ABOUT THE UN NUCLEAR BAN TREATY

What is the Nuclear Ban Treaty?

The full name is the The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, (TPNW). It was adopted by the United Nations in July of 2017.

What does the Treaty do?

The Treaty makes it illegal to develop, test, produce, manufacture, acquire, possess, stockpile, transfer, receive, use or even threaten to use nuclear weapons or explosive nuclear devices.

Who signed the Treaty?

122 countries voted to adopt the Treaty in July 2017. The United States led a boycott of the negotiations and refused to sign, along with other countries with nuclear weapons.

If none of the nuclear-armed states have joined the treaty so far is the treaty symbolic?

No, the TPNW is the first instrument of international law to clearly outlaw the development, possession, hosting, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons. The ban treaty is a crucial element in efforts to stigmatise and eliminate nuclear weapons. The proponents of the treaty did not anticipate the nuclear-armed states to be onside straight away. Like the treaties prohibiting other abhorrent weapons, the TPNW will work over time to strengthen the stigma against nuclear weapons, de-legitimising nuclear deterrence and the very possession of the weapon.

WHAT CAN I DO TO URGE THE UNITED STATES TO SIGN THE TREATY?

CONTACT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS: It's important at every opportunity to urge our government to sign the treaty by contacting our Congressional representatives, the UN Ambassador and the President.

EDUCATE ABOUT THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS: Bring in speakers, such as members of the VFP Golden Rule project (www.vfpgoldenruleproject.org), hand out flyers, write letters to your local papers.

DIVEST: Campaigns such as "Stop Banking the Bomb" are opportunities to urge businesses and banks to stop profiting off the nuclear weapons industry. The campaigns provide opportunities to educate the public and your community about the dangers of nuclear weapons (www.stopbankingthebomb.org).

Sources: ICAN, Stop Banking the Bomb, VFP Golden Rule, and NuclearBan.US

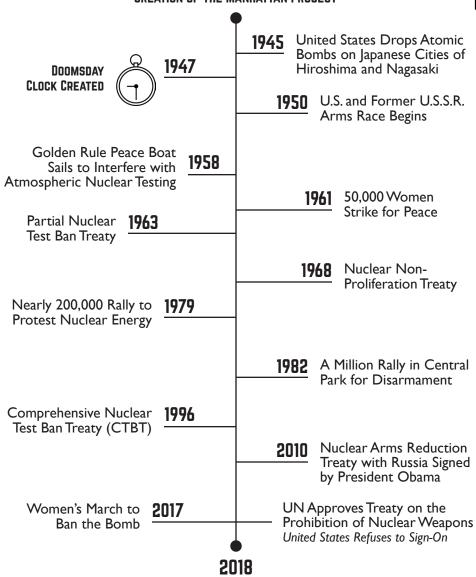


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