We support our fellow campaigners of colour who live and work with the realities of racism.**

**We recognise that we and civil society have failed to address systemic racism and the role of white supremacy in our structures and movements.**

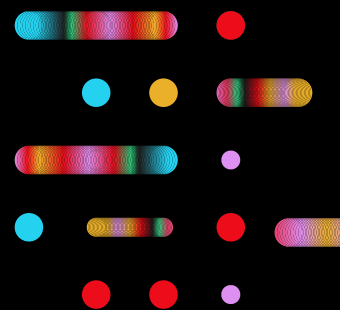
**We have a lot of work to do in dismantling structures of oppression, and racial and social injustice.**

**We have started this work and it will continue.**

**We promise more than words, we promise action.**

## Humanitarian Disarmament Forum

From 19-21 October 2020, the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots and Soka Gakkai International co-hosted the first virtual Humanitarian Disarmament Forum on the theme of race and intersectionality. A record-setting **115 participants** from **40 countries** attended the event.



Ahead of the Forum, the organizing team released a [video](#) to introduce participants to this year's theme on race and intersectionality in humanitarian disarmament, and to underscore the importance of embarking on the path of learning and being anti-racist. The Forum held an opening plenary session to gather colleagues working in the field of humanitarian disarmament, three affinity group workshops to discuss key issues that they have seen or experienced in the community, and a closing plenary session to reflect on the learning over the three days.

The opening plenary began with remarks from Mary Wareham of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots and Hayley Ramsey-Jones of Soka Gakkai International who highlighted **the need for the humanitarian disarmament community to commit to a race-inclusive, intersectional approach** in their work. Dominique Day, Chair of the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, provided the keynote speech urging participants to analyze the ways in which they may participate in the perpetuation of systemic and structural racism, both personally and professionally. British soul singer-songwriter Amahla provided the opening musical performance for participants.

Over three days, participants broke into three affinity group sessions facilitated by anti-racist organizers and educators Judy Blair and Reagan Price, collaborators from [Anti-Racism at Work](#). In each session, participants were invited to reflect on their experiences of power, privilege and oppression in a safe space. Participants were also asked to discuss how concluding reflections from the affinity group sessions could be applied to the broader disarmament movement.

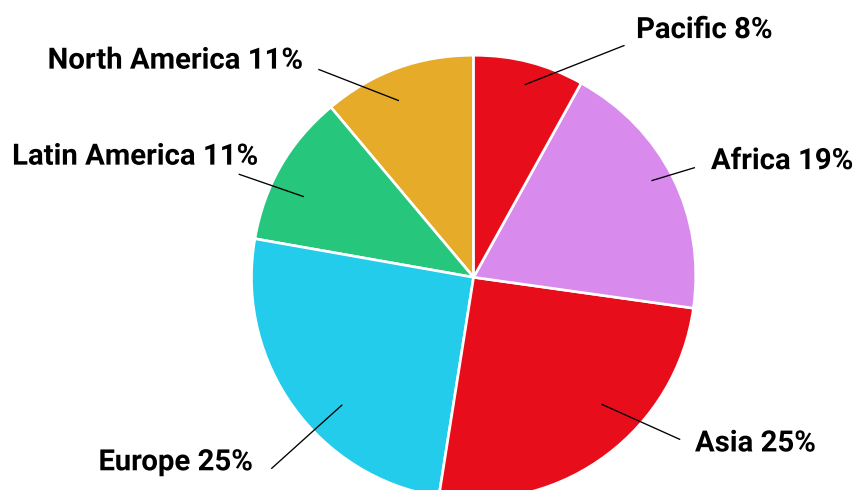
The Forum closed with participants reconvening to share the results of their dialogues with the broader group, a forward-facing perspective on what would be coming next for participants as part of the Forum's one-year commitment to continuing the work of anti-racism, and a musical performance by Afro-Colombian rapper Katerin Moreno.

Following the Humanitarian Disarmament Forum, participants embarked on a one-year process of self-study and learning with the establishment of community hubs for participants to continue the discussions that began in the affinity groups. From January 2021, book club sessions have been hosted monthly covering a range of topics from science and racism, to casteism, to white privilege.

## Empowering Youth to Action

With increased access to people's lives through social media, growing automation of tasks, and the race to innovate, the technological developments that we are seeing are reshaping the world for current and future generations of youth. Millennials and Gen Z have shown they care about important issues from climate change to racial justice – and killer robots are no exception. By empowering youth to lead and participate in the conversation on fully autonomous weapons, we are collectively shaping a future that values peace and security.

