Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons

Our Last Chance?
It ain’t just littering anymore.
This is serious shit.
We are at a tipping point.

Several existential crises are converging, and we have no clue how to deal with any of them, let alone the many intersections among them all.

**Climate change is spiraling out of control.** Whatever corrections we try now may be too little and too late.

**Covid 19 has engulfed human populations all over the world.** The disproportionate health effects and resultant mortalities among the poorest economies illustrate widespread inequalities in all societies.

**Nuclear arsenals continue to expand** in all 9 nuclear armed countries, to the financial benefit of a few multinational corporations, and threatening all life on earth more drastically every year.

We have no one to blame but ourselves.
And to add to our confusion, there is a bewildering array of acronyms to guide us. Just in the field of nuclear weapons: these are three we will confront here.

- **NPT**
  - Non-Proliferation Treaty
  - United Nations, 1970

- **NPR**
  - Nuclear Posture Review
  - Every administration since 1994

- **TPNW**
  - Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons
  - United Nations, 2021
Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Because the first action taken by the United Nations in 1946 was to pass Resolution 1, which declared nuclear weapons to be incompatible with international peace and security, and established the First Committee to direct the work of nuclear disarmament, it was the UN that developed this treaty 20 years later. It was signed by 191 nations, including the 5 nuclear nations at that time: US, Russia, Britain, France, and China.

It is still in effect.
Non-Proliferation Treaty 1970

- United States had 26,008 nukes
- Russian Federation had 11,643
- United Kingdom had 394
- China had 75
- France had 36

- share peaceful uses of nuclear energy
- no new nations would develop nuclear weapons
- promised to pursue mutual warhead reductions to complete nuclear disarmament

But the nuclear virus spread to Israel, Pakistan, India, and North Korea

- We are now engaged in a new arms race, taking the threat to a whole new level.

“Modernization”
So far, the NPT and Blind Luck have kept us safe from global nuclear catastrophe.

Total numbers of nukes may have decreased, but the destructive potential of remaining warheads is far greater now.

Next up:

US Government’s internal Nuclear Posture Review
Nuclear Posture Review
Regular re-assessment of how many nuclear weapons the US has, what types of warheads and carrying vehicles, and whether they meet the strategic needs at the time.

It is no surprise that every review has demanded more funding for nukes.

Who is making these decisions?

Who is benefitting?

Who pays?

Who really pays?

Defense Department

Arms Manufacturers

Peace and Security of the Whole World

Presidential Legacy

US Taxpayers
First Nuclear Posture Review  1994,
1993 US Nuclear Arsenal totaled 11,500 warheads.
President Bill Clinton.
Reaction to the previous nuclear arsenal downsizing begun under Ronald Reagan and continued by George H W Bush.
The NPR recommended expanding entire triad
More bombers, submarines, and ICBMs

Second Nuclear Posture Review  2002
2001 US Nuclear Arsenal was 10,500 warheads
President George W Bush
No cuts proposed, but it called for requiring the
"Pentagon to draft contingency plans for the use of nuclear weapons against at least seven countries, naming not only Russia and the ‘axis of evil’—Iraq, Iran, and North Korea—but also China, Libya and Syria."

2010 Nuclear Posture Review

Coming soon after President Barack Obama’s 2009 speech in Prague, this was expected to commit the US to serious reductions in nuclear warheads and systems. In fact, the only move in that direction was to renew START negotiations with Russia. What quickly emerged was “Modernization”: the 30 year program now underway to upgrade, rebuild, and replace the entire nuclear arsenal. This was the bargain: New START for Modernization.

2018 Nuclear Posture Review

Donald Trump not only exposed the modernization program for the Military-Industrial-Complex’s Golden Opportunity that it is, the 2018 NPR went even farther, committing to weapons systems that had been considered and dismissed years ago. As a result, down payments have already been made to make new short range missiles, experimental weapon systems like hypersonic missiles, and the new warheads and new plutonium pits that will arm them.
2021 Nuclear Posture Review is now underway

We shouldn’t be surprised when it promises more spending for more new weapons, and no substantive move toward disarmament.
This is the 2022 Military Budget submitted by the House Armed Services Committee, September 16, 2021:

$778 Billion total, a 9.5% increase, of which $18.14 Billion is dedicated to Nuclear Weapons

And the Senate will likely add more
It is obvious, we are stuck in the madness and must depend on the rationality of the rest of the world to solve many of the problems we in the United States have created.

