Executive Summary (150 words)
SCRAP Weapons, a disarmament project housed at SOAS University of London, is fueled by the passion and dedication of its student cohort, comprising 15 project assistants, and five SCRAP graduates now fulfilling the roles of project coordinator and consultants. SCRAP trains youth, providing them with the knowledge and skills to contribute to reshaping the discourse on general and complete disarmament, and with the expertise to build a career in the field. SCRAP facilitates students’ engagement with specific advocacy roles vis-à-vis policymakers and UN officials, and supports them in a wide range of activities, including research, advocacy, events, webinars, social media outreach, and podcasts. The organisation’s dedication to nurturing the future leaders of arms control and disarmament earned a commendation from Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, who in a video-message praised SCRAP and its Director, Prof. Dan Plesch, for his commitment “to train the next generation of disarmament thinkers”.

SCRAP Weapons: an introduction
SCRAP Weapons (Strategic Concept for the Removal of Arms and Proliferation) is a disarmament project housed at SOAS University of London (UK). Through pioneering research and steadfast advocacy, SCRAP Weapons is significantly advancing arms control and disarmament both within United Nations multilateral fora and beyond. SCRAP’s primary commitment lies in leading a global campaign to request the reactivation of the UN General Assembly mechanism of special sessions on disarmament, in order to overcome the impasse in international disarmament negotiations, and advance discussions in reforming the disarmament machinery.

Additional SCRAP’s advocacy areas include: advancing an agenda of general and complete disarmament through the presentation of a draft treaty that can start off negotiations among Member States; incorporating the human rights discourse into the disarmament agenda; engaging with global religious institutions to associate interreligious dialogue and peacebuilding efforts with disarmament; countering militarism and its connection with patriarchy; promoting feminist leadership and attention to intersectionality; investigating opensource technologies, and researching military balances and counterforce capabilities.
Disarmament and non-proliferation education through capacity-building and advocacy activities

SCRAP’s work is propelled by the enthusiasm and energy of its student body, consisting of approximately 15 students, who currently work for the organisation as volunteer project assistants – as well as five SCRAP graduates, now fulfilling the roles of project coordinator and consultants. In all its activities, SCRAP prioritises investing in the capacity-building of its project assistants, allowing them to gain practical experience on several fronts: from conducting research and compiling written pieces to be published on SCRAP’s blog, to liaising with scholars and diplomats, participating in webinars, conferences, and events as speakers or moderators, producing engaging social media content, and other activities, with the ultimate goal of providing skills and expertise to enable them to work in disarmament and peace-building. In addition, this capacity-building work creates a “chain reaction”, allowing the students to spread the word and educate future youth. Two volunteers from SCRAP Weapons have been selected as part of the 15 youth chosen from a pool of over 1,000 applicants to participate in the prestigious United Nations Youth Champions for Disarmament training program. This achievement underscores SCRAP’s dedication to nurturing the next generation of leaders in disarmament efforts. In addition, beyond capacity-building, SCRAP offers the most committed students paid opportunities, allowing them to kickstart a career in the field.

SCRAP Weapons’ Educational Efforts in Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

1. A Draft Framework for a Treaty on General and Complete Disarmament
   - Project assistants have presented SCRAP’s proposal of a draft framework for a Treaty on General and Complete Disarmament in numerous global fora, including their own countries’ UN delegations and Ministries of Foreign Affairs, in view of discussing strategies for negotiation among UN member states. This enabled students to develop lobbying experience and have direct contact with high-level diplomatic institutions.

2. Activating a Fourth Special Session on Disarmament at the United Nations General Assembly
   - SCRAP Weapons have been organising a series of civil society consultations and conferences with various disarmament, human rights and religious organisations, in Geneva, New York, London and as online webinars. The objective is to build support towards Brazil’s efforts in gathering consensus to present a resolution to convene a UN Special Session on Disarmament at the UN First Committee this year (2024). Early in 2023, SCRAP established direct and ongoing contact with H.E. Ambassador Flávio S. Damico, Special Representative of Brazil to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, following Brazil’s call on states at the General Assembly First Committee meeting in 2022, to initiate consultations on the convening of the Preparatory Committee of a Special Session on Disarmament. The SCRAP team has since then facilitated a number of roundtable discussions between Brazil and other states’ delegations at the UN and the Conference on Disarmament:
     - Activating a UN Special Session on Disarmament [6 September 2022]: SCRAP project assistants helped with the organisation of “Activating a UN Special Session on Disarmament”, a high-level conference at SOAS University of London in collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The event featured distinguished speakers,
including high-level representatives and ambassadors from Guatemala, the Holy See, Indonesia, and Uruguay, as well as counsellors from the UN, religious groups, and disarmament organisations. The conference attracted a global audience of over 300 participants, both in-person and online;

