

TALKING POINTS FOR INTERNATIONAL TREATY ADVOCACY

THE IRAN NUCLEAR “DEAL”

In May 2019 Trump abandoned this 2015 plan and has increased the US economic sanctions on Iran and is bullying other countries into not buying oil from Iran for example, not trading with Iran, further isolating the country. The US hopes that economic hardships will push Iranians towards a political uprising. But history shows when people feel their nation is being attacked they pull together “united we stand” style.

- These punishing sanctions have caused Iran to restart enriching uranium with the apparent goal of using it to make a nuclear bomb.
<https://www.armscontrol.org/blog/2019-07-09/p4-plus-1-iran-nuclear-deal-alert>
- While the nation’s leaders remain unmoved by these sanctions, the people of Iran are suffering from lack of access to medications, food, and the parts to repair cars, buses, and financial insecurity as their currency devalues. “Savings in the banks have lost their value, real estate market and rents are going up and every day—I mean literally every single day—the prices of food items, fruits, dairy products, etcetera, is increasing,” reports Tehran based political analyst Fereshteh Sadeghi. (Newsweek, Nov 15, 2018 <https://www.newsweek.com/do-us-sanctions-hurt-iran-everyday-people-suffer-most-1201954>)
- The others nations that signed this deal, many of whom are our long term global allies, are trying to deescalate tensions. Their evidence points to the reports of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) asserting that the nuclear ‘deal’, while imperfect, was working and keeping the world safe.
- **We have to prevent Iran making a nuclear weapon; such a possibility might make it easier for Israel and Saudi Arabia to target Iran.**
- The United Nations has declared that severe sanctions that affect the ability of the general population to buy food and medicine are immoral and illegal, under international human rights law, forms of coercion.

BACKGROUND:

- During very different times, the US handed Iran the means to start a nuclear program.
<https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2015/09/18/440567960/born-in-the-u-s-a-how-america-created-irans-nuclear-program>
At that time the US was supporting and propping up the repressive Shah after playing a role in ousting Iran’s democratically elected prime minister in 1953.
<https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/1979-iran-and-america/>
- The US has been increasingly weaponizing sanctions as a way of destroying the economy of nations it targets, fomenting discontent and encouraging regime change.

But this usually causes political instability and usually ignites conflicts that are quickly violent and out of control. The ordinary people of these nations, especially women and families, suffer. We've seen this in Venezuela, Cuba, and much of the global south. And inevitably the US is pulled into more long term 'endless wars'.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weaponization_of_finance ,

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/the-weaponization-of-sanctions-waging-war-by-other-means-against-russia/5651454>

www.Tiny.cc/IranDealHangingByAThread , [www.Tiny.cc/Banning Nuclear Weapons](http://www.Tiny.cc/Banning_Nuclear_Weapons)

Action:

Call, write and visit your congressional representatives to tell them that the intensity of US sanctions against Iran is illegal under international human rights law and they have caused Iran to restart its uranium enrichment program. Your reps must get these sanctions reduced and the US back into the JCPOA.

Use the **TALKING POINTS** to make your point. Use the **4 TREATIES HANDOUT** as a resource. Use the **LOBBY VISIT Outline** as a guide and to conduct community trainings for citizen advocacy. Use the **SAMPLE LETTERS** to send to your member of Congress and local media editor.

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THE INTERMEDIATE-RANGE NUCLEAR FORCES TREATY

This 1987 bilateral treaty prohibits both the US and Russia from possessing ground-launched missiles with ranges of 500-5,000km. Trump pulled us out of this peace-keeping treaty on August 2, 2019 and US proudly tested a similar, but sea-launched, missile 17 days later. Russian President Vladimir Putin suspended his country's own obligations to the treaty shortly after 2 August. Thus a new nuclear arms race is starting.

According to WILPF ally, the Ploughshares Fund, "we still have time to prevent the worst from happening. **Congress can stop the production of new weapons that the INF Treaty prohibits**. The production of these weapons would spur Russia and other countries to build more weapons and develop new capabilities, fueling a vicious cycle.

