



**WILPF CALL FOR PEACE  
RESOURCE GUIDE # 12  
Sample Letters to Leaders on  
Treaties & Reducing Military  
Spending & City Resolutions  
Main Author: Margaret Pecoraro, Tucson AZ  
branch**

**This guide #12 is a continuation of guide #3** that was distributed to all members in January 2021. Please consult with that guide and guides #2 and #4 for further information on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and there are links to useful websites on page 4 of this guide.

Below are sample letters that WILPF members can send to request support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) for:

- (1) Candidates for public office
- (2) Local city and county officers
- (3) State legislatures
- (4) Federal congressional representatives and senators
- (5) President

Each letter sent should be personalized with the name and office of the addressee. The WILPF branch name should be inserted if applicable. Any of the words of the letter can be changed as desired and any additional thoughts specific to your home town included. Letters can be sent separately by each member of the branch, either electronically or printed and mailed via the US Post Office.

Letter templates consist of a factual description of the TPNW preceded by a paragraph specific to the person to whom the letter is addressed. The letters are worded to be used after the Entry Into Force date of January 22, 2021. The base letter can also be modified to be sent as a "letter to the editor" as its word count is less than the limit of most newspapers.

Letter for candidate for public office:

Dear Candidate:

As one of your constituent organizations, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is asking you to please include in your stated campaign goals support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

The greatest threat to our continued existence on this planet is the danger of nuclear war. In 2017, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), or the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty, was adopted by 122 nations. It has since been ratified by over 50 of those nations and it entered into force as of January 22, 2021. It is the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons with the ultimate goal being their total elimination.

It contains prohibitions against the development, testing, production, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as against assistance and encouragement to the prohibited activities. For nuclear armed states joining the treaty, it provides for a time-bound framework for negotiations leading to the verified and irreversible elimination of its nuclear weapons.

If you are not familiar with the TPNW you will find a quick overview and the full text of the treaty here: [https://www.icanw.org/the\\_treaty](https://www.icanw.org/the_treaty).

Thank you for your concern about all of our futures.

Letter for local city or county officer (note - if your city is not a part of Mayors for Peace, consider writing the current officers requesting that they join):

Dear Councilperson:

As one of your constituent organizations, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is asking you to please sponsor a resolution to express local support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

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Thank you for your concern about all of our futures.

## Letter for State Legislator:

Dear State Legislator:

As one of your constituent organizations, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is asking you to please sponsor a resolution to express state support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

The greatest threat to our continued existence on this planet is the danger of nuclear war. In 2017, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), or the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty, was adopted by 122 nations. It has since been ratified by over 50 of those nations and it entered into force as of January 22, 2021. It is the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons with the ultimate goal being their total elimination.

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Thank you for your concern about all of our futures.

## Letter for Federal Congressional People

Dear Federal Legislator [(U.S.) Senator/Representative]

As one of your constituent organizations, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is asking you to please sponsor a resolution to begin US participation in negotiations leading to ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

The greatest threat to our continued existence on this planet is the danger of nuclear war. In 2017, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), or the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty, was adopted by 122 nations. It has since been ratified by over 50 of those nations and it entered into force as of January 22, 2021. It is the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons with the ultimate goal being their total elimination.

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If you are not familiar with the TPNW you will find a quick overview and the full text of the treaty here: [https://www.icanw.org/the\\_treaty](https://www.icanw.org/the_treaty).

Thank you for your concern about all of our futures.

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Letter for President Biden:

This letter can be sent by USPS to the White House or sent via the White House website. Consult this website for addresses and good advice on corresponding with the President: <https://www.wikihow.com/Contact-the-President-of-the-United-States#>

Dear Mr President,

Congratulations on your election as 46<sup>th</sup> President of the United States!

Two days after your inauguration, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Nuclear Ban Treaty became international law in the first 50 nations that have ratified it. Another 34 nations are in the process of ratifying, and many more will follow, including important allies of the United States. **How will you respond to this historic development?**

President Obama promised us “a world without nuclear weapons.” And it is our long-standing legal obligation under the Non-Proliferation Treaty to negotiate the elimination of these weapons “in good faith.” The rest of the world has now decided to take the logical next step and ban nuclear weapons under international law. **Will you welcome this new treaty as being totally in keeping with America’s existing commitments?**

As this new treaty was reaching its 50th ratification, the Trump Administration took the unprecedented step of pressuring countries to withdraw their ratifications. **How will you re-build relationships with these countries?**

