



Ceasefire in Gaza Prevent Nuclear Use Join TPNW and eliminate all nuclear weapons

To prevent nuclear war and more humanitarian catastrophes we must support peace-makers and implement nuclear disarmament treaties

12,500 nuclear weapons are in the hands of just nine men – they threaten the world with nuclear destruction, radiation, and global famine. They create terror but cannot deter anyone else’s aggression, militarism or wars.

The wars on Ukraine and Gaza are connected with nuclear threats and use already, even before any nuclear attacks are launched. Putin invaded Ukraine and relies on his 5,800 nukes when he makes nuclear threats. NATO has similar numbers, adding some 500 British and French nukes to 5,200 US nukes, some of which are in Germany, Türkiye, Italy, Netherlands and Belgium. As these leaders drive the world to the brink of nuclear war, the US is planning to deploy its latest B61-12 air-dropped bombs in Lakenheath base in Suffolk. Netanyahu controls around 90 nukes; last November a far-right member of his government advocated using a nuclear bomb on Gaza.

This is shocking on so many levels. Non-nuclear bombing attacks have already created obscenely inhumane conditions in Gaza and Ukraine. For over seven decades since 2 atomic bombs were used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the possession of nuclear arms has been combined with delusions of status and dangerously misleading theories of deterrence – this toxic combination has enabled nuclear-armed leaders to push people and countries into reckless invasions, destructive militarism, and wars that could quickly turn into nuclear wars.

That’s why the majority of UN member states negotiated and brought into force the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) which recently entered into international legal force to ban and eliminate all nuclear arsenals. This treaty is now the UN’s legally recognised toolbox for implementing nuclear disarmament steps.

The UK hasn’t yet joined the 93 nations that have signed this important multilateral treaty. In view of the rise in nuclear war threats, Britain needs leaders with courage and foresight to move beyond past nuclear delusions. By signing the TPNW, the UK can join the majority of other governments and take urgent and necessary steps for sustainable disarmament and security. Instead of resourcing the UK’s Atomic Weapons Establishment to keep making nuclear warheads for Trident, British skills from facilities like Aldermaston, Burghfield, Rosyth and Devonport could help the world to achieve the safe, timely and verifiable elimination of all nuclear arsenals.

To the Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street, London SW1

In view of the appalling situations in Gaza and Ukraine, and the global humanitarian, environmental and health impacts of nuclear weapons and radiation (which especially harm women and children), I urge you to support an immediate ceasefire for Gaza, and engage with Putin, Ukraine and NATO to end that war and remove all nuclear weapons to the 4 possessor countries USA, Russia, UK and France, pending their total elimination.

The only way to prevent nuclear use and war is to abolish and eliminate all nuclear weapons and capabilities and address the root causes of armed conflict and insecurity. It is necessary now for the UK to join and implement the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), scrap Trident, and prevent the deployment of B61 bombs in Europe, including Lakenheath. Taking these steps will strengthen global security at this volatile time.

These courageous and necessary steps will enhance Britain's role and influence for peace and security, and create much needed jobs in disarmament and verification. You would also free resources that we need to tackle urgent security threats such as climate destruction, the deadly arms trade, and violence against women and girls.

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. We welcome all women who support our call for an end to militarism and war.
Contact us: Twitter @WIB_London FB @womeninblack.london <http://london.womeninblack.org/>
Donations for leaflets most welcome (March 2024)