

# The Case for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

## Humanitarian

There is no effective humanitarian response, or meaningful health response, to the use of nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons are unique in their destructive power; in the unspeakable human suffering they cause, and in the threat they pose to the environment, to future generations, and indeed to the survival of humanity.

## Environment

Nuclear weapons have the capacity to destroy all complex life forms on earth. The use of even a fraction of current arsenals would cause catastrophic climate disruption, a devastating agricultural collapse, and a global famine that could kill two billion people. And as climate change progresses, the danger of nuclear war will increase dramatically as nations experience limited food and water resources and try to deal with forced migration that will dwarf the current refugee crisis.

## Security

Nuclear weapons do not make us safer. Far from keeping the peace, they breed fear and mistrust among nations, and are useless in addressing any of today's real security threats, such as terrorism, climate change, extreme poverty, overpopulation and disease. There are many documented instances of the near-use of nuclear weapons, and unless we eliminate them, they will almost certainly be used again, either intentionally or by accident, and the consequences will be catastrophic.

## Economics

Nuclear weapons programs divert public funds from health care, education, infrastructure repair, disaster relief and other vital services. The nine nuclear-armed nations spend many tens of billions of dollars each year maintaining and modernizing their nuclear arsenals.

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# NOW IS THE TIME TO TAKE ACTION

**On July 7, 2017, the United Nations approved a legally binding Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. At last, the world now has the first-ever treaty to ban all nuclear weapons.**

Unfortunately, the United States is one of the nations that strongly opposes such a ban. We believe this is contrary to the wishes of the majority of Americans and that it is imperative that the U.S. join with other nations in banning these horrendous weapons that, if ever used could destroy civilization and put at risk the future of humankind and all life on earth.

## **WHAT YOU CAN DO?**

1. Sign the WAMM postcards to Senators Franken and Klobuchar asking them to speak out publicly in support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Ask your friends to sign cards.
2. Join 5,200 others in signing the WAMM Petition to Ban Nuclear Weapons to be presented to the ten members of the MN Congressional delegation in October 2017. Get 20 friends to sign the petition.
3. Join a delegation to your elected officials' offices relative to banning these weapons. Call the WAMM office at 612-827-5364 if you are interested.
4. Encourage your mayor to join Mayors for Peace and ask him/her to speak out publicly about the need to use the money spent on nuclear weapons to meet the human needs of our communities.
5. Read "The Problem is Washington, Not North Korea" by Mike Whitney. Talk to your friends about the dangers of nuclear weapons.

Prepared by the WAMM Campaign to Ban All Nuclear Weapons – 612-827-5364 – [WomenAgainstMilitaryMadness.org](http://WomenAgainstMilitaryMadness.org)

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