[www.Tiny.cc/INF Treaty Withdrawal](http://www.Tiny.cc/INF_Treaty-Withdrawal)

- The withdrawal of the U.S. from the INF Treaty will reverse the progress made by the treaty over the past 30 years. It could restart the Cold War between Russia and the U.S.; reinstate a nuclear arms race; further endanger Europe; and make nuclear war more likely.
- Trump claims that Russia has cheated on the agreement, but that is far from clear, and U.S. withdrawal from the treaty would leave Russia and the U.S. free to develop and deploy intermediate-range nuclear missiles without any constraints. Surely, that would be a far worse option for the U.S. and the world.
- Instead of withdrawal, the U.S. and Russia should resume negotiations to resolve any concerns on either side.
- The costs for maintaining and upgrading these weapons is obscene in the face of the extraordinary economic, human and infrastructure needs facing the US.
- In 2017 experts predicted a cost of \$1.2 trillion for maintaining, operating and modernizing these weapons systems, which our best generals have characterized as largely unusable. That \$1.2 trillion (in 2017 dollars) includes \$800 billion to operate and sustain existing forces, and \$400 billion to modernize them, through 2046.
- New modernized nuclear weapons will be smaller, more portable and more at risk to fall into the hands of terrorists.
- New F35 bombers, equipped to carry and deliver small nuclear weapons are estimated to cost between \$94 million (F-35A) and \$122 million (F-35B) for low-rate initial production run 10, though sustainment **cost** projections are as big a concern as production **costs** for a program that is expected to **cost** \$1.5 trillion over its 55-year lifespan.
- Among systems that will be updated in the next three decades are the Navy's replacement for the Ohio-class nuclear submarine; the Air Force's B-21, a new bomber design capable of both conventional and nuclear strike; the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent, a replacement for the existing Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles; and the Long Range Stand-Off weapon, a new nuclear cruise missile.
<https://www.defensenews.com/breaking-news/2017/10/31/americas-nuclear-weapons-will-cost-12-trillion-over-the-next-30-years/>
- F35 bombers are being stored at military bases across the country in highly populated cities which will be targets in the event of attack.
- At a time when American's water systems, energy grid, transportation system, bridge and tunnel infrastructure, education and health system are in need of significant investment, these expenditures are unconscionable.
- Homeland security should include efforts to preserve America's infrastructure, resources and invest in our educational future.

BACKGROUND

If the US is really sincere about protecting itself and the world from nuclear attacks, Congress should instruct the President to re-sign and ratify the NPT, the **Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty**. Read the eloquent reasoning behind this treaty and its content at <https://www.wagingpeace.org/treaty-on-the-non-proliferation-of-nuclear-weapons-npt/>

And the US should also join the nations who supported the 1996 **Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty**. Because 5 states rejected the treaty it was never activated.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comprehensive_Nuclear-Test-Ban_Treaty

<https://www.wagingpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/ctbt.pdf>

The US should also honor the **START Treaty** with Russia signed by President Obama in 2010 which reduced nuclear weapons between Russia and the US to 1500 on each side.

https://www.wagingpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/new_start.pdf

Action:

We need to stop our taxes being spent on nuclear weapons by telling our congressional reps to pass House BILL 2419 which would stop any further money being spent on modernizing our nuclear weapons and their delivery methods.

Call, write and visit your congressional representatives to tell them that further investment in nuclear weapons systems is taking the US in the wrong direction and making the world a more dangerous place, while stealing tax dollars that the American people want to use for critical human services and keeping America strong internally.

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THE KOREAN WAR PEACE TREATY - The “Treaty that never was”

On March 13, 2019 **WILPF**, together with leaders from the **Korean Women’s Movement for Peace** (<https://koreapeacenow.org/about/>), **Women Cross the DMZ** (<https://www.womencrossdmz.org/>) and the **Nobel Women’s Initiative** (<https://nobelwomensinitiative.org/about/>) launched our global campaign, “**KOREA PEACE NOW! WOMEN MOBILIZING TO END THE WAR**”.

The campaign mobilizes women peacemakers and representatives of national governments for the negotiation and ratification of a peace treaty between the Koreas by 2020 and a disarmed Korean Peninsula.

Goals:

By the end of 2020, the campaign aims to have made significant headway toward:

1. **Peace-building process** including a formal ending of the Korean War, a Korea peace treaty or agreement, and normalized relations.
2. **Tangible de-militarization** including denuclearization, removal of landmines, and reduction of bases/troops.
3. **Women's leadership and gender-based analysis** (government and civil society) in peace processes.
4. **Lift broad-based sanctions against North Korea**, especially those impacting humanitarian conditions.
5. **Redefine security** from national security based on war and militarism to a feminist understanding of security centered on basic human needs and ecological sustainability.

