



TEACHING MODULE SERIES

TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS

This UNODC's initiative seeks to prevent crime and promote a culture of lawfulness through educational activities. These activities will help educators teach the next generation to better understand and address problems that can undermine the rule of law. The series of UNODC Teaching Modules supports academics to teach in UNODC-mandated areas. The areas addressed in the Teaching Modules range from smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, organized crime, cybercrime, wildlife crime, firearms to counter-terrorism. The modules are designed for lecturers to adapt and integrate into their courses.

The illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms represents a threat to peace and security, as well as an obstacle to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Whether firearms are used as an instrument of violent crimes, as a tool to project or perpetuate power, an illegal trading commodity or as an alternative method of payment, the connection between firearms and crime is beyond question. This connection ranges from raising and supporting activities of urban gang criminality to organized crime, terrorism and conflict.

Understanding the mutual interaction between the legal and illegal firearms markets, and their impact on peace and security, is a precondition for preventing and reducing the misuse, diversion, illicit proliferation and trafficking of firearms. Firearms, whether legal or illicit, have increasingly become a part of daily life in many countries and communities. Therefore, an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon, counter-measures and the possibilities of getting involved in illicit firearms reduction initiatives will have a positive impact on the security of individuals and communities.

The Teaching Module Series on the Prevention and Countering of Firearms Trafficking was developed with the support of more than 50 leading academics from around the world. They are intended to support lecturers from different disciplines to teach on the scale of the illicit firearms phenomenon and its connections with crime. The modules cover a variety of topics related to firearms, including general considerations, the road from legal production to the illegal market, the main actors, national and international responses.

Lecturers can use these modules either in their present form or adapt them and integrate individual module parts within an existing course. The modular structure allows lecturers to select only those topics that are relevant within their specific contexts. Lecturers may also create a new course on firearms by using all of the modules together.



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