



**On Nuclear Weapons**

## General Assembly Motion on the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons April 2018

### How to turn this motion into action

The website address of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is [www.icanw.org](http://www.icanw.org). It has many useful features, including the following:

1. Take Action: If you click on the Take Action button on the home page, it takes you to a list of suggestions about how to raise awareness about this issue.
2. Resources: On the Resources page, there are links to free, downloadable publications, including several useful pocket guides, and the *ICAN / Religions for Peace Negotiations Handbook*.
3. About ICAN: If you click on this link on the Home Page, a drop-down menu includes 'Partner Organisations'.

Click on this, it leads to a list of the 486 partner organisations, arranged by continent.

Click on the 'United Kingdom', and you will find a list of websites links to partner organisations in the United Kingdom, to whom you could write offering support.

#### Writing to your MP & the Prime Minister :

The website link for how to contact your MP & PM is [www.parliament.uk/get-involved/contact-your-MP/](http://www.parliament.uk/get-involved/contact-your-MP/).

A draft letter has been prepared by the Unitarian Peace Fellowship; it is in this pack. Of course, feel free to adapt it.

## **Draft Letter to your Member of Parliament**

Dear [your MP's name],

You are probably aware that on 7 July 2017 – following a decade of advocacy by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and its partners – an overwhelming majority of the world's nations adopted a landmark global agreement to ban nuclear weapons, known officially as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

I understand from the ICAN website that “The United Kingdom, which possesses approximately 215 nuclear weapons, did not participate in the negotiation of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It has said that it intends never to join the treaty. It voted against the UN General Assembly resolution in 2016 that established the mandate for nations to negotiate the treaty. It has failed to fulfil its legally binding disarmament obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty.”

This letter is to ask you as my MP to call on the UK Government to abide fully by its legal obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, of which it is a founding member, and to express its support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

[paragraph about being a person of faith, who believes that nuclear weapons are evil, and should be banned completely]

Yours sincerely,

Name

Position in congregation

Congregation Name

### **GA Resolutions on Nuclear Weaponry / War**

All recorded as given, please pardon the over use of masculine imagery for humanity and the divine. There have been many resolutions since 1947, these four are the first two and last two passed by the GA

#### **INTERNATIONAL UNITY (Resolution 10 1947)**

That this Annual Meeting of Ministers and Delegate, recognising that if there should be a Third World War the magnitude of the disaster to civilisation would be incalculable, records the conviction that international efforts to prevent war, while more than ever demanding the support of churches, cannot alone achieve their end. The supreme need of the world is an enlightened religious faith applied to every problem of man's common life, in acknowledgement of the principles of divine sonship and human brotherhood. The churches must clarify their own fundamental beliefs, eliminating outworn and irrelevant dogmas, and must with a new sincerity respond to the insistent challenge of our time, making every effort to embody in practical service the universal laws of righteousness and love.

#### **INTERNATIONAL CONTROL OF ATOMIC WEAPONS (Resolution 8 1950)**

That this Annual Meeting of Ministers and Delegates of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, recognising that the construction of the hydrogen bomb and other forms of mass warfare is caused chiefly by the "Cold War" now being waged between East and West, records its conviction that the first duty of all peoples is to end this deadlock. It records its conviction that the common man in every country, no matter under what economic system he earns his livelihood, has no desire to engage in this fratricidal conflict either on behalf of economic theories or national imperialisms. It therefore calls upon the common man everywhere to pursue peace and to urge upon his government policies of peace. To this end this Assembly is of the opinion that international control of atomic energy through the United Nations Organisation is immediately necessary, and that the first steps should be the achievement of such control among the nations which have already agreed in principle thereto, and a fresh and persistent effort to obtain agreement on this point with Russia and other nations not yet in accord. The Assembly affirms its bond of unity with all men everywhere, and pledges itself to strive for that unity with undiminished faith and conviction.

#### **DISARMAMENT (Resolution 18 1988)**

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches welcomes the recent superpower I.N.F. agreement and the improving international climate for fruitful disarmament negotiations. It urges its members to be actively involved in campaigning for continuation of the disarmament process, and calls upon Her Majesty's Government to participate fully and resolutely in favour of disarmament in the forthcoming United Nations Third Special Session on Disarmament.

#### **NUCLEAR FREE ZONES (Resolution 17 1990)**

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, believing in the transforming power of symbolic acts, invites all Unitarian congregations and other related bodies to consider declaring themselves Nuclear Free Zones.

**Prayer For Peace, Nuclear Issues 2018**

by John Philip Carter

We come today to ponder, reflect, debate  
To pray, to decide, and hopefully to act....

Our fragile, lovely home is yet again beset with the old animosities of former years  
And

We wonder

What can be done?  
How can we respond?  
Where do we go from here?

We still recognise that long ago august day  
When the first bomb fell

A couple of days later when the second bomb fell

Both complete in their erasing of a city,  
Leaving mere shadows upon the walls,  
Fragments of existence

We responded then,  
We were mixed in reaction  
Horrified at the devastation  
Relied for the ending of years of a horrific ugly war

And then we learned  
all the ways of living in this then new age of  
Mutually assured destruction.

Duck and Cover drills  
(That we hoped would protect us)  
Identification tags  
(That would name our bodies)  
Long Range Missiles  
(Housed in silos under the worlds fields of wheat, corn, grass and life giving nutrients)

The treasuries of the world coughing up more and more to feed our perceived needs  
For protection and security  
(While destabilising our nations)

And the clock, it's minute hand ticks closer and closer to midnight.

Yes we spoke out,  
Early on for nations to work together  
For control of this new weaponry  
For encouragement of peaceful ways of co existence and co operation

And through out the years we repeated this call, this desire, this hope

And that minute hand still inches closer to midnight....

Yet Somewhere  
in all of this  
cooler heads began to respond in cooler ways...

No longer willing to react with violence  
Unwilling to provoke more violence

Governments began to find ways to talk and to limit the unceasing buildup

The minute hand move backward away from midnight....

And yes we celebrated, we noted it and we responded in resolution.....

It is now decades since our last resolution, one of relief and celebration....

And the old patterns of Mad ness raise once again their ego driven destructive forces....  
In leadership we are not so sure of, as well as in leadership we admire....

The minute hand now moves closer again to midnight

We are concerned,  
What will happen?  
Where is humanity going?  
What can we do?

Silence

Giver of life,  
May we speak for all life  
May we resolve to act for the protection of life  
May we seek, advocate and be people of justice, of peace, and of wholeness.

May we walk gently upon our home.  
Welcoming all as sister, all as brother, all as family.

This we humbly pray,  
Amen