Like the climate crisis, nuclear weapons pose an existential threat to the whole world. Our survival as the human race requires responding to both — before it’s too late. The Nuclear Ban Treaty opens the way for bold and decisive action on climate by freeing up enormous resources that are currently being squandered on nuclear weapons. **Will you seize this unique opportunity to address both these existential threats at the same time?**

Yours sincerely, [put your name and street address here]

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**Additional resources can be found at the following links for those who are interested and their information allows you to add more arguments to your letters:**

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TEXT of the TPNW: [https://www.icanw.org/full\\_text\\_of\\_the\\_treaty](https://www.icanw.org/full_text_of_the_treaty)

Eleanor Holmes Norton's bill - it was HR-2419 last (116<sup>th</sup>) session: [bit.ly/prop1petition](https://bit.ly/prop1petition)

Warheads To Windmills video :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZ4ceABPupw&feature=youtu.be>

Former country leaders urge TPNW adoption: [https://www.icanw.org/56\\_former\\_leaders](https://www.icanw.org/56_former_leaders)

Webinar: What Does The Nuclear Ban Treaty Mean For The USA? A clear explanation of the TPNW and how it could affect nuclear weapons states: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xr8DIOHmMIU>

ICAN Parliamentary Pledge for TPNW: <https://pledge.icanw.org/>

Legislators are in a key position to promote the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in every country, pushing for its signature and ratification or promoting it abroad. Over 1600 elected officials all around the world have committed to do so through the ICAN Parliamentary Pledge.

You will find a list of US federal level legislator who have already signed the pledge here:

<http://www.nuclearban.us/icanpledge/?emci=cdf69f46-a550-eb11-a607-00155d43c992&emdi=d7eb26d3-b951-eb11-a607-00155d43c992&ceid=64114>

Lots of advice on writing to your elected representatives:

<https://worldbeyondwar.org/writing-letters-to-the-editor-and-columns/>

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#### SOME SAMPLE LETTERS FOR YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES ABOUT REDUCING THE MILITARY BUDGET

*With reference to helping the poor with the saved money (see further details in C4P resource guide #9):*

Dear Congressperson,

As one of your constituents and a member of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, I am writing to urge you to vote to move money from the military programs to help the poor of our country.

Simply ending the wars in Afghanistan and the Middle East would free up over 60 billion dollars a year, enough to finance affordable housing, day care centers, workforce development centers and health clinics in low-income neighborhoods.

There are many other opportunities to re-purpose funding that is used to hurt other people to areas that will benefit the nation far more.

Many more ideas for helping the poor are in the "Moral Policy Agenda to Heal and Transform America: The Poor People's Jubilee Platform": <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/about/jubilee-platform/>.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

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*Sample letter with reference to not using tax payers money to fund sales of weapons to countries in the Middle East (see further details in C4P resource guide #5)*

Dear

As your constituent, I am writing to request that you support legislation that will reduce the amount of money being spent to further the international arms trade. I am appalled by the wanton destruction caused by the use of my tax dollars, and I feel that the money could be better spent elsewhere.

There is no reason that we should be allowing our tax dollars to destroy other nations' infrastructure, to kill both combatants and civilians, and to create situations in which large segments of society are inadequately housed, clothed, fed, and treated in health care facilities. What is happening in the Middle East is perhaps the best example of this abuse of my tax dollars.

I realize that there is a strong lobby that wants to continue support of the arms suppliers, but there is no reason to do so. We were once a nation admired for its humanitarian work, and I prefer that my country be admired. I feel less safe when my nation is feared rather than admired. What is being done in my name is a constant source of shame, and I would rather be proud of my country, knowing that my tax dollars are spent creating a better world.

Sincerely,

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An effective strategy for reducing our enormous military budget **is not to allow a new weapons program to ever get funded**, to that end there are two recently introduced bills in Congress which need more sponsors in order to progress through the legislative process. Here are sample letters for you to write to your congressional representatives requesting that they sponsor two new bills introduced in March 2021.

Dear

As your constituent I am writing to request that you sponsor the "Nuclear SLCM Ban Act of 2021", which is H.R. 1554 and S. 595 and its full name is "To prohibit the use of funds for the research and development, production, or deployment of the nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile and its associated nuclear warhead."

