

# PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES



## Swords into Ploughshares

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

## **What is Project Ploughshares?**

Established in 1976, Project Ploughshares is an operating division of The Canadian Council of Churches that supports arms reduction and control, nuclear disarmament, space security, and peacebuilding efforts around the globe.

## **What does Project Ploughshares do?**

Project Ploughshares promotes informed debate, both in policymaking circles and among the general public, through high-quality research that is then presented to government; before international bodies such as the United Nations; and at roundtables, conferences, and in publications.

## **Can my donation make a difference?**

Yes! Your donation allows Project Ploughshares to fund research and advance policies that ensure resources and energy are spent on resolving conflict and reducing armed conflict, not feeding it.

# 2017



Major domestic and international developments related to our various areas of work kept us active in 2017. Through public outreach efforts, different publication vehicles, engagement with government officials and civil society colleagues, and participation at numerous key processes, we endeavoured to advance our core mission and long-term objective of a more just, peaceful and secure world.

Some highlights:

On July 7, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted by more than 120 states at the United Nations, in what is considered by many stakeholders to be the most consequential nuclear disarmament development in decades. Project Ploughshares, a coalition member of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), was closely involved with the process that led to the adoption of the treaty the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). Three months after its adoption, the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced that ICAN would be awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts.

With other members of the international Campaign to Stop Killer Robos, Project Ploughshares was present at meetings of the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on lethal autonomous weapons systems in Geneva. There we pushed for a proactive regulatory approach to these emerging weapons systems, including a preemptive ban on the development, production, and use of fully autonomous weapons systems.

The issuance of export permits for the sale of Canadian-made military equipment to Saudi Arabia—one of the worst human rights violators in the world—stands at odds with the claim made by successive Canadian governments that Canada has some of the strongest military export controls in the world. At the same time, Canada has announced its plans to finally accede to the international Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). During 2017, we continued to monitor Ottawa's handling of the Saudi arms deal, which will constitute a key measure of its willingness to live up to the objectives, spirit and specific provisions of the ATT.

I invite you to read through our Annual Report for more details on our work last year.

Cesar Jaramillo  
Executive Director



“

I've been waiting for this day for seven decades. And I am overjoyed that it has finally arrived. **This is the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons.**

To the leaders of countries across the world, I beseech you: if you love this planet, you will sign this treaty. Nuclear weapons have always been immoral. Now they are also illegal. **Together, let us go forth and change the world.**

Setsuko Thurlow  
Hiroshima survivor and world-renowned  
nuclear disarmament advocate on the adoption of the  
Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons



Hiroshima survivor Setsuko Thurlow, Reaching Critical Will director Ray Acheson, and Cesar Jaramillo hold a news conference in Toronto in October 2017 about the Nobel Peace Prize.

Following the adoption of the landmark Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in July 2017, the Nobel Peace Prize for 2017 was awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), a coalition of non-governmental organizations that includes Project Ploughshares.

According to the Nobel committee, ICAN “received the award for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.”



Canadian citizen Setsuko Thurlow, a survivor of the 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima, was given the honour of jointly accepting the prize, along with ICAN’s Executive Director Beatrice Fihn, at a ceremony in Oslo in December.

“Hibakusha [survivors of the 1945 atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki] have been part of this campaign from the beginning and they are the ones who brought the humanitarian consequences message already in 1945,” said Fihn. “I really hope that they take this award ... as an award to them as well.”

Thurlow, who was 13 when the United States attacked her city and killed more than 140,000 people, has been a leading figure in ICAN since its launch in 2007 and a supporter—and treasured friend—of Project Ploughshares since our inception.

# Nuclear Disarmament

- Partnered and collaborated with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.
- Participated in the UN negotiations of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
- Contributed regular commentary and analysis on key developments, including the adoption of the nuclear ban treaty and the position of the Canadian government on this file.
- Met with government officials from the offices of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament, among others.

- Continued research and analysis on Canada's multibillion-dollar arms deal with Saudi Arabia.
- Participated in the 3rd Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty.
- Raised awareness of shortcomings of proposed legislation for Canada's accession to the Arms Trade Treaty (Bill C-47), in collaboration with a coalition of Canadian civil society groups involved in human rights, disarmament, and development.
- Testified before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development on Canada's arms trade.

## Arms Trade

# Autonomous Weapons

- Continued research and analysis of the humanitarian implications of emerging security and military technology.
- Attended meetings of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons in November.
- Participated in consultations and discussions with Global Affairs Canada on emerging technologies and warfare.
- Engaged with academic researchers at a workshop on artificial intelligence (AI) at the University of Ottawa and seminars on AI ethics at the University of Waterloo.
- Shared information with international and domestic civil society and community organizations.

## Highlights of our work in 2017



- Produced Space Security Index 2017, the only report of its kind in the world.
- Organized panel discussion during UN General Assembly First Committee, in partnership with the Government of Canada.
- Delivered statement on outer space security to plenary of UN General Assembly First Committee on behalf of international civil society.
- Gave presentation on key outer space security trends before the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

## Space Security

# Highlights

of our work  
in 2017



## THE CANADA-U.S. SAFE THIRD COUNTRY AGREEMENT WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Join us as we mark Refugee Rights Day.

