



# Annual Report 2022

An overview of activities carried out by  
Stop Killer Robots from April 2022 to March 2023



# 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 2022

The Stop Killer Robots campaign saw significant achievements in the social, policy, and political landscape in 2022, and began 2023 with a series of successes which have set a strong trajectory for movement towards negotiations on a new international treaty on autonomous weapon systems.

This report summarises key achievements over the 2022 fiscal year.



**Demonstrating political leadership  
and policy for action**

- Stop Killer Robots maintained a **strong presence throughout discussions at the UN CCW** in Geneva with representatives of the campaign from around the world attending to advocate for States to commit to negotiations of a legally binding instrument. During the meetings in 2022, a wide range of additional written proposals were submitted by States for a new international framework.
- By the end of 2022, **90 States declared support for negotiations for a legally binding instrument.**
- Stop Killer Robots hosted an event during the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) session in September 2022 with worldwide experts speaking on the human rights implications of autonomy in weapons systems. Following the event, a [Resolution 51](#) **addressing the human rights implications of new and emerging technologies in the military domain** was unanimously adopted in October 2022, by all 47 members of the HRC.



- For the first time at the UN General Assembly, **70 States across the world united in delivering a [joint statement](#) on autonomous weapons systems**. This is the largest cross-regional group statement made to date through UN discussions on the issue. The statement consolidated key elements of the international response that is needed to address autonomy in weapons systems including the need to maintain human responsibility and accountability in the use of force, and emphasis on the need for internationally agreed rules and limits. This process was supported by the Stop Killer Robots campaign and brought together a diverse group of States, overcoming differences and divisions that had become entrenched in the CCW, and provided a strong building block towards negotiations of a new international treaty.
- Stop Killer Robots **launched a [Pledge for Parliamentarians](#)** around the world to commit to supporting governments to launch negotiations for a new legally binding treaty on autonomous weapons systems, to reject the automation of killing, and ensure meaningful human control over the use of force.



- Supported by coalition member FUNPADEM and Stop Killer Robots, in February 2022 **Costa Rica hosted a regional governmental conference on the social and humanitarian impacts of autonomous weapons systems**, attended by governmental experts from Latin America and the Caribbean, observer States, the ICRC, UN agencies, academics, and civil society. After a series of diplomatic consultations in New York and Geneva, the conference resulted in a **historic [Belén Communiqué](#) issued by 33 States from Latin American and the Caribbean** calling for “the urgent negotiation of an international legally binding instrument on autonomy in weapons systems.”
- In March 2023 a [Special Statement](#) on the **social and humanitarian impact of autonomous weapons made by 22 Heads of State at the 28th Ibero-American Summit** was adopted at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.
- a [Joint Communiqué](#) calling for the **urgent need to negotiate an international instrument with prohibitions and regulations regarding autonomy in weapons systems** was adopted at the LXXXIX Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Central American Integration System (SICA) in March 2023.





**Strengthening our voice as a  
recognised authority**

- In 2022, Stop Killer Robots officially **launched the [Automated Decision Research](#)** project. Automated Decision Research is the monitoring and research team of Stop Killer Robots, tracking State support for a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons systems, conducting research and analysis on responses to autonomy and automated decision-making in warfare and wider society, and monitoring developments in autonomy in weapons systems.
- Since launching, Automated Decision Research has **built a [State positions monitor](#) containing 135 individual country profiles** with short summaries of each State's position on negotiating a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons systems, as well as each State's engagement on autonomous weapons systems within relevant international fora. The website also features [a resource library](#) containing research papers from Automated Decision Research and Stop Killer Robots member organisations.
- In September 2022, Automated Decision Research **published the report '[Artificial intelligence and automated decisions: shared challenges in the civil and military spheres](#)**', which provides an initial sketch of responses to AI and automated decision-making in wider society, while contextualising these responses in relation to autonomy in weapons systems.



- In December 2022, as part of the Stop Killer Robots [Digital Dehumanisation campaign](#), Automated Decision Research **published an [explainer paper](#) on autonomous weapons and digital dehumanisation.**
- In February 2023, Automated Decision Research organised [a panel](#) **on shared challenges in civil and military AI regulation** at the first global Summit on Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain (REAIM) hosted by the Government of the Netherlands in The Hague.
- The Automated Decision Research team also carries out **regular news monitoring**, and sends out weekly news briefings covering news on autonomy in weapons systems and other related areas to the campaign membership.



**Mobilising the public**

- In May 2022, Stop Killer Robots released [‘Immoral Code’](#), a documentary short that contemplates the impact of killer robots in an increasingly automated world. The film premiered at the Prince Charles Cinema, London on May 19th, and was released publicly online on May 24th. Since then, the film has been screened in more than 20 countries, and has gathered 150,000+ views on YouTube.
- In November 2022, we launched our [‘Digital Dehumanisation’ campaign](#), an ongoing social media campaign, focused on framing autonomous weapons within a wider societal context of automated harm and the dangers of unregulated or oppressive artificial intelligence. This framing focuses on human stories, factual content and expert voices from outside of the Stop Killer Robots campaign to increase our reach and to enable members of the public to engage with our issue more easily. It also centres humanity centrally within the killer robots debate, an essential component of mobilising the public and in turn their political representatives.
- The Digital Dehumanisation campaign has produced [articles](#), [artwork](#), [longer form interviews](#) and short film clips for social media, and has been successful in changing the landscape in relation to conversations and understandings around killer robots.





