



STATEMENT: With murder rates in Africa predicted to increase, Guide to support activists help Silence the Guns in Africa launched *Peace across Africa cannot be achieved through top-down government approaches alone, but requires meaningful engagement and participation from grassroots communities and civil society actors*

4 December 2024: A decade after the African Union's ambitious *Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want* was adopted in 2015 with a vision of transforming the continent by its 100th anniversary including by silencing the guns – the reality remains stark: Across the continent mostly young men continue to murder and injure other young men, in crimes, interpersonal disputes and conflicts.

Latest data paints an alarming picture: Africa is the only region globally where murder rates are not just persistent, but rising. This trend is fuelled by three key factors:

1. A rapidly growing youth population with limited economic opportunities
2. Persistent and deepening social and economic inequalities
3. The increasingly devastating impacts of climate change

The proliferation of guns represents a particularly deadly threat. Designed to kill, guns make all forms of violence four to seven times more lethal compared to other weapons. Each gun represents not just a potential for immediate violence, but a long-term threat to community stability, economic development, and human security.

The *African Union Silencing the Guns in Africa Activism Guide*, developed by the [Women's International League for Peace and Freedom's Mobilising Men for Feminist Peace Initiative](#) and [Gun Free South Africa](#), is a resource for activists to help silence the guns across the continent.

Containing comprehensive data on gun proliferation and its impacts and in-depth analysis of the interconnected factors driving violence the Guide includes over 40 strategic *Ideas for Action* that empower activists to:

- Conduct critical research
- Raise public awareness
- Develop targeted advocacy strategies
- Lobby for meaningful policy interventions

By bridging the gap between research, activism, and policy engagement, the Guide recognises that peace across Africa cannot be achieved through top-down government approaches alone, but requires meaningful engagement and participation, including critique, from grassroots communities and civil society actors.

Download: [African Union silencing the Guns in Africa: Activism Guide](#).