We already own more than enough nuclear weapons as listed here:

(1) The United States nuclear arsenal comprises approximately 3,800 nuclear warheads in the active stockpile and a force structure of long-range and short-range delivery systems, including—

(A) land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles;

(B) submarine-launched ballistic missiles that can deliver both low-yield and higher-yield nuclear warheads;

(C) long-range strategic bomber aircraft capable of carrying nuclear-armed air-launched cruise missile and nuclear gravity bombs; and

(D) short-range fighter aircraft that can deliver nuclear gravity bombs.

(2) In 2010, the United States retired the nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile, or the TLAM-N, after concluding in the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review that the capability “served a *redundant* purpose in the U.S. nuclear stockpile”.

(3) Ten years later, in 2020, the United States initiated studies into a new nuclear-armed sea launched cruise missile and associated warhead, after concluding in the 2018 Nuclear Posture Review that the weapon system would provide a “non-strategic regional presence” and “an assured response capability”.

In conclusion: we already possess an array of nuclear weapons systems, including both air- and sea based capabilities, that provide an effective regional deterrent presence, making the nuclear-armed sea launched cruise missile a redundant, unnecessary capability.

Furthermore a January 2019 analysis of the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the projected costs of the nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile program from 2019 to 2028 would total \$9,000,000,000. As a tax payer I do not want my taxes to go towards such an expensive and un-necessary weapon, I would rather the 9 billion dollars were spent on improving the inter-state highway system.

Sincerely

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Dear

As your constituent I am writing to request that you sponsor the “Investing in Cures Before Missiles Act of 2021”, which is S.982 and H.R. 2227 and its full name is “To extend the life of the Minuteman III and redirect savings from the development of the new ground-based strategic deterrent program toward the development of a universal coronavirus vaccine, and for other purposes.”

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the projected cost to sustain and modernize the United States nuclear arsenal, as of 2017, “is \$1.2 trillion in 2017 dollars over the 2017–2046 period: more than \$800 billion to operate and sustain (that is, incrementally upgrade) nuclear forces and about \$400 billion to modernize them”. With inflation, the cost rises to \$1,700,000,000,000 and does not include the cost of the additional nuclear capabilities proposed in the 2018 Nuclear Posture Review.

Besides the enormous amount of tax payers money that this replacement of the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles would cost I have an additional concern: Intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) cannot be recalled, leaving decision-makers with mere minutes to decide whether to launch the missiles before they are destroyed by incoming enemy missiles, known as a posture of “launch on warning” or “launch under attack” in the face of a perceived nuclear attack. This situation greatly increases the risk of a national leader initiating a nuclear war by mistake. Military experts tell us we are safer without these extremely expensive weapons, and it would be foolish to replace them.

Meanwhile thousands of Americans are dying every day from the COVID-19 virus because of the lack of drugs that could fight the virus, so please sponsor the Investing in Cures Before Missiles Act of 2021 so that scientists can be given money to research and produce drugs that will prevent so many people dying from COVID-19.

Sincerely

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Take a look at this website every so often to learn when new bills on national security are introduced: <https://livableworld.org/key-national-security-legislation/> . Be prepared to write to your congressperson when a new bill that would result in a reduction in the military budget is introduced.

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Petition your City Council to pass a resolution calling for a reduction in Federal military spending. This strategy brings attention at the local level to the need to reduce the Pentagon's huge budget. Several resolutions are posted here: <https://moneyforhumanneeds.org/downloads/> . The Milwaukee one is a good example to copy.

## **Resolution Passed by Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors — 2019**

By Supervisor Shea, File No. 18-736

### **A RESOLUTION**

Urging the United States Congress to reduce its fiscal outlays to the United States Department of Defense and reallocate those funds to domestic concerns with the goal of a more peaceful international system and enhanced domestic human fulfillment

WHEREAS, the United States as a member state of the United Nations, has ratified the Charter of the United Nations which states, “We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small...”; and

WHEREAS, Congress approved a \$686 billion military budget for Fiscal Year 2019, an increase of \$74 billion over 2018, and consumes an estimated 52% of the entire federal discretionary budget; and

WHEREAS, according to data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the United States taxpayers in 2017 paid more for their military than the combined military expenditures of China, Saudi Arabia, Russia, India, France, the United Kingdom, and Japan; and

WHEREAS, according to the Political Economy Research Institute of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, spending \$1 billion on domestic priorities produces “substantially more jobs within the U.S. economy than would the same \$1 billion spent on the military”; and

WHEREAS, Congress should reallocate federal military outlays toward human and environmental needs: aid toward the goal of providing free, superior education from pre-school through college, end world hunger, convert the United States to clean energy, provide clean drinking water everywhere needed, build high speed trains between all major U.S. cities, finance a full-employment jobs program, and double non-military foreign aid; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors urges Congress to cut military spending, to the extent possible, and allocate the surplus toward domestic functions such as clean energy, transportation, and education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors request the County Clerk provide this resolution to federal elected officials who represent any part of Milwaukee County.

