

DISGRACEFUL WEAPONS



Soka Gakkai
International



ICAN
PARTNER
2017 NOBEL
PEACE
PRIZE

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

**THE
BAN
IS
HERE**



**A new effort to end the era of nuclear weapons has begun.
The UN treaty banning nuclear weapons has
become part of international law!**

In July 2017, at the UN Headquarters in New York, 122 countries voted in favor of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Nuclear weapons are the only weapons of mass destruction that have never been prohibited by a treaty.



On January 22, 2021, the treaty banning nuclear weapons “entered into force,” officially becoming part of international law.

WHAT IS **THE TREATY BANNING NUCLEAR WEAPONS?**

This treaty bans all acts related to nuclear weapons, from their development, manufacture and possession, to using or threatening to use them. Most of all, it makes clear that nuclear weapons are weapons that must never be used under any circumstance.

The treaty clearly recognizes suffering and efforts of the victims of nuclear weapons, the *hibakusha*. It is the crystallization of the pledge of the *hibakusha* of the world, including the victims of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, that no one should ever have to endure what they have suffered.



THE ROAD TO THE TREATY



The reason why this treaty was established is simple: because for too long no progress had been made toward nuclear disarmament. Nuclear disarmament is a national obligation under another treaty on nuclear weapons, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Despite this, there are still over 10,000 nuclear weapons in the world.

Efforts for nuclear disarmament that had been stagnant for decades took a major turn with the growing awareness, based on *hibakushas'* experience, that nuclear weapons are not something that protects one's security but cruel weapons that afflict countless people. The inhumane nature of nuclear weapons was at the heart of international conferences held in

Norway, Mexico, and Austria starting in 2013. These led to negotiations at the UN and, in 2017, the treaty banning nuclear weapons (TPNW) was adopted.

It is widely acknowledged that civil society played a major role in the adoption of the treaty. In 2017, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its leadership in such efforts.



* SGI has collaborated with ICAN as an international partner since its founding in 2007.





WHAT IS A BAN on NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

As of now, no country possessing nuclear weapons or relying on other states' nuclear weapons has joined the treaty. Now that the treaty has officially become international law and nuclear weapons are recognized as illegal, views on nuclear weapons have started to change. For example, some major banks and corporations have stopped investing in these cruel and shameful weapons. In this way, countries possessing or relying on nuclear weapons are restricted from activities related to nuclear weapons even if they do not participate in the treaty. This will help prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and ultimately lead to their elimination.

FROM PROHIBITION TO ELIMINATION

The TPNW bans all activities related to nuclear weapons—with no exceptions. As the number of countries participating in the treaty increases and the voices of people calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons grow louder, the idea that nuclear weapons are disgraceful will gain traction throughout society, thus strengthening the power of the treaty.

A conference of the governments that have joined the treaty will be held regularly to discuss the impact of the treaty. This conference is open to governments that have not joined the treaty, international organizations and NGOs. Now is the time for dialogue among all countries on concrete steps to get rid of nuclear weapons. The ultimate goal is not only to ban nuclear weapons but also to get rid of them forever. Towards that end, it is essential that ordinary citizens everywhere show their support for a world without nuclear weapons.



Q1

What kind of world is the world without nuclear weapons envisioned in the treaty?

A

That's the world where no one is left behind!

In fact, if we ban and abolish nuclear weapons, we can greatly change the world in which we live. For example, about 30% of the world's annual investment in nuclear weapons is enough to develop renewable energy and fight climate change. Nuclear weapons are not abstract. They have an impact on our daily lives.

Q2

I want to do something for this issue but don't know what I can do...

A

Talk about nuclear weapons and the ban treaty with the people you treasure!

The first thing you can do is to learn and share. This is something anyone can do, right now. Our actions are based on what we value in life. You may feel that your actions will not contribute to the elimination of nuclear weapons, but they can. You can help raise public awareness and take a major step toward a world free from nuclear weapons.

#nuclearban

Q & A



WHAT CAN WE DO NOW?



Ask your family and friends if they know about the treaty banning nuclear weapons (TPNW).

Talk with them about how they understand nuclear weapons.

Use this pocketbook to talk to them about nuclear weapons, why we don't need them and how we can eliminate them.

Soka Gakkai website: <https://www.sokaglobal.org/in-society.html>

ICAN website: <https://www.icanw.org/>

ICAN Twitter: @nuclearban #nuclearban