Affected Communities Statement

To the Second Meeting of States Parties to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, 2023



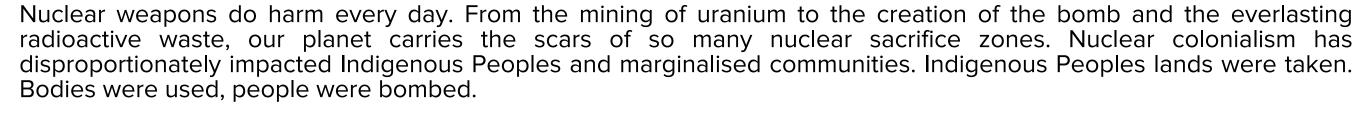
We are people bound together by what nuclear weapons have inflicted. Our lives, our lands, our waters, and our communities were permanently changed by the development, testing and use of nuclear weapons. Our struggles against radioactive violence have continued for many decades, throughout the generations. We have the right and responsibility to speak about what nuclear weapons really do.



War rages around us. It's heartbreaking that nuclear weapons still exist in the 21st Century. Are we adding to life or are we adding to death? Our common humanity is undermined by the existential threat hanging over us, that nuclear weapons will again unleash mass terror, contaminating our homes and our bodies, again.











Indigenous Peoples carry responsibility and share connections to the lands, air, oceans, and waters, acting as guardians of life. This includes all living creatures, animals, and plants, some of which are sacred and others of which are food and medicine. Environmental violence impacts all of Mother Earth. Our sacred cultural heritage has been under attack, creating displacement for many survivors. We feel as though governments are waiting for us to vanish, hoping their responsibilities will die with us. But the effects continue for our children and grandchildren and beyond. We are anxious about the future. How much longer will we suffer?





As affected communities, we acknowledge the initial and robust advocacy of our predecessors and Elders. We have rights and dignity to firmly reclaim the life force that nuclear weapons attempted to take away. With the next generations, there is not only hope but also an assurance of continued advocacy for justice, as long as nuclear colonialism is not ended, and justice is not granted to our communities.



Together with the global community, we have banned nuclear weapons. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons holds great potential and is the first of its kind to take into account communities affected by nuclear weapons.





Healing comes through action.

We call for all states to do everything in their conscious power to implement Articles 6 and 7.





We call for the clean-up of our contaminated lands and waters. We call for assistance for victims and survivors, whether we are Indigenous Peoples, hibakusha, hibakunisei, nuclear veterans, test survivors, downwinders, or anyone whose lives are scarred by the intergenerational harms caused by the development and production of these weapons of mass destruction. We deserve recognition, respect, and reparations.



States, institutions, and companies that are enabling and funding nuclear destruction must stop. We call for the nucleararmed states, in particular, to join the Treaty and be accountable for their actions.



We call on States Parties to the TPNW to push relentlessly for its universalisation.



We hope that governments of the day recognise that Indigenous Peoples rights matter, as do the rights of all victims of 🃳 nuclear bombs everywhere.





Finally, let us all commit to put an end to the possession, development, testing, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, so that not one more person will suffer as we have.



NUCLEAR AGE

PEACE

OUNDATION



- Asia Pacific Network of Environment Defenders Pacific Australian Nuclear Free Alliance - Australia
- Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety USA Eastern Navajo Diné Against Uranium Mining - USA
- Fiji Nuclear Veterans Association Fiji • Hiroshima Alliance for Nuclear Weapons Abolition - Japan
- Indigenous Life Ways Inc USA
- Indigenous World Association Canada
- Japanese Liaison Council of Second-Generation Atomic Bomb
- **Survivors Japan** Jharkhand Organisation Against Radiation - India
- LABRATS UK Laguna Acoma Coalition for a Safe Environment - USA
- Marshallese Education Initiative Marshall Islands Moruroa e Tātou - Maohi Nui / French Polynesia
- Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment USA NIHON HIDANKYO (Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb
- Sufferers Orgs) Japan
- **Nuclear Truth Project International**
- **Pacific Conference of Churches Pacific**
- Pacific Network on Globalisation Pacific
- **REACH-MI Marshall Islands** Southwest Indigenous Uranium Forum - USA
- Taourirt Association Algeria Tewa Women United - USA
- The Lop Nor Project China
- West Mallee Protection Australia Youngsolwara Pacific - Pacific

SUPPORTED BY:

- ANT-Hiroshima Japan • Article 36 - UK
- Association of Citizens for the Support of South Korean Atomic
- **Bomb Victims Japan** • Australian Conservation Foundation - Australia
- beHuman Singapore Congolese Civil Society of South Africa - South Africa
- Connect Hiroshima Japan
- Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace USA
- GENSUIKIN (Japan Congress against A-and H-Bombs) Japan Global Campaign for Peace Education Japan - Japan
- HELP Resources Papua New Guinea
- ICAN International
- ICAN Aotearoa New Zealand New Zealand
- ICAN Australia Australia
- ICAN France France
- ICAN Germany Germany
- International Association of Liberal Religious Women Japan • International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War -
- International **KNOW NUKES TOKYO - Japan**
- Norwegian Physicians Against Nuclear Weapons Norway
- Nuclear Age Peace Foundation USA • Nuclear Free Western Australia - Australia
- Nuclear Resister USA

- Nuclear Watch New Mexico USA
- Nukewatch USA Peace Action - USA
- Peace Boat Japan Peace Depot - Japan
- Peace Movement Aotearoa New Zealand Peace, Justice, Sustainability NOW! - USA
- Peaceplatform Japan Peoples' Federation for National Peace and Development -
- Malawi • Physicians Against Nuclear War - Japan
- Reverse the Trend: Save Our People, Save Our Planet -**USA/Pacific**
- Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament Scotland
- Secure Scotland Scotland SHOAA for Human Rights - UK
- Soka Gakkai International International • Swedish Physicians Against Nuclear Weapons - Sweden
- WE Rotary WORLD USA
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom -
- International World Friendship Center - Japan
- Youth for TPNW International
- Youth Nuclear Peace Summit Canada YWCA of Japan - Japan





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