An interdisciplinary panel of experts and practitioners from the United States and Canada will discuss the Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA) and its impact. This 2004 bilateral agreement prevents (with some exceptions) refugee claimants who land first in the United States from making a claim in Canada, and those that land first in Canada from making a claim in the United States.

In light of the current U.S. immigration policies and political climate, the designation of the United States as a 'safe third country' as part of the STCA is being challenged in the federal court. Parties to the legal challenge believe that designation violates refugee rights under international law and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Join us as we learn about and discuss threats to refugee rights at the Canadian border, the risks of irregular border crossings, the denial of gender-related rights, U.S. legal perspectives on refugee rights in the age of Trump and the federal legal challenge.

**Tuesday April 10 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

# Refugees and Forced Migration

- Joined with The Canadian Council of Churches, the Canadian Council for Refugees, and Amnesty International in partnering with an individual litigant and her children to ask the Federal Court to strike down the Safe Third Country Agreement.
- Continued research and analysis on conflict-induced forced migration and governance of migration crisis.
- Participated in workshops and conferences on forced migration.



# Armed Conflicts Report

From January to December 2017, 28 armed conflicts were waging in 25 countries.

## KEY TRENDS

- In 2017, the overall condition worsened for 13 of the 28 conflicts that we track. Peace processes stalled in Libya, Mali, Myanmar, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Yemen. Colombia was the only country that saw an improvement in overall stability, making great strides in the peace process.
- The number of civilian deaths from explosive weapons—15,000—was 42 per cent higher in 2017 than in the previous year.
- According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, major weapons sales for the period 2013-2017 were 10 per cent higher than for the period 2008-2012.
- In 2017, 10 of the 13 major food crises were conflict driven. Food insecurity because of conflict was particularly acute in Yemen, Somalia, Syria, and South Sudan.
- Children are increasingly targeted, used as shields, and recruited to fight.

## COLOMBIA

Important strides were made in the **Colombian** peace process, but implementation of the 2016 peace deal was fraught.

In June 2017, the United Nations Mission in Colombia certified that **more than 7,000 FARC rebels had handed over their weapons and demobilized. By the end of the year, approximately 11,000 former rebels had disarmed.**

According to the United Nations, **more than 100 human rights activists and community leaders were killed in 2017** by hitmen, most in former rebel-controlled regions.

# Highlights

No new conflicts were added to or removed from our latest report.



## SYRIA

Syria remained the bloodiest conflict, although the death toll was lower than in 2016.

Reports indicate that **39,000 people, including 10,507 civilians, were killed in 2017.** As well, **6.1-million people were internally displaced and more than 5.6-million were refugees.**

In Afghanistan, children accounted for **30 per cent of all civilian casualties.**

## AFGHANISTAN

Children are bearing the brunt of the conflict in Yemen.

Between March 2015 and December 2017, **5,000 children have died in the violence—an average of 5 children a day.**

## YEMEN

**Look for the complete *Armed Conflicts Report* this September at [www.ploughshares.ca](http://www.ploughshares.ca).**



Ploughshares publications

## Ploughshares and the media

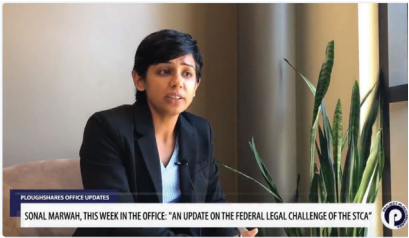
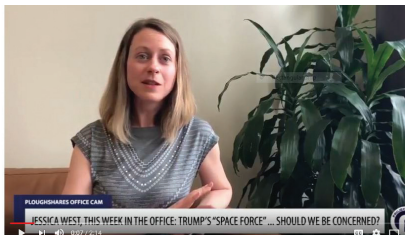
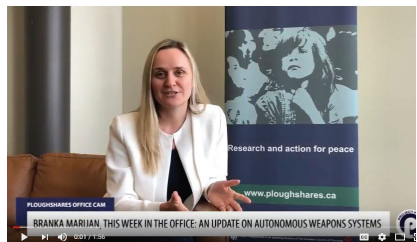


MIDDLE EAST EYE



OpEds and interviews by Ploughshares staff appeared in these and other news outlets in 2017.

Watch for weekly interviews with Ploughshares researchers on our social media channels.



Stay connected...





