

IT'S TIME FOR JUSTICE

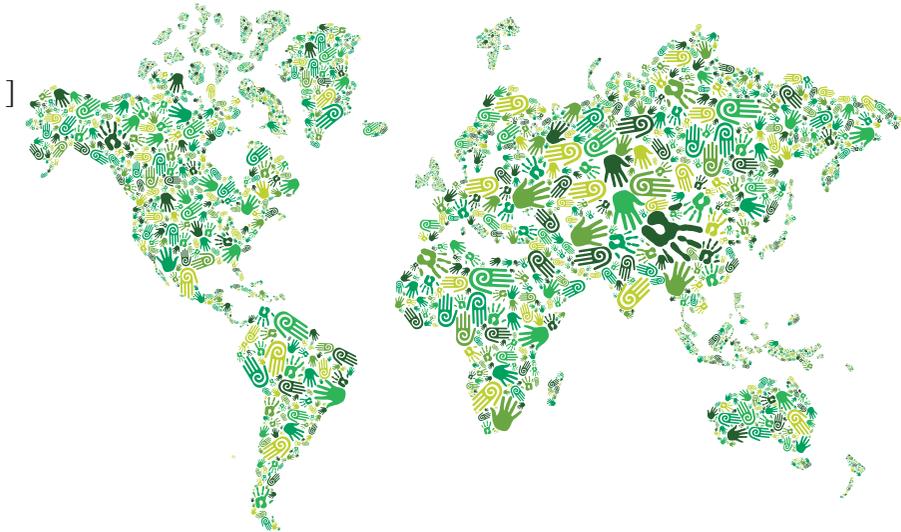
International Affairs Committee

The Prophet Micah dreamed of peace, where people “beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks.” He proclaimed God’s world should be safe and secure, that “no one shall make them afraid” (Micah 4: 3–4).

The Arms Trade Treaty

The United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) regulates the international trade of conventional weapons so they are not used to support terrorism, international organized crime, gender-based violence, human rights abuses or violations of international humanitarian law. The Government of Canada tabled Bill C-47 to harmonize Canadian law with the ATT.

The United States is the largest importer of conventional weapons made in Canada. Canadian-made weapons or component parts may be exported to the US without requirement of export permits, and they can be transferred by the United States to other countries.



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A key critique of Bill C-47 is that it does not include regulations that would require any authorizations from Canada about where the United States may transfer arms or component parts made in Canada.



This policy gap makes Bill C-47 inconsistent with the ATT. Bill C-47 is currently before the Senate.

The Church Responds

The Moderator of the PCC wrote to the Minister of Foreign Affairs to communicate the church's concerns about the weaknesses in Bill C-47 and encouraged the Government of Canada to include policies regarding arms exports to the United States that are consistent with the Arms Trade Treaty.



Prayer

God of Peace, you made us and set us in creation to live in peace and harmony with you and all things and called us to work towards a world that is safe and secure.

We pray that your wisdom and compassion will guide leaders to form laws that will help to realize the world as you intended it to be.



Amen.

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