- In December 2022, Stop Killer Robots **launched [a new online shop](#)** with a selection of Stop Killer Robots merchandise including t-shirts, hats, bags, posters, stickers and more, bringing in new supporters, contributing to the finances of the campaign, and enabling members of the public to become our brand ambassadors.
- We **saw increased engagement and awareness from members of the public with high profile media coverage** from the New York Times and Associated Press to the Guardian, and consistent use of our communications and campaigning tools by campaigners and members of the public around the world.
- Our social media has continued to grow and reach new audiences around the world with our [TikTok channel](#) achieving over 10,000 followers in one year. We focused on **creating ongoing educational, engaging, and actionable content to raise the issue of autonomous weapons and digital dehumanisation** with our target audience, in an effort to make policy makers at an international level feel that the world is watching and expecting action to ensure a legal response to challenges posed by autonomy in weapons systems.



**Confident partners and an  
empowered campaign network**

- The Stop Killer Robots **coalition membership grew to 232 organisations in 70 countries**, expanding our reach and influence to new countries, communities, and stakeholders.
- Two cycles of the **Small Grants Programme** (April-September 2022, September 2022-March 2023) funded \$309,200 to campaign members to do their work at the national, regional, and thematic level – supporting national activities in 30 countries (Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Togo, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe); regional projects in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Pacific Islands, and Middle East North America (MENA); and cross-regional projects focusing on faith, gender, and youth engagement.
- Our **inaugural Digital Dehumanisation conference** and global coalition meeting in Costa Rica brought together 70 campaigners from 29 countries to discuss strategy, share campaigning tactics, and strengthen our collective ambition and capacity. Utilising funds won from the 2020 Ypres Peace Prize, 10 youth campaigners from 8 countries were sponsored to attend the global meeting in Costa Rica to strengthen youth leadership and engagement.



- **The UN Secretary General and UN Office of Disarmament Affairs continued to sustain pressure upon States to urgently agree on international limits to the use of autonomous weapons systems.** The UN Secretary General outlined this call in the [“Our Common Agenda”](#) Report, and launched a process to develop a ‘New Agenda for Peace’ which prioritises responding to strategic risks like autonomous weapons. The High Representative for Disarmament Affairs urged states to take action, stating, “The time for slogans and promises has passed. It is now time to overcome differences and agree on how to achieve a viable international instrument that effectively prohibits autonomous weapon systems that cannot be used in compliance with international humanitarian law and other applicable law.”
- **UN Special Mandate holders continued to flag concerns over autonomous weapons systems,** with the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism reiterating the Secretary General’s call for global prohibition on autonomous weapon systems in a [report](#) to the Human Rights Council in March 2023, and UNICEF acknowledging for the first time in a [report](#) the risk autonomous weapons pose to children in conflict.
- We continued to **develop relationships with a broad group of stakeholders from human rights, tech, interfaith, military, and youth communities** to strengthen collective awareness and action on autonomous weapons. Boston Dynamics and five other robotics companies [pledged](#) not to weaponize their advanced-mobility general-purpose robots.



## 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 9 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

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*

**Charlotte Akin**  
*Projects & Logistics Officer*

**Clare Conboy**  
*Media & Communications Manager*

**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, 2023



**STOP KILLER ROBOTS  
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	U.S. Dollars	U.S. Dollars
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Donations	\$ 1,505	\$ 2,002
Foundations	1,874,678	1,936,423
Grants and contributions	36,408	8,000
Merchandise	1,538	-
Interest	23,232	2,940
	<u>1,937,361</u>	<u>1,949,365</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>		
Advertising and promotion	176,150	243,205
Events	27,461	11,693
Public opinion poll	-	36,000
Video - audio production	40,938	127,144
Personnel	186,234	161,540
	<u>430,783</u>	<u>579,582</u>
<b>NATIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES</b>		
Africa	76,000	90,500
Asia - Pacific	52,000	79,500
Europe	78,974	100,440
Latin America	71,500	63,065
Middle East	11,000	21,600
North America	16,000	15,000
Programme resources	31,315	49,385
Thematic programmes	10,513	5,429
Personnel	101,054	80,485
	<u>448,356</u>	<u>505,404</u>
<b>INTERNATIONAL ACTION</b>		
CCW GGE meeting	68,472	24,859
Campaign strategy meeting	117,166	-
General Assembly First Committee	15,326	-
Annual CCW meeting	6,457	16,169
Advocacy missions	1,778	8,845
Regional meetings	9,773	7,658
Personnel	115,911	116,126
	<u>334,883</u>	<u>173,657</u>
<b>AUTOMATED DECISION RESEARCH</b>		
Project management	82,497	50,703
Lead researchers	112,234	51,823
Weapons monitoring	22,527	46,148
Programme resources	12,255	163
	<u>229,513</u>	<u>148,837</u>
<b>CAMPAIGN OUTREACH TEAM</b>	<u>193,467</u>	<u>224,060</u>
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENDITURE</b>	1,637,002	1,631,540
<b>INDIRECT PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE</b>	<u>224,084</u>	<u>226,779</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<u>1,861,086</u>	<u>1,858,319</u>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	76,275	91,046
<b>TRANSFER TO INTERNALLY RESTRICTED RESERVE FUND (note 3)</b>	<u>(76,275)</u>	<u>(90,442)</u>
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 604</u>

# Your support

# is protecting 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](http://www.stopkillerrobots.org)

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