

Public Statement on the Adoption of The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Faith Communities Concerned about Nuclear Weapons

On July 7, 2017, more than 120 states gathered at UN Headquarters in New York adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Having repeatedly voiced our grave concerns about the humanitarian and environmental consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, we wholeheartedly welcome the adoption of this Treaty as a vital step toward the goal of a world free from nuclear weapons.

Our respective faith traditions advocate for the right of people and all living things to live in security and dignity. We believe in the commands of conscience and justice; we seek to honor our duty to protect the vulnerable and to exercise the stewardship that will safeguard the planet for future generations. Nuclear weapons are entirely incompatible with these values and commitments, and manifest a total disregard for the principles of humanity.

We recognize and applaud the courage shown by the states represented in these conferences, the invaluable efforts by the UN and other international organizations, as well as of civil society, which have resulted in the realization of this Treaty. We offer our particular respect to the hibakusha (a-bomb survivors), victims of nuclear tests and others suffering from the effects of radiation from the manufacture of nuclear weapons and environmental degradation of their homelands, whose experiences and advocacy have demonstrated that the fundamental purpose of this Treaty must be to prevent the unacceptable suffering and harm they have endured from being visited on any other individual, family or society.

It is now vital that the principles and norms of this Treaty be widely disseminated among the world's peoples in order to achieve its universal adoption and implementation. As people of faith we accept as our special responsibility the work of raising awareness of the risks and consequences of nuclear weapons for current and future generations, awakening public conscience to build a global popular constituency in support of the Treaty in order to achieve and sustain a world free from nuclear weapons.
