



WILPF CALL FOR PEACE

RESOURCE GUIDE # 2

Fact Sheet & Online Resources about Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (links to videos, webinars)

What is the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)?

This treaty is a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. It is a legal contract between the states party (= countries) that have ratified it. The treaty has 20 articles and the 1st article is the most important one, it lists the various prohibitions covered by the treaty:

Prohibitions: All states party are prohibited from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, transferring, possessing, stockpiling, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons, or allowing nuclear weapons to be stationed on their territory. It also prohibits them from assisting, encouraging or inducing anyone to engage in any of these activities. Here is the link where you will find the complete TPNW text with its preamble:

<https://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/nuclear-weapon-ban/documents/TPNW.pdf>

Watch this two minute video to quickly learn about the TPNW and the effects of its Entry into Force (EIF)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Px-4RsKGE_A&feature=youtu.be

ESSENTIAL FACTS: NUCLEAR BAN TREATY ENTRY INTO FORCE 1/22/21

1/22/21: The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons enters into force as law in the first 50 ratifying countries.

As of late December 2020, 135 countries have indicated their support for this Treaty, 86 countries have signed it, and 51 have ratified it. New signatures and ratifications are documented at: www.icanw.org/signature_and_ratification_status

Everything to do with nuclear weapons will be completely illegal in those 51 countries. Many more countries are expected to ratify in the near future, and the treaty will become law in those countries 90 days after their ratification.

This treaty will not enter into force in the US or in any of the other nuclear-armed nations (Russia, UK, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan, and North Korea) until they decide to join the treaty. However, nuclear weapons companies with offices, projects, subsidiaries, contracts, suppliers, or investors in these other countries could be affected immediately. There is no law that protects US companies, their directors or employees, from prosecution in another country when the laws of that other country are being violated.

It has *never* been legal to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons, in almost every imaginable scenario, under international laws of war already incorporated into US law. **With this treaty, it is now *also* illegal to develop, test, produce, manufacture, transfer, station, possess, or stockpile nuclear weapons – and it's also illegal to assist, encourage, or induce anyone else** to do any of those things. That could include **financing** those activities, in at least some of the countries that join the Treaty.

The consequences for violating treaty-enforcement laws in the ratifying countries will vary. But for example, in Ireland, any person (including a corporate decision-maker) who violates these laws may be **subject to fines and/or a sentence of up to life in prison.**

Two of the five largest pension funds in the world have already divested from the nuclear weapons industry. The City of New York is expected to divest its pension funds in the near future. Investors will be increasingly concerned with legislative risk, reputational risk, and the possibility of stranded assets if future weapons contracts are cancelled.

The Treaty represents an **absolute rejection of “deterrence theory”** by most of the world. It stigmatizes nuclear weapons as a grave danger to all humanity, whether they are used as designed or detonate by accident.

The Treaty lays out a clear **pathway for the elimination of all nuclear weapons from all countries**, in line with existing legal obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty that the US and other nuclear-armed nations have already committed themselves to.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons won the 2017 **Nobel Peace Prize** for its role in facilitating the Treaty.

&&&&&

Further details on the history of the TPNW and its comparison with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty can be found in the Call for Peace Resource Guide #4.

VIRTUAL CELEBRATORY EVENTS ON 21st and 22nd January (if no date listed then is on 22 January)

Thurs 21 Jan, 2021 at 5pm - 6pm PST. An online celebration to mark the Treaty's entry into force and explore how it advances nuclear justice. Organised by: Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility. Details & register via www.oregonpsr.org/celebrating-the-treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons-entry-into-force

Once-in-history celebration of the moment we ban nuclear weapons—a 90 minute live streamed event on 22 January 2021, starting 9pm CET (3pm EST, noon PST) Studio 22.21—Entry into Force Day will be a full-packed live streamed event from Geneva, Switzerland, with guests connecting digitally from all over the world. The event will track the global entry into force of the historic treaty banning nuclear weapons throughout the world's different time zones, mixing performances, interviews, in-depth analysis and reportages from artists, politicians, academics and activists around the world. Register here: https://www.icanw.org/studio_2221

Join the International Peace Bureau at their virtual party at 7am EST to celebrate together a milestone in nuclear disarmament and peace-building overall. Register here : <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpf-ChqD0vHtPEFyCAufklu-4uegWbw1yV>

