THE CASE AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS
Ever since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, people around the world have campaigned for an end to the nuclear age. We now have the best opportunity yet to turn our vision of a nuclear-weapon-free future into a reality. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a grassroots movement in more than 60 nations calling for a treaty to ban these weapons once and for all.

Despite the end of the cold war, there are still more than 20,000 nuclear weapons across the globe, posing the greatest immediate threat to the future of civilization. The risk of their spread and use is growing in an increasingly climate- and resource-stressed world. But at the same time support for nuclear abolition has never been stronger, with two-thirds of all nations calling for a nuclear abolition treaty at the United Nations, and large majorities of people everywhere, including in nuclear-armed countries, endorse the vision of a nuclear-free world.

THE ACTION PLAN
ICAN aims to galvanize public and government support to start negotiations on a nuclear abolition treaty without further delay. We will bring together humanitarian, environmental, human rights and development organizations to seize the historic opportunity to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. Nuclear abolition is not a distant dream. It is an urgent necessity. Together we can make it a reality.

WHY ICAN, WHY NOW

1995–2006
■ Experts draft a model treaty to prohibit and eliminate all nuclear weapons
■ Campaigners begin to lay the groundwork for negotiations on such a treaty

2007
■ ICAN is launched globally to build a groundswell of support for abolition
■ Costa Rica and Malaysia submit the new model treaty to the United Nations
ICAN SUPPORTERS

DESMOND TUTU  Anti-apartheid leader
JODY WILLIAMS  Nobel Peace Prize winner
TUFACE IDIBIA  Nigerian hip-hop artist
HANS BLIX  Former UN weapons inspector
THE DALAI LAMA  Tibetan spiritual leader
HERBIE HANCOCK  American jazz musician
TADATOSHI AKIBA  Mayor of Hiroshima

“With your support, we can take ICAN its full distance — all the way to zero nuclear weapons.”
—DESMOND TUTU

2008
- Organizations in over 60 nations advocate for ICAN’s goal of a nuclear weapons ban
- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (left) joins the call for an abolition treaty

2009
- Nobel Peace Prize winners, musicians and sporting legends join the campaign
- ICAN initiates a global effort to increase government support for abolition

2010
- Over 130 nations call for a convention at a review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty
- ICAN launches Million Pleas to create the world’s largest video message
THE PROBLEM

Nine countries together possess more than 20,000 nuclear weapons. The US and Russia maintain roughly 2,000 of their nuclear weapons on high-alert status — ready to be launched within minutes of a command. Most are many times more powerful than the bombs dropped on Japan in 1945. The only guarantee against the spread and future use of nuclear weapons is to eliminate them now.

THE WIDER PROBLEM

Five European nations host US nuclear weapons on their soil as part of a NATO nuclear-sharing arrangement: Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey. A further 23 nations claim to rely on US nuclear weapons for their security. There are now more than 40 nations with nuclear power or research reactors capable of producing nuclear weapons. The spread of nuclear know-how has increased the risk that more nations will develop the bomb.

Many communities around the world continue to suffer from the health and environmental effects of nuclear testing and uranium mining.
### POSSESSING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>India</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britain</td>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>North Korea</td>
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### HOSTING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
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### PART OF NUCLEAR ALLIANCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Poland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
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<td>Bulgaria</td>
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<td>Croatia</td>
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<td>Czech Rep.</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Spain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>Norway</td>
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</table>

### IN NUMBERS

Estimated number of nuclear weapons in the world:

- **USA**: 9600
- **Russia**: 12000
- **Britain**: 225
- **France**: 300
- **China**: 240
- **India**: 60–80
- **Pakistan**: 70–90
- **Israel**: 80
- **N Korea**: <10

Source: SIPRI 2010
THE SOLUTION

We must harness the new political support for nuclear abolition by calling on governments to negotiate a Nuclear Weapons Convention — a comprehensive treaty to outlaw and eliminate nuclear weapons. Opinion polls show that a majority of the world’s people endorse this call. Our challenge is to transform the strong public desire for greater security into real action by governments.