Petition your city council to pass a resolution supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The City of Davis's (California) resolution is a good one to copy, with suitable modifications :

## City of Davis Resolution in Support of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

RESOLUTION NO. 20-055, SERIES 2020  
RESOLUTION OF THE DAVIS CITY COUNCIL TO SUPPORT U.S. RATIFICATION  
OF THE U.N. TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS,  
RENOUNCE THE FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY THE U.S. AND PURSUE  
AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND NUCLEAR-ARMED GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS, the use and detonation of nuclear weapons would have catastrophic planetary environmental, human health and economic consequences; and

WHEREAS, nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons testing threatens our health and the environment in the creation of radioactive waste; and

WHEREAS, the Davis City Council on November 14, 1984, declared the City of Davis to be a nuclear-free zone and renounced the first use of nuclear weaponry and urged government officials "to do all things necessary toward the elimination of the international threat of nuclear war;" and

WHEREAS, more than 300 former heads of state, experts and religious and military leaders have called for urgent action to eliminate nuclear weapons globally; and

WHEREAS, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted July 7, 2017, by the United Nations conference with the support of 122 nations (since ratified by 35 nations), offers the opportunity to prohibit and delegitimize nuclear weapons and provide the impetus and obligation for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and the framework to achieve it; and

WHEREAS, the U.S Conference of Mayors on June 11, 2018, passed a resolution, calling on the White House and Congress to "step back from the brink and exercise global leadership preventing nuclear war," and while the legislature of the state of California in August 2018 passed joint resolutions addressed to Congress to embrace the principles of the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Assembly Joint Resolution 33) and restrict first use of nuclear weapons (Assembly Joint Resolution 30); and

WHEREAS, the current U.S. administration withdrew from the Intermediate Nuclear Forces agreement on February 1, 2019, (signed by President Reagan in 1987), a key nuclear pact with Russia that prohibits shorter range land-based ballistic missiles or cruise missiles; and

WHEREAS, the New Start treaty, a critical agreement with Russia that limits the number of strategic weapons, expires in February 2021 and President Trump has signaled that he plans to let it expire; and

WHEREAS, the present U.S. Administration's 2018 Nuclear Posture Review, a legislative-mandated review undertaken by the Department of Defense that outlines U.S. nuclear policy, strategy, capabilities and force posture for the next five to 10 years, approves the use of nuclear weapons even in response to "significant non-nuclear strategic attacks;" and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Navy's recent deployment of the W76-2 low yield, submarine-launched ballistic missile warhead makes the use of nuclear weapons more likely according to military experts; and

WHEREAS, nine countries in the world possess a total of 13,475 nuclear weapons with the United States and Russia accounting for 92 percent of them; and

WHEREAS, recent potential conflicts have occurred in locations from the Korean Peninsula to the South China Sea to the Middle East and South Asia, where nuclear-armed states are engaged in unpredictable relationships that could escalate out of control; and

WHEREAS, The Doomsday Clock, which is released annually by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, and uses minutes to midnight as a measure of humanity's proximity to disaster, such as nuclear war or irreversible climate change, moved for the first time in the clock's 73-year history to a measurement in seconds (100) not in minutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Davis does hereby advocate that the United States enter into the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and make nuclear disarmament a cornerstone of its national security policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Davis calls upon the federal government to join in a global effort to prevent nuclear war by renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first, canceling replacement or upgrades to the U.S. nuclear arsenal and pursuing agreements among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Davis City Clerk will transmit copies of this resolution to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the President of the United States, and to Governor Gavin Newsom.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Davis on this 19th day of May, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: Arnold, Carson, Frerichs, Partida, Lee

NOES: None

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## **CONCLUSION TO CALL FOR PEACE RESOURCE GUIDE #12: Letters to Leaders**

It is our Congressional representatives: Congresswomen, Congressmen and Senators who decide how much money will be given to what government programs every year. If we wish to influence their decisions we must let them know our budgetary desires and we can do that by writing letters to them during April and May 2021. Please use the sample letters in this resource guide to inform your representatives of your wishes with regard to the Federal budget, especially the urgent need to cut back the bloated military budget.

This website will tell you who your representatives are, their website address, what bills they have sponsored and how they voted: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members> .