



Annual Report 2021

An overview of activities carried out by
Stop Killer Robots from April 2021 to March 2022



Our mission

We didn't expect a campaign to Stop Killer Robots to be needed in the world - but it is. With growing digital dehumanisation, the Stop Killer Robots coalition works to ensure human control in the use of force. Our campaign works for an international legal treaty to prohibit autonomous weapons systems that would target humans or that would operate without meaningful human control - a treaty that contains rules to protect our humanity.



Our vision

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.

Towards that vision, we 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.

Achievements in 2021

The Stop Killer Robots campaign enjoyed a busy and successful period in 2021 and began the new year in a strong position to influence states towards negotiations on a new international treaty on autonomous weapon systems.

This report summarises key achievements over the past year.



**Establishing bold political
leadership and cooperation**

- Through a combination of individual and group statements made at the CCW, a **total of 70 countries are now calling for a legally binding instrument** with a combination of both prohibitions and regulations on autonomous weapon systems.
- The campaign maintained a **strong presence and engagement at the CCW** during 20 days of meetings of the GGE in addition to the 6th Review Conference in December 2021, making statements and lobbying government officials throughout. Our presence drove widespread recognition that new international law is the only credible response to the urgent and existential threat to humanity posed by autonomous weapon systems.
- In May 2021, the **ICRC developed its position by calling for new legally binding rules** on autonomous weapon systems. This position is aligned with the campaign's vision and has fueled political momentum and policy coherence on the issue.



- Our campaign's call for new legally binding rules on autonomous weapon systems continues to draw support from **UN leadership** including the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres who delivered a statement at the CCW 6th Review Conference calling for states to urgently agree to limits on the use of autonomy in weapon systems. Awareness of the issues with autonomy in weapons grew amongst UN office holders, featuring in a [report](#) of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities.
- The campaign has focused efforts on **expanded outreach with a broad group of stakeholders** from human rights, tech, interfaith, military, and youth communities. We reached new audiences through outreach at [RightsCon](#), a joint [interfaith statement](#), and continued partnership building, establishing the broad risks that autonomous weapons pose to society and our relationship with technology.
- An **international petition** launched by Stop Killer Robots and Amnesty International, calling on states to develop new international law for autonomous weapons and end digital dehumanisation, was signed by 20,000+ individuals around the world.



**Building policy coherence and
strengthening our expert voice**

- Through briefings with diplomats and government officials and publication of detailed policy briefs throughout the year, the campaign **helped establish policy coherence** and drove a shift in policy development, resulting in the majority of states calling for a combination of legal prohibitions and regulations to ensure meaningful human control over the use of force.
- At the end of 2021 the Stop Killer Robots staff team expanded to include a new **Research and Monitoring** team. The team aims to establish the campaign as a leading authority on the hazards of autonomous decision making and autonomous weapon systems as well as on international policy positions and action on this issue.



**An active campaign network
communicating a bold vision**

- The **campaign staff grew to an eight-person team** in 2021, expanding capacity to implement our strategic plan and activities, and shape political and public will to support the beginning of treaty negotiations.
- The Stop Killer Robots **coalition membership grew to 183 organisations in 66 countries**, an increase in membership of 5% from the previous year.
- Two cycles of the **Small Grants Programme** (April-September, September-March) funded \$417,000 to campaign members to do their work at the national, regional, and thematic level - supporting national activities in 28 countries and regional projects in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Pacific Islands, and MENA.
- Our hosting of the [Humanitarian Disarmament Forum](#) throughout 2021 created a space for intersectional, equitable, and anti-racist learning and commitments to strengthen commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion within our coalition and community, demonstrated by a [joint civil society statement](#) on Race and Intersectionality in Humanitarian Disarmament delivered by Stop Killer Robots at the UNGA First Committee.



- Stop Killer Robots successfully **launched our new branding, website and brand video** in October 2021. Our redeveloped brand presents automated harm, digital dehumanisation and autonomy in weapons systems as accessible issues to facilitate public, political and media interest as we enter into a crucial campaigning period.
- Also in October 2021, **Stop Killer Robots and Amnesty International launched our joint Global Action ‘Escape the Scan’**. We created an innovative campaign action that centred around [an interactive social media filter](#) linked to the Stop Killer Robots global [petition](#). Escape the Scan was complemented by a successful [social media campaign](#), [video production](#) and a [visual stunt](#) where members of the public could interact with the filter in real life. **The petition collected 17,000 signatures in just 4 weeks.**