BACKGROUND: Why Now?**1. A peace agreement would eliminate — or greatly reduce — the possibility of a long and costly U.S. military conflict.**

- A fragile truce has defined U.S.-D.P.R.K. relations for 70 years, which means that war could break out at any time.
- It's estimated that as many as 300,000 people would die in the first few days of conventional fighting on the Korean Peninsula. Former Secretary of Defense James Mattis warned that a conflict with North Korea "would be probably the worst kind of fighting in most people's lifetimes."
- Because of provisions in the U.S.-R.O.K. Mutual Defense Treaty of 1953 and the Sino-North Korean Mutual Aid and Cooperation Friendship Treaty of 1961, a war with North Korea could legally force the United States and China into direct armed conflict with each other, leading to a much larger regional war.

2. A peace agreement would be a crucial step toward denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula.

- North Korea has stated that the primary impetus for its drive to achieve nuclear capability has been the immense nuclear threat posed to it by the United States, and has made it clear that it will not give up its nuclear weapons until the U.S. drops its "hostile policies" against Pyongyang.
- Peace is the necessary condition for denuclearization. To convince someone to put down a gun, you first have to convince them that they will not be harmed.
- The only way to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula is to end the Korean War, negotiate a peace agreement, and work toward normalizing relations.

3. A peace agreement would help improve humanitarian conditions for millions of North Koreans.

- The U.S. strategy of "maximum pressure" on North Korea resulted in several rounds of UN Security Council economic sanctions, unilateral U.S. sanctions, and an aggressive strategy by the U.S. State Department to force other countries to cut off

diplomatic ties with North Korea.

- Current sanctions have essentially cut off the humanitarian lifeline provided by UN agencies and aid groups for the most vulnerable populations in North Korea: More than 60,000 North Korean children are at risk of severe acute malnourishment — effectively a precursor to starvation — due to the disruption in the availability of humanitarian supplies caused by tightening sanctions.
- According to David Beasley, the head of the UN's World Food Program, a peace agreement with North Korea would greatly improve the country's food security woes.

4. **There is strong popular support for a peace agreement on the Korean Peninsula.**

- Polls show that 9 in 10 South Koreans want an end to the war.

5. **A peace agreement would be a major step toward ending the U.S. policy of perpetual war and shift national resources from the military to more basic human needs.**

- A peace agreement between the U.S. and North Korea would provide an opportunity to revise U.S. foreign policy and its \$700 billion military budget, which could go toward domestic investments that would improve genuine human and ecological security.
- A peace agreement would also help facilitate disarmament and demilitarization on the Korean peninsula. Rather than demanding North Korea's unilateral denuclearization as a precondition for a peace agreement, the agreement and peace process should provide the context for denuclearization, an end to the U.S.-South Korean nuclear relationship and military exercises, and demining efforts.

Action:

[H.Res. 152](#), introduced by Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.), calls for a formal end to the Korean War and the inclusion of women and civil society groups in the peace process.

Has your member of Congress become a **#KoreaPeaceChampion**?

Tell your Representative to cosponsor [H.Res. 152](#) and support peace on the Korean Peninsula!

Call, write and visit your congressional representatives to tell them to CO-SPONSOR House Resolution (HR) 152.

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Learn even more: <https://koreapeacenow.org/>
<https://truthout.org/articles/democrats-must-stop-dismissing-diplomacy-with-north-korea/>

THE VIENNA CONVENTION OF 1961

This treaty guarantees the independence and sovereignty of embassies in foreign lands.