### Youth Network by Region



**“[I]t is important for us, the youth, to campaign for a ban on fully autonomous weapons to ensure a more peaceful future. There is no need for more weapons to be developed that can potentially be used in future wars. Future wars are not what we want; we need to act to avoid wars, we need to act to invest in our future – not in fully autonomous weapons.”**

—Alliah Ampatuan, youth campaigner from the Philippines

In addition to young individuals and students, the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots also collaborated with the World Organization Scout Movement – Interamerican Region. This partnership, coordinated and led by Campaign member Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas (CCCM) as part of SEHLAC, has engaged hundreds of Scouts and other young people in learning about autonomous weapons and the need for new international law.

On 6 June 2020, the Campaign [won](#) the 2020 Ypres Peace Prize award. The award is given out by the Belgian city of Ypres every three years to individuals and organizations working for peace, and is a unique award in that the majority of voters are children. After being shortlisted alongside four other nominees, thousands of students in Belgium studied the shortlisted candidates before casting their votes. Ninety percent of those who voted were aged 18 or younger, demonstrating that youth care about a future free from fully autonomous weapons systems.

On 12 August 2020, in recognition of World Youth Day, the Campaign launched its new [youth page](#) on the website to serve as a new hub of information for youth work within the Campaign. It simultaneously launched the new [youth network](#) to bring together youth activists from around the world to campaign on this issue and released an International Youth Day [video](#).

**“[W]e’ve spent our formative years on the internet, and each of us has personal data available there. Autonomous weapons...will require data to distinguish targets...[and] the idea that autonomous weapons systems could access online data should terrify us.”**

—Tara Osler, youth campaigner from Canada

## Global Youth Conference on Fully Autonomous Weapons

On 12 December 2020, the International Student Conference, in collaboration with the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, convened the first global youth event on fully autonomous weapons. 150 participants attended while 20 youth speakers represented 20 countries.

The International Student Conference (ISC) is a youth-led organization based in Japan and since joining, has taken an active leadership role by hosting the Campaign’s first global youth conference. The global conference sought to provide a space for youth to engage with the ongoing multilateral dialogue on fully autonomous weapons. Each

youth speaker offered reflections on their personal reasons for supporting a prohibition on fully autonomous weapons. Human Rights Watch Japan Director Kanae Doi, a representative of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japanese neuroscientist Kenichiro Mogi, and the #Youth4Disarmament lead for the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs also delivered remarks to participants. NHK, Japan's public broadcasting company, provided media coverage of the conference and op-eds were published in [Stop Killer Robots Canada](#) and [The Oxford Student](#).

Following the conference, the youth representative from Japan (Aline Tanabe) and conference organizers met with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in early January 2021. A report and proposal were also submitted to the individual responsible for Japan's engagement with the CCW. This meeting was recorded by NHK and will be broadcasted as a segment in a television series in June 2021. Youth conference participants and representatives from Human Rights Watch Japan also met virtually with the Japanese delegate to Geneva to further discuss the contents of the report.

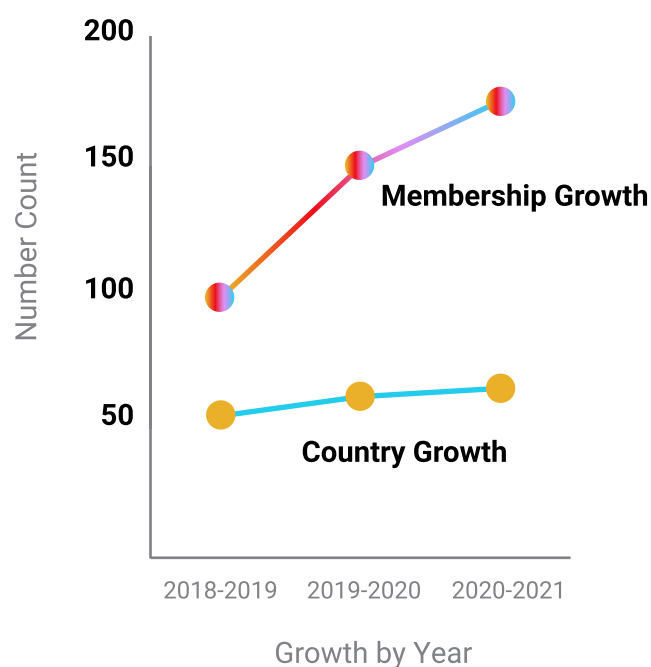
**"[P]icture a world in which who we are puts our lives in danger because there is a killer weapon that could make an error leading to an innocent human life being lost...I don't want this world for us, for our generation [nor] for the next ones."**

—Candelaria Lopez, youth campaigner from Argentina

## Strengthening our Coalition

Despite the limitations that the global pandemic imposed on travel, meetings, and events, our coalition continued to grow in strength and numbers, totalling **174 members in 66 countries** by the end of March 2021, an increase by 16% and 5% respectively from the previous year. The Campaign remained actively engaged in online spaces, including attending RightsCon for the first time and continuing to hold the annual global campaigners' meeting virtually.