○ **Today’s Era Must Not Be of War** [24 February 2023]: Project assistants assisted with and spoke at the successful hybrid conference alongside representatives from King’s College London, OXFAM, Soka Gakkai and Youth4TPNW, among others, to build a global constituency to support the convening of the next Special Session on Disarmament and take its agenda to the United Nations General Assembly, in order to uphold the United Nations’ sixteenth Sustainable Development Goal of ‘peace, justice and strong institutions’;

○ **The New Agenda for Peace and a UN Special Session on Disarmament** [25 January 2024]: with the help of project assistants, SCRAP, OXFAM and the Canadian Pugwash Group held a discussion on the New Agenda for Peace, the Secretary-General’s call for the reform of the disarmament machinery and the need to convene a Special Session on Disarmament;

○ **Harmony in Disarmament: Upholding the Human Right to a Safe and Healthy Environment** [26 March 2024]: SCRAP involved project assistants in organising a virtual roundtable discussion with Parliament of the World’s Religions, Justice for all, the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace, and Security to the United Nations, and Soka Gakkai International, to discuss the current global disarmament and human rights landscapes, and the impact a Fourth Special Session on Disarmament could have on addressing threats to peace and the environment;

○ **Interreligious Dialogue on Activating a Special Session on Disarmament** [17 April 2024]: SCRAP and Pax Christi organised a civil society consultation to commemorate the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS 2024) and to reinvigorate discussions on the urgent need for states to consider disarmament and divestment and the potential role of civil society in realising these goals.

*First Committee 2023*

- In October 2023 SCRAP sent three delegates from its team to the UN Headquarters in New York to attend the UN General Assembly First Committee sessions focusing on disarmament, to lobby for the convening of a Special Session on Disarmament (SSOD) in the near future:

  ○ Whilst attending the UN General Assembly First Committee sessions in October 2023, SCRAP was also able to build a coalition of civil society actors including NGOs, faith-based representatives, and academics, who have explicitly endorsed and supported SCRAP’s goal of convening an SSOD by signing an [Open Letter](#) that SCRAP has drafted, in cooperation with Ambassador (Ret.) Paul Meyer (Director, Canadian Pugwash Group), which now has over 140 signatories and counting;
Interreligious Dialogue and Disarmament [5 October 2023]: SCRAP Weapons, represented by a project coordinator and a project assistant, hosted a side event to the First Committee with the Episcopal Church and OXFAM, inviting speakers from different faith-based organisations and religious denominations to contribute to a panel along with researchers, former UN officials and NGOs on the theme of “Interreligious Dialogue and Disarmament,” held at the Episcopal Church Centre in New York.

Summit of the Future

In May 2024, SCRAP funded a project assistant from Kenya to represent SCRAP in person at the 2024 UN Civil Society Conference on the Summit of the Future happening in Nairobi (May 2024). This was an occasion for SCRAP to introduce the agenda of disarmament to the numerous organisations attending the conference and working in peace-building, who had never considered incorporating disarmament into their own agenda. It was also an opportunity to liaise with numerous civil society groups based in Africa. Many of these have joined SCRAP’s global Impact Coalition advocating for a Special Session on Disarmament:

UNCSC 2024 Side Event: Activating a UN Special Session on Disarmament [9 May 2024]: At the sideline of the conference held in Nairobi, SCRAP, in partnership with the International Peace Bureau (IPB), hosted an online event titled “Activating a UN Special Session on Disarmament”, to discuss the current disarmament landscape and how as civil society we might ensure the effective implementation of recommendations in the New Agenda for Peace, as well as the Pact for the Future. The event covered an array of topics, including the role of a UN Special Session, gender perspectives on disarmament, proliferation of 3D printed firearms, debates on “Zero Missiles” global security proposals, and reflections on the discourse of Common Security.

3. Open Source Intelligence

Open Source Investigations in the Age of Google: this publication is the output of SCRAP’s research, edited by the director and committee members, aimed at teaching youth about using open source technological tools to carry out investigations about illicit arms traffics. Released in Asia in May 2024, and soon to be published worldwide with open access, Open Source Investigations in the Age of Google is an interdisciplinary book, presenting 18 original chapters by prize-winning practitioners and experts, detailing what open source investigations are and how they are carried out, and examining the opportunities and challenges they present to global transparency, accountability and justice. It is an essential reading for current and future digital investigators, journalists, and scholars of global governance, international relations and humanitarian law, as well as anyone interested in the possibilities and dangers of this new field;

www.globalweaponstracking.com: From April to June 2022 SCRAP worked with a team of undergraduate students from US Worcester Polytechnic Institute (Worcester, Mass.) to continue developing its Global Weapons Tracking Portal, which serves as a platform for
organisations that use open source investigations to track weapons and weapons uses. A recording of the website launch can be found here;