- **Media coverage of Stop Killer Robots' activities and messaging in 2021 was widespread and purposeful.** Stop Killer Robots spokespeople were quoted in [The New York Times](#), [the Guardian](#), [Reuters](#), [Associated Press](#), [The Washington Post](#), [ABC](#), [the BBC](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [Fortune](#) and across [Europe](#) and the world in regional and national media including [Switzerland](#) and [France](#).
- Stop Killer Robots continued **work towards the upcoming release our short documentary film 'Immoral Code'**. The film examines the impact of killer robots in an increasingly automated world - one where machines make decisions over who to kill or what to destroy. Are there situations where it's morally and socially acceptable to take life, and importantly - would a computer know the difference? **Immoral Code was selected as a 'Vimeo Staff Pick' for 2022.**
- The 'Immoral Code' film will be **complemented by a dedicated and innovative digital and real-life campaign and website** which will reach out to people of varied demographics around the world and drive them to increase our petition numbers.



Finance and Governance

Finance

The Stop Killer Robots campaign 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 Stop Killer Robots 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 the Geneva-based Swiss Philanthropy Foundation who passes on the funding to Mines Action Canada to be overseen by the campaign's Treasurer.

Our audited financial statements follow. Our auditors examine the financial statements annually to confirm that the accounts conform to legal and statutory requirements. Our current auditors are Parker Prins Lebano Chartered Professional Accountants.



Governance

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots is overseen by a Steering Committee comprised of 10 organizations.

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.

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)

PAX

Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs
(until August 2021)

Seguridad Humana en Latino América y el Caribe (SEHLAC)

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)



Staff Team

The coalition is supported and energised by a young Staff Team who liaise with governments and campaign members, design inspiring communications materials and stay up to speed on the latest developments in weapons, robotics and artificial intelligence.

This staff team is coordinated and supported by Article 36, a specialist organisation that brings the experience of developing two international legal treaties and two further international political declarations, all on issues relating to weapons and the protection of civilians.

Catherine Connolly

Monitoring & Research Manager

Clare Conboy

Media & Communications Manager

Farah Bogani

Project Officer (until December 2021)

Gugu Dube

Researcher

Hélène Abi Assi

Communications Officer

Isabelle Jones

Campaign Outreach Manager

Ousman Noor

Government Relations Manager

Sai Bourothu

Researcher

Richard Moyes

Campaign Coordinator



Financial Statement

Statement of Operations For Year Ended 31 March, 2022

**CAMPAIGN TO STOP KILLER ROBOTS
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2022**

	2022	2021
	U.S. Dollars	U.S. Dollars
REVENUE		
Donations	\$ 2,002	\$ 690
Foundations	1,936,423	1,133,336
Grants and contributions	8,000	25,379
Interest	2,940	5,524
	<u>1,949,365</u>	<u>1,164,929</u>
EXPENDITURE		
MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS		
Advertising and promotion	243,205	71,050
Events	11,693	24,990
Public opinion poll	36,000	23,300
Video - audio production	127,144	46,914
Personnel	161,540	102,042
	<u>579,582</u>	<u>268,296</u>
NATIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES		
Africa	90,500	81,000
Asia - Pacific	79,500	102,000
Europe	100,440	126,161
Latin America	63,065	42,600
Middle East	21,600	15,500
North America	15,000	18,800
Program resources	49,385	7,799
Thematic programmes	5,429	34,800
Personnel	80,485	54,284
	<u>505,404</u>	<u>482,944</u>
INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION		
CCW GGE meeting	24,859	-
Campaign strategy meeting	-	15,205
Annual CCW meeting	16,169	3,622
Advocacy missions	8,845	2,600
Regional meetings	7,658	253
Personnel	116,126	60,326
	<u>173,657</u>	<u>82,006</u>
RESEARCH AND MONITORING		
Project management	50,703	-
Lead researchers	51,823	-
Weapons monitoring	46,148	-
Program resources	163	-
	<u>148,837</u>	<u>-</u>
CAMPAIGN OUTREACH TEAM	<u>224,060</u>	<u>163,926</u>
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENDITURE	<u>1,631,540</u>	<u>997,172</u>
INDIRECT PROGRAM EXPENDITURE	<u>226,779</u>	<u>120,697</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>1,858,319</u>	<u>1,117,869</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE	91,046	47,060
TRANSFER TO INTERNALLY RESTRICTED RESERVE FUND (note 3)	<u>(90,422)</u>	<u>(47,060)</u>
	<u>\$ 624</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Your support

is protecting our humanity

Only governments can come together to make international law - but it falls to civil society, international organisations and the public to create the will to make that happen.





www.stopkillerrobots.org

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