### Coalition Growth





## RightsCon

7,800 participants from 158 countries virtually tuned into RightsCon from 27-31 July 2020, an annual conference to discuss important tech and human rights issues. The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots participated for the first time this year.

On 30 July 2020, the Campaign hosted an hour-long panel [session](#) entitled, “**The impending age of killer robots? How our data fuels autonomous weapons, and why it’s not too late to stop them**”. Rasha Abdul-Rahim of Amnesty International moderated the panel of experts, which included Thompson Chengeta of the International Committee for Robot Arms Control (ICRAC), AI expert Vanina Martinez, and tech worker Liz O’Sullivan. Panellists discussed the role that personal and online data can play in the development and use of fully autonomous weapons, drawing on perspectives in human rights, law, ethics, science, and tech. Panellists also highlighted implications this would have for people in conflict, policed communities, human rights defenders, migrants and refugees, protestors, and environmental activists.

Outside of the session, campaigners participated in other sessions and forged valuable connections with digital rights activists working on other key tech and human rights issues including surveillance, facial recognition, and algorithmic bias.

## Global Campaign Meeting

On 24 March 2020, over 180 campaigners from around the world came together to reconnect and strategize for the future we want at the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots annual global meeting.

This year, the Campaign held the [meeting](#) virtually over half a day. After an opening [performance](#) by local Canadian artist Ariel Sim, campaigners were greeted by a recorded [message](#) from the Deputy Minister of Multilateral Affairs for Costa Rica, Christian Guillermet-Fernández. The Deputy Minister congratulated campaigners on

their campaigning efforts around the world, and reiterated the support of Costa Rica for the Campaign.

The message was followed by a farewell moment to outgoing Campaign Coordinator Mary Wareham, who co-founded the Campaign in 2012 and has since blazed a trail for tackling the global threat that autonomous weapons systems pose. Campaigners were also given a forward-facing outlook by the new coordinating organization, Article 36, led by Richard Moyes and a presentation of the Campaign’s new Vision and Values statement.

Throughout the meeting, campaigners participated in several breakout strategy discussions and listened to a panel of experts elaborating on the focus for this year, **“Drawing a red line: Targeting humans”**, in an effort to shift the evolving conversation on killer robots to key issues around targeting people. The panel **discussion**, moderated by Elizabeth Minor from Article 36, featured Peter Asaro from ICRAC speaking on ethics, Alena Popova from Ethics & Tech speaking on her experiences as a digital and human rights activist, and Thompson Chengeta from ICRAC highlighting the discriminatory and disproportionate impacts fully autonomous weapons systems would have.



# Media and Communications

Despite the move to virtual ways of working and a decrease in public-facing activities, the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots has continued to generate media coverage and public communications. After the world went into lockdown in early March, Campaign Coordinator, Mary Wareham delivered an encouraging [message](#) to campaigners, highlighting the challenges of the pandemic and the need for continued diplomacy on urgent issues and threats facing the world. The Campaign also began an Instagram Live [series](#) to foster deeper connections with members from around the world, while also providing an informative platform on the multi-faceted issue of autonomous weapons. The series explored conversations with campaigners on youth activism, tech, race and intersectionality, and lobbying strategies.

In August 2020, Human Rights Watch released a new report detailing the policy positions on fully autonomous weapons of 97 countries that have publicly stated views on killer robots since 2013. A subsequent HRW report issued in October 2020 showed how countries are converging on the importance of retaining meaningful human control over the use of force. Media covering the reports include the New York Post, [Asia Times](#), [Engineering & Technology](#), [Sky News](#), and [Deutsche Welle](#).

In January 2021, the Campaign [shared](#) new findings from an Ipsos poll conducted in December 2020 that surveyed 28 countries<sup>3</sup> to determine their views on fully autonomous weapons. The last Ipsos poll [commissioned](#) by the Campaign was completed in 2018, with results shared in 2019. This year, findings showed that despite the COVID-19 pandemic dominating headlines and diplomatic action, public awareness of killer robots and their development remained a high concern.

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3      Surveyed countries include: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and United States.



# Our Team

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots staff team saw several significant changes this year, marking the beginning of its shift in organizational structure. In September 2020, the Campaign welcomed its first Government Relations Manager based in Geneva, Switzerland in September. The Government Relations Manager engages with the international diplomatic community on an ongoing basis to strengthen the Campaign's profile with governments and build support for new international law on autonomy in weapons systems and retaining meaningful human control over the use of force.