# Organization

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## Staff

Kenneth Epps *Policy Advisor on the Arms Trade Treaty* • Debbie Hughes *Assistant to the Directors* • Tasneem Jamal *Communications Officer* • Cesar Jaramillo *Executive Director* • Branka Marijan *Program Officer* • Sonal Marwah *Program Officer* • Matthew Pupic *Director of Operations* • Wendy Stocker *Publications and Records Management Assistant* • Barbara Wagner *Donor Services Administrator* • Jessica West *Program Officer*

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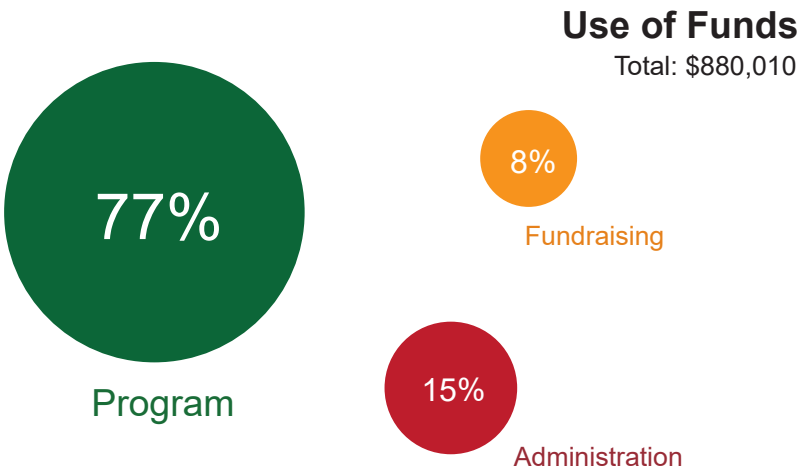
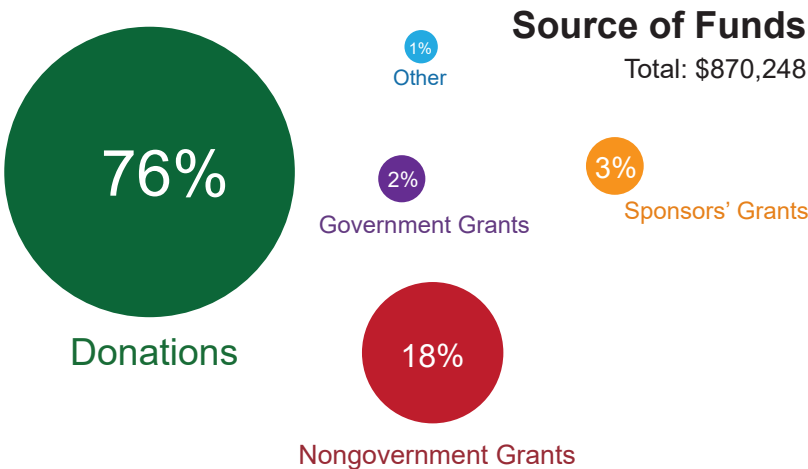
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# Financial Report 2017

## Operating Fund

Project Ploughshares is audited each year by an independent accounting firm and accounts are maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The audited financial statements are available on request.





# Thank you



In 2017, thousands of **individuals, organizations, and churches**, including those listed in the following pages, generously provided over **three-quarters of our funding**.

We are also grateful to our **sponsoring churches** and to **The Simons Foundation** in Vancouver for its generous financial support.

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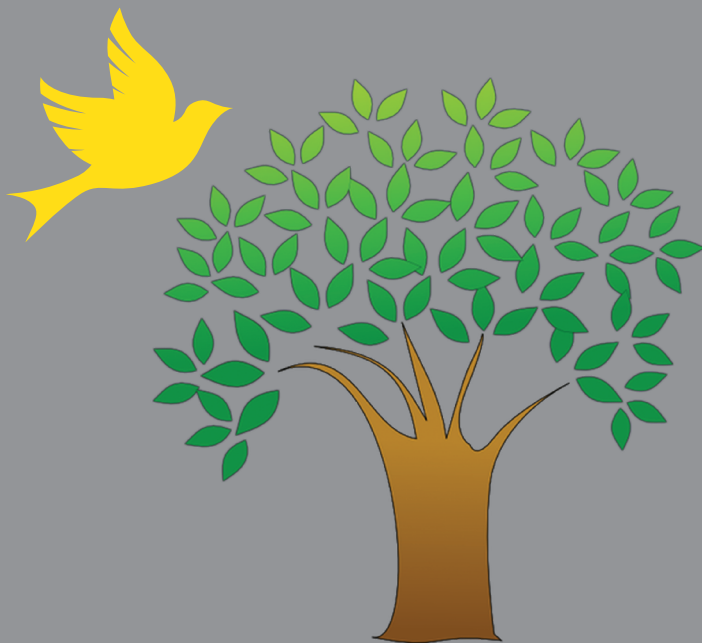
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Peacemaking is a long-term process.



The future of Project Ploughshares depends on adequate resources to carry on its vital work for peace.

A legacy gift is a way of extending your support for Project Ploughshares and its peace and reconciliation programs into the future.

For more information please visit  
[www.ploughshares.ca](http://www.ploughshares.ca)  
or contact **Matthew Pupic** at 519-888-6541  
[mpupic@ploughshares.ca](mailto:mpupic@ploughshares.ca)



## PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES

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## OUR MISSION

To advance policies and actions  
to prevent war and armed violence  
and build peace.

## OUR VISION

A secure world without war —  
a just world at peace.



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