Feedback for the workshop on Guns, trauma and rehabilitation

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Ours was a small group representing four different regions of the Globe. Four countries gave a good example of the different issues:


2. India – considering internal tribal areas with terrorist activities and the complex conflict in Kashmir.

3. Russia – in the midst of massive internal change and a highly militarised conflict in Chechnya.

4. UK – a military player away from its shores with domestic and criminal violence internally.

The focus of the group was on psychosocial themes.

The unifying themes for these four areas were:

1. The personal sense of isolation experienced by those victims of injury and their families and friends.
2. The destructiveness of violence to the social fabric.
3. The personal sense of isolation and helplessness of health workers trying to deal with the injuries and psychosocial consequences.

The themes that separated these four regions were:

1. The vast differences in resources.
2. Differences in cultural attitudes.
3. The balance between military and civilian casualties, each with their own complex needs. Conscription blurs the boundaries between these.

Critical issues and ways forward:

1. Training in first aid in managing trauma for front line staff. This includes police, military and others as well as health workers – all who first come into contact with casualties.
2. Support to health workers on the front line. This should cascade through local support to Regional, National and International networks.

3. Maintain the security of health workers, whether in conflict or urban violence.

4. Work holistically with the individual, casualties and their communities, considering health education for communities on violence reduction and rehabilitation. Not focusing just on those who are injured, but thinking about the whole needs of the community. Leading on to public education and involvement of health workers.

5. There are important roles for IPPNW in a) producing training materials for front-line staff and public education, b) producing data on disability and social costs.