A Nuclear Weapons Convention would outlaw nuclear weapons and the core materials used to create them. Heavy penalties would apply to prevent and deter governments from acquiring nuclear devices or violating the fundamental ban on their use.

All nuclear-armed nations would be required to dismantle their nuclear arsenals in accordance with agreed steps, and an international monitoring system would be set up to verify compliance.

"The current step-by-step approach to nuclear disarmament has proven unsatisfactory."

Why is it needed?

The Nuclear Weapons Convention would build on the 1968 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which despite successive attempts at improvements continues to lack the effective mechanisms needed to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons.

Four decades after the NPT’s entry into force, there is still no comprehensive process under way to achieve nuclear abolition. The current step-by-step approach to nuclear disarmament has proven unsatisfactory. With growing proliferation threats and the continued refusal of the nuclear powers to disarm, it is time to seek a new path with a clear road map. Nuclear weapons must be outlawed, just as other categories of inhumane weapons have been outlawed.

How many nations support a nuclear weapons convention?

- **140** Supportive
- **22** Lukewarm
- **30** Sceptical

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There is an urgent political necessity and a window of opportunity to pursue a nuclear abolition treaty now.

A convention will reduce nuclear dangers by making it unlawful to use, deploy or possess nuclear weapons.

An abolition treaty has the support of two-thirds of all governments and members of the public everywhere.

A convention will strengthen existing laws to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons while enabling disarmament.

A convention will involve nations outside the Non-Proliferation Treaty and establish the same obligations.

Work on a convention will unite advocates of non-proliferation and disarmament and facilitate short-term steps.

A convention will provide legal recognition that any use of nuclear weapons would be a crime against humanity.

A convention will enable the nuclear-armed nations to eliminate their weapons quickly, safely and securely.

A convention will help build trust among nations by establishing effective systems to verify compliance.

Governments have outlawed other inhumane weapons: now it’s time for a treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons.

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**GLOBAL PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR A CONVENTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Support (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britain</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GLOBAL AVERAGE**

- Yes: 76%
- No: 16%

“Nuclear weapons are unique in their destructive power, in the unspeakable human suffering they cause, in the impossibility of controlling their effects in space and time, in the risks of escalation they create, and in the threat they pose to the environment, to future generations, and indeed to the survival of humanity.”

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, 2010
Nuclear weapons are unique in their destructive capacity. A single nuclear bomb dropped on a large city could kill millions of people. In the event of a nuclear attack, medical infrastructure would be destroyed and no effective humanitarian response would be possible. The lingering effects of radiation on human beings would cause suffering and death many years after the initial explosion. Those in the vicinity who survive the blast would suffer from extreme dehydration and diarrhoea, as well as life-threatening infections and severe bleeding. They would also have a significantly increased risk of developing cancers and passing on genetic damage to future generations.

**INTERNATIONAL LAW**

Any use of nuclear weapons would be a grave violation of international humanitarian law, which prohibits the use of weapons that are incapable of distinguishing between civilians and combatants. Preventing their future use requires nations to fulfil existing obligations to outlaw and eliminate nuclear weapons through a comprehensive treaty.

**EFFECTS OF A NUCLEAR BOMB**

- **3km radius**
  A radioactive fireball hotter than the sun and with the force of 100,000 tonnes of TNT kills and vaporizes everyone.

- **5km radius**
  The vast majority of people die quickly from blast injuries, asphyxiation or acute radiation sickness.

- **10km radius**
  About half die from trauma and burns. Many succumb soon after to fires and radiation. No medical care functions.

- **80km radius**
  Radioactive fallout spreads. Over time, thousands more will die from cancers, radiation sickness and nuclear famine.

**THE VICTIMS**

The US bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 killed more than 210,000 people within months of the blasts, while birth defects and cancer have claimed thousands more. People affected by uranium mining and nuclear testing have also suffered severe nuclear-caused illness and birth problems.
Nuclear weapons pose a direct and constant threat to people everywhere. Far from keeping the peace, they breed mistrust among nations. More and more leaders are coming to accept the logic that we must abolish nuclear weapons before they are used again. These instruments of terror have no legitimate military or strategic utility, and are useless in addressing any of today’s real security threats, such as terrorism, climate change, extreme poverty, overpopulation and disease.