- **Article 22 clearly states:**
“The receiving state may not enter the sending State’s premises unless the head of the sending state mission has consented to it. **The receiving State is under special duty to protect the premises of the mission of intrusion, damage, disturbance of the peace and impairment of its dignity.** The premises of the mission and means of transport of the mission shall be immune from search, requisition, attachment or execution.” <https://intl.law.co.uk/viennaconvention>
- The US was in violation of this treaty in 2019 when it expelled the “embassy protection group” who had occupied the Venezuelan Embassy in DC to protect the embassy of democratically elected President Maduro, after he had called his diplomats home, from illegal occupation by representatives of the non-elected US puppet Juan Guaido.
- The repercussions of this violation could be dramatic since the US has demonstrated that national sovereignty need not be honored when it illegally entered the Embassy to eject the peace activists, the “embassy protection group”. It places embassies of all nations at risk.
- America’s long standing suspicion and **reaction to democratically elected leaders who support a people-centered society and economy**, rather than a profit-driven model is well rehearsed throughout Latin America and has cost the US billions and hurt our reputation. <https://www.commondreams.org/views/2019/02/01/us-12-step-method-conduct-regime-change>
- After 40 years of abuse and corruption the results are being seen in high refugee rates from those nations in the global south who have endured US imposed economic and political instability <https://portside.org/2019-07-20/we-are-here-because-you-were-there-0> as well as training for authoritarian police forces.
- The late **Hugo Chavez**, former President of Venezuela, was the kind of leader whose economic justice policies and rejection of American hegemony inspired strong animosity from the US. https://www.huffpost.com/entry/president-hugo-chavez-and_b_2815848

BACKGROUND

The US clearly put its fingers on the scale of the Venezuelan crisis when it illegally entered the Venezuela Embassy in Washington DC in Spring 2019. While the administration of President Maduro is not without blame, he is still the elected representative of the people of Venezuela

and they have been very outspoken in rejecting US intervention, both political and military.

The opposition leader, Juan Guaido is the US's chosen successor to Maduro, based largely on his openness to political and economic incursions from the US. US and **transnational oil companies have been anxious to have Venezuela's rich oil industry privatized**, so that they can buy or simply acquire that very desirable oil. <https://popularresistance.org/the-citgo-conspiracy-opposition-figures-accuse-guaido-officials-of-scam-to-liquidate-venezuelas-most-prized-international-asset/> But **gold reserves** are also high in Venezuela and represent a strong temptation as well.

<https://popularresistance.org/venezuela-what-activists-need-to-know-about-the-us-led-coup/>

While the US points to the Maduro regime as not providing for the needs of its people, a more nuanced analysis recognizes that the US's economic sanctions have created much of the hunger and suffering among ordinary Venezuelans.

This is another instance of the US weaponizing its economic sanctions to destabilize an elected government and insert its **chosen regime**. <https://popularresistance.org/us-led-coup-in-venezuela-the-plot-thickens/>

Some experts believe the igniting factor for the latest economic attacks against Venezuela was the country's **rejection of the US dollar in 2017**.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/ellenwald/2017/09/15/venezuelas-latest-currency-decision-shows-desperation/#359ffbce3094> But America's long standing suspicion and **reaction to democratically**

elected leaders who support a people-centered society and economy, rather than a profit-driven model is well rehearsed throughout Latin America.

<https://www.commondreams.org/views/2019/02/01/us-12-step-method-conduct-regime-change>

And after 40 years of abuse and corruption the results are being seen in high refugee rates from those nations in the global south who have endured **US imposed economic and political instability** <https://portside.org/2019-07-20/we-are-here-because-you-were-there-0> as well as training for authoritarian police forces.

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LEARN MORE

Everyone Has Fallen For The Lies About Venezuela

<https://worldbeyondwar.org/everyone-has-fallen-for-the-lies-about-venezuela/>

Who signed the Vienna Convention?

https://treaties.un.org/pages/viewdetails.aspx?src=treaty&mtdsg_no=iii-3&chapter=3&lang=en

Rely on Media from Venezuela for factual info:

Venezuela Analysis: www.venezuelanalysis.com

Mision Verdad: <http://misionverdad.com/my-in-english>

Steve Ellners Blog: <http://steveellnersblog.blogspot.com>

Alliance for Global Justice: <https://afgi.org/>

Center for Economic & Policy Research: <http://cepr.net>

Democracy Now: www.democracynow.org

Popular Resistance: www.popularresistance.org

Action:

Ask any political candidate in the 2020 elections if they support the possibility of a US-led coup in Venezuela. Use the opportunity to inform the public of our country's disregard of this International Treaty and the dangers of dismantling the protections it offers.

Sign the *Petition* to drop charges against Embassy Protectors and **make a donation** for their legal defense. <https://defendembassyprotectors.org/>

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