

control arms

Dear Secretary-General,

Every year an average of two bullets for every person on this planet is produced. With so few global rules governing the arms trade, no one really knows where all those bullets will end up – or whose lives they will tear apart.

Under the current system, there are less global controls on the sales of ammunition and guns than on bananas and bottled water. It's a ridiculous situation.

Next week all this could change. All the world's governments will meet at the United Nations in New York, for a month of negotiations to agree an international Arms Trade Treaty – the first of its kind.

Provided world leaders get it right, this new treaty could help put an end to shady arms deals and prevent arms transfers where they are likely to contribute directly to serious human rights abuses, war crimes or poverty.

As supporters of Amnesty International and Oxfam, we urge governments to step forward and deliver a robust, effective treaty that protects human rights. A treaty that puts a stop to the needless deaths and injuries which occur everyday as a result of armed violence and conflict. The decisions taken around this treaty really are a matter of life and death.

	Gillian Anderson Actor, USA.
	Aterciopelados Musicians, Colombia.
	Gael Garcia Bernal Actor, Mexico.
	Harry Belafonte Singer, songwriter, actor and social activist, USA.
	Paul Bettany Actor, UK.
	Jane Birkin Actor/Singer, UK.
	Miguel Bose Singer, Spain.
	Rahul Bose Actor, India.
	Helena Christensen Photographer and model, Denmark.
	Chris Martin, Guy Berryman, Jonny Buckland, Will Champion Members of Coldplay – Rock band, UK.
	Jennifer Connelly Actor, USA.
	Paul Conroy War photographer, UK.
	Sophie Dahl Writer and model, UK.
	Kristin Davis Actor, USA.
	Los Fabulosos Cadillacs Musicians, Argentina.
	Livia Firth Film Producer and Eco-Age Creative Director, UK.
	Anjelica Huston Actor, USA.
	Eddie Izzard Comedian, actor and writer, UK
	Bianca Jagger Chair of Bianca Jagger Human Rights Foundation, UK.
	Emmanuel Jal Musician and activist, South Sudan
	Scarlett Johansson Actor, USA.
	Angelique Kidjo Singer, Benin.
	Keira Knightley Actor, UK.
	Annie Lennox Singer/songwriter, UK.
	Baaba Maal Singer/musician, Senegal.
	Bill Nighy Actor, UK
	Yoko Ono Artist, author and peace activist, Japan.
	Emma Pooley Olympic cyclist, UK.
	Tim Roth Actor and director, UK.
	Kevin Spacey Actor, director and producer, US.
	Dave Stewart Musician and record producer, UK.
	Imelda Staunton Actor, UK.
	Vivienne Westwood Fashion designer, UK.