FUELLING THEIR SPREAD
The continued existence of nuclear weapons fuels proliferation. China’s nuclear status motivated India to go nuclear, which in turn provoked Pakistan to follow, with Chinese assistance. The more value attached to nuclear weapons by powers like Britain, France and Russia, the more desirable they appear for despots and failed states. It is only when nuclear weapons are seen to have no security utility or symbolic power that others will not seek them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MYTH</th>
<th>REALITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It’s OK for some countries to have nuclear weapons</td>
<td>When it comes to nuclear weapons, there are no safe hands. So long as any country has these weapons, others will want them, and the world will be in a precarious state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It’s unlikely that nuclear weapons will be used again</td>
<td>Unless we eliminate all nuclear weapons, they will almost certainly be used again, either intentionally or by accident, and the consequences will be catastrophic and long-lived.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuclear weapons are a useful deterrent</td>
<td>Nuclear weapons do not deter terrorists. Nuclear-armed nations are actually more vulnerable to pre-emptive strike and terrorist targeting than non-nuclear countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuclear weapons can be used legitimately</td>
<td>Any use of weapons would violate international humanitarian law because they would indiscriminately kill civilians, cause long-term health and environmental harm, and be disproportionate to the perceived threat.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OLD THINKING

While more than 40,000 nuclear weapons have been dismantled since the end of the cold war, the justifications for maintaining them remain largely unchanged. Nations still cling to the misguided idea of “nuclear deterrence”, when it is clear that nuclear weapons only cause national and global insecurity.

ACCIDENTAL USE

There have been dozens of documented instances of the near-use of nuclear weapons as a result of miscalculation or accidents. Nuclear-armed submarines have collided underwater and nuclear-tipped missiles have shot out of storage silos. With thousands of weapons on alert, the risk of unintended use is alarmingly high.
“Climate change may be the global policy issue that has captured most attention in the last decade, but the problem of nuclear weapons is at least its equal in terms of gravity — and much more immediate in its potential impact.”

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT, 2009
Nuclear weapons are the only devices ever created that have the capacity to destroy all life on Earth. It would take less than 0.1% of the explosive yield of the current global nuclear arsenal to bring about devastating agricultural collapse and widespread famine.

New research by climate scientists shows that even a regional nuclear war involving 100 Hiroshima-sized weapons — a small fraction of the total global stockpile — would cause tens of millions of immediate deaths and unprecedented global climate disruption.

A war fought with more than a thousand nuclear weapons would leave the planet uninhabitable. These stark realities should have a profound influence on nuclear policies.

**NUCLEAR FAMINE**
The smoke and dust from fewer than one hundred nuclear explosions would cause an abrupt drop in global temperatures and rainfall by blocking up to 10% of sunlight from reaching the Earth’s surface. Sudden global cooling would shorten growing seasons, threatening agriculture worldwide. Infectious disease epidemics and environmental conflict would likely follow, and as many as one billion deaths would result from a nuclear-weapon-induced famine.

“As many as one billion deaths would result from a nuclear-weapon-induced famine.”

**OZONE DEPLETION**
A nuclear war would cause prolonged and severe depletion of the ozone layer and have a devastating impact on human and animal health. Substantial increases in ultraviolet radiation would cause increases in skin cancer rates, crop damage and the destruction of marine life.

**NUCLEAR WINTER**
Climate scientists estimate that if the entire nuclear arsenal were used, 150 million tonnes of smoke would be emitted into the stratosphere, resulting in a 45% global reduction in rainfall and average surface cooling of –7 to –8°C. By comparison, the global average cooling at the depth of the last ice age more than 18 000 years ago was –5°C.
Nuclear weapons programs divert public funds from health care, education, disaster relief and other vital services. It is estimated that the nine nuclear-armed nations spend a total of $90 billion each year maintaining and modernizing their nuclear arsenals.

