



UK should sign UN nuclear weapon ban treaty

Let us work to get rid of all nuclear weapons.

On the 20th of September, the UN's landmark **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** was opened in New York for states to sign. Over 50 governments signed on the first day. Many more will follow.

Now it's Britain's turn. Instead of squandering billions on four new submarines for a new generation of Trident nuclear weapons, Theresa May should sign the Treaty and work with other nations to eliminate all nuclear arsenals as quickly as possible.

Urge Theresa May to sign the UN Nuclear Prohibition Treaty and help to bring about peace, justice and security in a world without nuclear weapons.

Unique opportunity for UK to provide leadership in security and disarmament

Theresa May refused to participate in the UN negotiations but was unable to prevent the resulting Treaty being overwhelmingly adopted by the UN General Assembly. Now she claims she doesn't 'believe that this treaty will bring us closer to a world without nuclear weapons.' But this treaty is a process, so its effectiveness depends on all.

It doesn't require the UK to abolish all nuclear weapons immediately. Signing is a first step in which the UK and other armed states accept that it is illegal to use, threaten to use, manufacture, deploy and possess these weapons of mass destruction, and commit to working with the UN and Treaty states to agree a timeline and practical plan to eliminate them.

In light of the escalating crisis between North Korea and the USA, the British government can and must reconsider its position and commit to the treaty. If Theresa May were brave enough to take this step, it would send a signal worldwide that diplomacy not force or threats will reduce and resolve political tensions. As a signatory the UK could encourage other nuclear armed states, including North Korea, towards disarmament and diplomacy from a position of strength, rather than hypocrisy.

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To The Rt.Hon. Theresa May, Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street, London SW1.

I urge you to sign the UN's Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on behalf of the UK and cancel plans to replace Trident. This multilateral Treaty has made nuclear weapons illegal because they are inhumane, abhorrent and threaten our global security and future. It constitutes a global rejection of nuclear threats, use and force, and promotes alternatives for dealing with security crises.

For the sake of people in Britain and across the world, please take this necessary step towards ridding the world of these unacceptable weapons of mass destruction. By signing, you will enable the UK to help lead the way towards building peace and security without nuclear weapons.

Signed.....Date.....

Name:

Address:

Women in Black hold vigils every Wednesday between 6-7 pm at the Edith Cavell Statue, opposite the door of the National Portrait Gallery, St.Martin's Place, London, WC2. Our vigils are silent, women-only and if possible we wear black. See our website at www.london.womeninblack.org Contact us at: wibinfo@gn.apc.org
www.facebook.com/womeninblack.london Twitter: @WIB_London

Donations for leaflets gratefully received. If you are a woman and agree with us, then do come and join us