In March 2021, the team said goodbye to its founding Campaign Coordinator, Mary Wareham. After an eight-year tenure since the co-founding of the Campaign by Human Rights Watch in October 2012, Mary has paved the way for discussions on fully autonomous weapons systems at the United Nations and remains a relentless advocate for an international legally binding treaty. At the same time, the Campaign also welcomed new coordination and leadership under Article 36, also co-founders of the Campaign, led by Richard Moyes.

With these changes, the Campaign is moving towards being a **“one voice, many faces”** campaign - to reflect the true nature of a coalition. With Article 36's guidance, more direct leadership is in the hands of the Campaign Outreach Manager (responsible for membership and outreach), Government Relations Manager (responsible for government outreach and engagement), and Media and Communications Manager (responsible for the outward-facing profile of the Campaign). The team continues to be supported by the tireless Project Officer!

Over the year, the Campaign also welcomed two short-term consultants to assist with communications work.

# Finance and Governance

## Finance

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots is not an independently registered entity at this time. Campaign co-founder Mines Action Canada (MAC), a registered Canadian non-profit incorporation, is the fiscal and legal sponsor for the Campaign. Human Rights Watch (HRW) acts as the fiscal sponsor of the charitable giving program of the Campaign. Both organizations serve on the Steering Committee.

During the reporting period, the Campaign received the majority of its funding through an anonymous, Geneva-based group of private donors. Their donations are made to the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation who passes on the funding to Mines Action Canada to be overseen by the Campaign's treasurer.

The Campaign received US \$670 in online donations through the Campaign website and Benevity salary donations in the reporting period.

## Governance

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots is overseen by a Steering Committee comprised of 10 founding organizations since the Nobel Women's Initiative stepped down from the board in December 2020. Steering Committee members are responsible for the governance of the Campaign – this includes membership, small grants, finance, and human resources – as well as guidance on policy development and strategy.

## Commitment to Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots is committed to prioritizing the diversity, equality, and inclusion of marginalized individuals and groups. Recognizing the urgent need to advance work in anti-racism and



improve inclusivity, the Campaign set up a Working Group on Intersectionality (WGI) in May 2020. The WGI is comprised of campaigners with experience in diversity, equality, and inclusion who provide recommendations to improve existing institutional structures, new ways of working, and inclusive practices.

## Our Steering Committee

Amnesty International  
Article 36  
Association for Aid Relief Japan  
Human Rights Watch  
International Committee for Robot Arms Control (ICRAC)  
Mines Action Canada (MAC)  
Nobel Women's Initiative – until 31 December 2020  
PAX  
Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs  
Seguridad Humana en Latino América y el Caribe (SEHLAC)  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

## Our Staff Team

**Richard Moyes**  
*Campaign Coordinator*

**Isabelle Jones**  
*Campaign Outreach Manager*

**Clare Conboy**  
*Media and Communications Manager*

**Ousman Noor**  
*Government Relations Manager*

**Farah Bogani**  
*Project Officer*

**Mary Wareham,**  
*Campaign Coordinator (outgoing)*

# Financial Statement

## Statement of Operations For Year Ended 31 March, 2021

REVENUE	2021	2020
Donations	690	—
Foundations	1,133,336	1,375,608
Government	—	7,100
Grants and contributions	25,379	—
Interest	5,524	—
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,164,929</b>	<b>1,382,708</b>
EXPENDITURES		
<b>Media and Communications</b>		
Advertising and Promotion	71,05	41,405
Events	24,990	7,406
Public Opinion Poll	23,300	15,644
Video - Audio Production	46,914	47,062
	166,254	111,517
<b>National Support Programmes</b>		
Africa	81,000	65,225
Asia - Pacific	102,000	72,500
Europe	126,161	119,170
Latin America	42,600	31,295
Middle East	15,500	24,000
North America	18,800	21,537
Thematic Programmes	34,800	79,800
Program Resources	7,799	9,255
	428,660	422,782
<b>International and Regional Cooperation</b>		
CCW GGE Meetings	—	45,373
Campaign Strategy Meeting	15,205	122,141
General Assembly First Committee	—	40,329
Annual CCW Meeting	3,622	31,570
Advocacy Missions	2,600	11,794
Regional Meetings	253	63,278
	21,680	314,485
<b>Campaign Outreach Team</b>		
	380,578	325,507
<b>Subtotal Expenditure</b>	<b>997,172</b>	<b>1,174,291</b>
Indirect Program Costs	120,697	145,899
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,117,869</b>	<b>1,320,190</b>
Excess of Revenue Over Expenditure	47,060	62,518
Transfer to Internally Restricted Reserve Fund	(47,060)	(62,518)