The US alone spends more than $50 billion annually — enough to meet the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals on poverty alleviation. In 2008 the British government announced plans to replace its ageing fleet of nuclear-armed Trident submarines, which would cost taxpayers an estimated £76 billion. North Korea’s fledgling nuclear weapons program has exacerbated poverty in the isolated nation. Despite renewed commitments by nations to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world, all of the nuclear powers continue to invest exorbitant sums of money in these inhumane weapons. Funding allocated to national disarmament efforts is minuscule by comparison, and the principal UN body responsible for advancing nuclear abolition — the Office for Disarmament Affairs — has an annual budget of just over $10 million. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said, “The world is over-armed and peace is under-funded.” It is time to redirect money towards meeting human needs.

**SOCIALLY USEFUL JOBS**

The International Trade Union Confederation, an ICAN partner, argues that money spent on nuclear weapons and militarism would be far better spent on creating decent work in socially useful sectors of the economy, and on tackling global poverty and climate change. Nuclear disarmament is crucial to overall action to end conflict and reduce international tensions. In 2010, more than six million workers from around the world called on leaders meeting in New York to take urgent action on nuclear disarmament.

**$90 billion ANNUAL SPENDING ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

- UN regular budget for 45 years
- 3/4 of the total annual sum spent on development aid

4 THE ECONOMIC CASE
$180 billion
Funding boost over 10 years to modernize the US nuclear arsenal
Source: White House

£76 billion
Cost of replacing Britain’s fleet of nuclear-armed submarines
Source: UK Lib Dems

$1531 billion
Total global military spending in 2009
Source: SIPRI

$40–60 billion
Annual funding needed to meet the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals, which include halving extreme poverty by 2015.
Source: World Bank

£76 billion
Cost of replacing Britain’s fleet of nuclear-armed submarines
Source: UK Lib Dems
Today we have an historic window of opportunity to free the world of the deadliest weapons ever created. But it won’t just happen. As ICAN supporter and Nobel Peace Prize winner Jody Williams has said: “We can’t leave it up to politicians to rid the planet of nuclear weapons. The best chance we have of achieving this goal is for the people to stand up and demand our right to live in a world free of nuclear weapons.” By working effectively together and unifying our message, we can build an irresistible groundswell of public support for nuclear abolition.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Call on your government to support negotiations for a global treaty banning nuclear weapons
- Collect video messages for ICAN’s Million Pleas project to free the world of nuclear weapons
- Demonstrate at nuclear facilities or in front of government buildings in capital cities
- Promote nuclear abolition in schools by utilizing ICAN’s Learn Peace online resource
- Tell your friends, family members and co-workers about ICAN and help build the movement.

SCHOOLS PROGRAM

ICAN has launched a public education initiative called Learn Peace, which encourages school students to contribute to a world without nuclear weapons. Activities in the resource book include holding a mock UN debate on nuclear disarmament, designing a new peace symbol to rival the original, conducting an opinion poll on nuclear issues and role-playing a nuclear crisis.

www.icanw.org/learn_peace
PLEAS FOR ABOLITION

On the 65th anniversary of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ICAN launched Million Pleas — a project to create the world’s largest video letter, with one million people around the world calling for a treaty to abolish nuclear weapons. Visit www.millionpleas.com to upload your video plea. You may also wish to collect “pleas” at events or in the street.
One million pleas to free the world of nuclear weapons

Un million d’appels pour un monde sans armes nucléaires

ميليون بكشوت لشتهرور العولم منش مرزيين

Eine Million Appelle für eine Welt ohne Atomwaffen

نداء المليون لانهاء الأسلحة النووية في العالم

Un millón de peticiones para liberar al mundo de armas nucleares

핵없는 세상을 위한 백만인의 '플리즈'

Un milione di appelli per un mondo libero da armi nucleari

Isang milyong pakisap upang palayain ang mundo sa nuclear weapons

Miljoona pyyntöä maailman vapauttamiseksi ydinaseista

En miljon röster för en kärnvapenfri värld

En million påtryck för å befri verden fra atomvåpen

Um milhão de “please” para acabar com as armas nucleares no mundo