



**Media Release 24/10/2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Brazilians Deserve Better

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) has condemned anti-gun lobbyists' criticism of the Brazilian people.

"The citizens of Brazil, through majority vote, have decided that they wish to retain the ability to purchase firearms. Instead of acknowledging the democratic process, gun prohibitionists are now castigating the people of Brazil for failing to ban the legitimate acquisition of firearms," said WiSH Chairwoman Ms Samara McPhedran.

The referendum to prohibit legal firearm purchases has received a vote of approximately 65% to retain legal firearms ownership and just 35% in favour of prohibition, with around 75% of votes counted. The referendum cost the Government of Brazil an estimated \$100 million.

Ms McPhedran explained that "Gun prohibitionists claimed that banning guns would solve violence, and lobbied until they convinced politicians to spend millions of dollars on an ideologically motivated referendum. Anti-gun lobbyists were responsible for the misdirection of scant resources, but are now defending themselves by claiming that the people of Brazil were led astray by the so-called 'gun lobby'."

"This is an insult to Brazilians. The citizens of Brazil clearly understand, and indeed have sent the irrefutable message, that social stability cannot be restored by banning guns. If the millions of dollars spent on the referendum, and on the prohibition campaign, had instead gone into desperately needed development programs, just think of the positive changes that could have been wrought for all Brazilians," finished Ms McPhedran.

Contact:

Ms Samara McPhedran – 0415 963 189

Chair, International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH)

www.ic-wish.org

WOMEN ON TARGET FOR POSITIVE CHANGE