Join WILPF Pittsburgh and many co-sponsors for a Zoom video watch party/discussion of “The Beginning of the End of Nuclear Weapons,” at 7 pm EST to commemorate the EIF of the TPNW. Register here: https://actionnetwork.org/events/ban-nuclear-weapons-watch-party?clear_id=true

San Jose WILPF Branch will have a zoom program on the Treaty *at 7pm PT* including its effect on U.S. companies involved in nuclear weapons components research, manufacture, sale or shipment -- in the ratifying countries. Details will be available at <https://sanjosepeace.org/calendar/>

Informational webinars on the TPNW, recordings of past webinars and links to register for upcoming ones

Timmon Wallis of Nuclear Ban US gave a most informative webinar on the TPNW and its possible effects on the US on 16th Dec 2020, here is the recording of that webinar: <https://youtu.be/xr8DIOHmMIU>

Thurs 21 Jan 2021 8am EST organized by International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War : a global health discussion with leading *health* experts to explore the TPNW in the context of a global pandemic and climate crisis, with a focus on the role of health professionals in advancing the eradication of nuclear weapons through evidence-based policy-making. Details & register here: <https://www.ippnw.org/news/global-health-webinar>

Tues 19 Jan 2021 11 am EST organized by the Arms Control Association: “Nuclear Challenges for the Biden Administration in the First 100 Days”. Details & register here: <https://www.armscontrol.org/events/2021-01/nuclear-challenges-biden-administration-first-100-days>

Sat 23 Jan 2021 9:30 am EST organized by the Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security: a National Conference with stellar speakers will happen online: “Reducing the Threat of Nuclear War: Invest in Minds not Missiles” A National Conference. Register (for free) at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0oc-yggzovEtEmNSKwTyKvyqUITqfHWLjD>

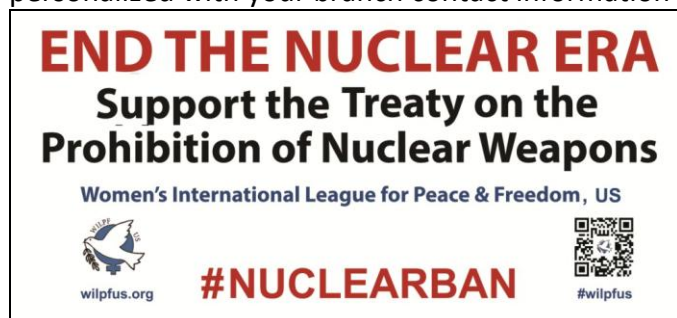
Mon 25 Jan 2021 11 am EST, organized by Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament: “The United Nations and Nuclear Disarmament. Commemoration of the 75th anniversary of UN Resolution 1 (1)”. This commemoration event takes place as the [TPNW](#) enters-into-force, the 2021 session of the [UN Conference on Disarmament](#) opens, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists re-sets the [Doomsday Clock](#) indicating the threat to humanity from nuclear weapons and climate change, and a new US President is inaugurated, setting the scene for renewed leadership on nuclear disarmament. Details & register here: <http://pnnd.org/event/75th-anniversary-un-resolution-1-1-nuclear-weapons-elimination> &&&&

These are the key messages that we want to convey about the TPNW

- The TPNW will change the state of nuclear weapons in the world.
 - The TPNW will change the state of other things in the world. .
 - This is the future; those developing new nuclear weapons are stuck in the past.
 - The states joining the Treaty show real leadership.
 - Business and financial institutions must adapt to the Treaty or they will see themselves left in the past and failing shareholders.
 - This is a win for civil society and forward-thinking governments over the traditional power structure.
 - The victims of nuclear war and testing must be respected and their communities must be protected.
- &&&&

Please look at Call for Peace Resource Guide #1 to find in-person events celebrating the EIF of the TPNW in those states with WILPF branches. To find in-person events all over the world visit www.icanw.org/events?

If you will attend an in-person event on the 22nd January, and for later use, we recommend you have a 6 foot long vinyl banner made using the design shown below. Do NOT use the jpeg below, it is not high enough resolution, but write to disarmchair@wilpfus.org and ask for the high resolution jpeg, which can be personalized with your branch contact information if you provide it in your request email.



Quite different banner designs, not specific to WILPF, are available here: <http://www.nuclearban.us/banners/>