For nuclear weapons, it is the TPNW Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

The pattern for this treaty has been the successful prohibition of Biological Weapons in 1975, Chemical Weapons in 1997, Landmines in 1997, and Cluster munitions in 2010, All negotiated through the United Nations.
For nuclear weapons, it is the TPNW

On 7 July 2017 – following a decade of advocacy by ICAN and its partners – an overwhelming majority of the world’s nations adopted a landmark global agreement to ban nuclear weapons, known officially as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It entered into force on 22 January 2021.
ICAN
TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS
INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Steering Group:

Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy. London, UK

African Council of Religious Leaders - Religions for Peace. Nairobi, Kenya

Article 36. London, UK


Norwegian People's Aid. Oslo, Norway

Pacific Network on Globalization (PANG). Suva, Fiji Islands

PAX. Utrecht, Netherlands

Peace Boat. Tokyo, Japan

Swedish Physicians against Nuclear Weapons. Stockholm, Sweden

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. New York, US
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Digital Campaign Coordinator

Seth Shelden
United Nations Liaison

Hawa Metz
Administrative and Grants Officer

Venessa Hanson
Social Media Project Officer

Florian Eblenkamp
Campaign Intern

Susi Snyder
Financial Sector Coordinator
Text of the TPNW

The States Parties to this Treaty, Determined to contribute to the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, Have agreed as follows:

(Article 1 Prohibitions)

Each State Party undertakes never under any circumstances to:

(a) Develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;
(b) Transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices directly or indirectly;
(c) Receive the transfer of or control over nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices directly or indirectly;
(d) Use or threaten to use nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;
(e) Assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Treaty;
(f) Seek or receive any assistance, in any way, from anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Treaty;
(g) Allow any stationing, installation or deployment of any nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in its territory or at any place under its jurisdiction or control.

There are currently 86 signatories and 56 states parties.

The first meeting of states parties to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons will take place at the United Nations Office in Vienna from 22 to 24 March 2022. The President-designate of the meeting is Austria's Alexander Kmentt.

At this inaugural meeting, States parties to the TPNW will gather to commit to concrete actions to implement obligations under the Treaty, including providing assistance to victims of nuclear weapon use and testing, beginning to remediate contaminated environments (Article 6) and universalising the treaty (Article 12).

It will also be an opportunity for States to discuss some of the treaty’s technical details, like setting a deadline for the elimination of nuclear weapons for nuclear-armed states that join (Article 4).
### States Parties to TPNW and effective dates

TPNW became International Law January 22, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
<td>25 November 2019</td>
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<td>Austria</td>
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<td>Cambodia</td>
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<td>Comoros</td>
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<td>Cuba</td>
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<td>Dominican Republic</td>
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<td>Vietnam</td>
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So, what is our task?

We the people of the United States must work like we never have before,
Lobbying Congress,
Informing and encouraging our fellow citizens that the madness must finally end.
Our nation must join the international community in banning and abolishing all nuclear weapons.

The world is offering us a solution to one of the great existential threats to life on earth,
the one we Americans created, and it is time we accepted their help, and join the
Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
in good faith.
www.icanw.org
These are two international peace and disarmament groups who have been around for decades, and are leading the current efforts:

**Womens’ International League for Peace and Freedom**: [https://www.wilpf.org/](https://www.wilpf.org/)

**International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War**: [https://www.ippnw.org/](https://www.ippnw.org/)

More recent leader in nuclear disarmament is **International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons**: They produced the **Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons**: [https://www.icanw.org/the_treaty](https://www.icanw.org/the_treaty)

To learn more about which corporations are financing the nuclear weapons and the vehicles that deliver them, as well as research and development for all things military, worldwide, **Don’t Bank on the Bomb**: [https://www.dontbankonthebomb.com/](https://www.dontbankonthebomb.com/)

Especially for divestment.

Here in the US, **Physicians for Social Responsibility local chapter WPSR** and **Washington Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons**, of which we are a member organization: [https://www.wanwcoalition.org/](https://www.wanwcoalition.org/)

Also in the US, **Beyond the Bomb** [https://beyondthebomb.org/](https://beyondthebomb.org/), and **Code Pink** [https://www.codepink.org/](https://www.codepink.org/)

Very Active group in Kitsap County is **Ground Zero Center for Non Violence**, [https://www.gzcenter.org/](https://www.gzcenter.org/)

And us: [https://www.nomorebombs.org/](https://www.nomorebombs.org/)

Please join this important mission, any way you can. Contact us or any of these groups with your ideas and suggestions. Our website has links to more groups as well. Just as importantly, please share with family and friends. We are all in this together.