- On June, 21st, 2022, the SCRAP team held a workshop titled “Open Source Satellite Technologies for Weapons Tracking Transparency” at the Youth4TPNW side-event of the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

4. The Military balance: NATO-China-Russia counterforce

- Project assistants authored opinion pieces on the Taiwan Strait Military Balance, clearly explaining and demystifying US and Chinese conventional weapon capabilities in the region. The two articles can be found here and here;

- SCRAP Weapons conducted outreach to Chinese universities, like Tsinghua and Peking University, that are both at the forefront of arms control research. On 27th October, a SCRAP project assistant based in China made a presentation on the topic of Emerging Technologies and International Arms Control at Tsinghua University’s Centre for International Security and Strategy in Beijing.

5. Feminist Leadership in Disarmament

- Feminist Leadership in Disarmament Webinar Series: SCRAP Weapons has successfully facilitated conversations on the gendered impact of war, highlighting leading voices in the field, which resulted in the development of three successive webinar series.
  - Feminist Leadership in Disarmament 3.0: Advocating General and Complete Disarmament with Gender and Intersectionality: The third season of the webinar series took place from May to June 2022. This edition featured insightful speakers, such as Bedi Racule and Tamatoa Tepuhiairi, respectively from the Fiji and the Marshall Islands, who shed light on the linkages between the environmental consequences of nuclear tests and the disproportionate effects on women and girls, and Monalisa Hazarika, who elaborated on the effects of uranium mining on indigenous populations and the implications for their rights;

- Zeitschrift für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung (ZeFKo - Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies) Special Issue: SCRAP Weapons’ project assistants coordinated the publication of a Special Issue in the important German academic journal “ZeFKO Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies”. They managed to gather prominent scholars in the field to compose a total of ten articles, covering topics ranging from feminist approaches to disarmament to women’s representation in the UN and roles in peace and conflict-resolution mechanisms. A link to the Special Issue, published on 4 January 2024, may be found here. This occasion was marked by a launch event at SOAS University, which included presentations from all the authors. A video recording of the launch event may be found here;

- On 24 September 2023, SCRAP presented its analysis of the UN Secretary-General’s New Agenda for Peace from a gender perspective (including research on feminist leadership in disarmament) at the UN NGO Committee on the Status of Women New York (CSW-NGO/NY),
following the successful reception of articles published by Project Coordinator, Eloisa Romani and Consultant, Zahraa Kapasi in *The Conversation* and *Pass Blue*. The online event had a following of over 400 people from numerous world NGOs and feminist organisations. There was positive feedback from the audience, with requests of engagement given SCRAP’s expertise in disarmament. The event recording can be found [here](#).

6. **Conversations on the Arms Industry**

- From April to June 2023, project assistants co-organized a webinar series called “*Conversation on the Arms Industry*”. Spanning across three webinars, “A Glimpse Into the Laws and Regulations Governing the Arms Trade”, “Bridging the Way Forward with Research and Development in Disarmament Technologies”, and “Narrowing the Gap Between Social Responsibilities and on the Ground Realities”, the series hosted an array of speakers from civil society, academia, think tanks and research institutes, who were asked to share insights into the complex realities of the industry. While organising and moderating this webinar series, project assistants gained invaluable skills in events management, stakeholders outreach and public speaking, and became proficient in drafting concept notes and outreach material to promote the webinars across various social media channels.

7. **Further Youth Engagement**

- A project assistant represented SCRAP at the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs’ Leaders4Tomorrow programme in New York in October 2022;

- In January 2023 and January 2024, SCRAP funded the participation of its team members to attend the Annual ISODARCO course in Italy;

- Some students represented SCRAP at the G7 Youth Summit in May 2023, hosted by ICAN in Hiroshima. The Hiroshima G7 Youth Summit gathered 50 young people from G7 countries and beyond, to advocate for their leaders to take concrete steps toward nuclear disarmament;

- SCRAP Weapons partnered with the youth network of *Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light* (HWPL), a global peacebuilding organisation, in planning workshops to teach students about disarmament, facilitate the building of a culture of peace and creating a space to foster youth involvement more prominently in disarmament, peace and security;

8. **Student-let Research**

- SCRAP’s project assistants have the opportunity to publish articles on the SCRAP Weapons blog, which is a reflection of their learning experiences.

9. **Social media and podcasts**

- SCRAP Weapons’ podcast series, “In Conversation With SCRAP Weapons” (available [here](#)), is a student initiative, hosted as a platform for project assistants to share what they have learnt from SCRAP about disarmament and their wider experiences in the field;
Students also contribute to SCRAP’s campaigns and social media outreach on Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and Youtube, through graphic design works and content creation. Project assistants gained also invaluable skills in using tools such as Canva or Mailchimp.