

More that you can do

Use the information given on this sheet and other information from organisations listed to keep yourself and others up-to-date with the issue. Share the prayer in your parish community.

Action

- Host a meeting of local faith groups to reflect on what you might do and say together on this issue.
- Write to your own Church leaders, inviting them to support your efforts to urge the UK Government to sign-up to the TPNW. Encourage them to use their voices to engage with the Government.
- Invite your elected representative to sign the ICAN Parliamentary Pledge for the Treaty. Check here to see who has signed already <http://uk.icanw.org/get-involved/engage-your-parliamentarian/>

Prayer

Creator God,
Your world is precious but human folly threatens its very existence.

We pray for those whose lives have been destroyed by nuclear weapons and nuclear testing.

We pray for those denied the essentials of life when money is squandered on nuclear weapons production.

We pray that our Church will speak to the world with clarity and wisdom and work with world leaders to ban the development, possession and use of nuclear weapons.

With Pope Francis, we commit ourselves to work for a world without nuclear weapons.

We pray in hope for a world built on just relations and cooperation between people who wish to live in peaceful co-existence. **Amen**

Useful organisations and websites

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
www.cnduk.org/home

Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
ccnd.gn.apc.org/

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
www.icanw.org/unitedkingdom/

Nuclear Morality Project
www.nuclearmorality.com

Nuclear Information Service
www.nuclearinfo.org/

Pax Christi International
<http://www.paxchristi.net/>



The Catholic Church and the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty

Great steps forward – the good news

July 2017

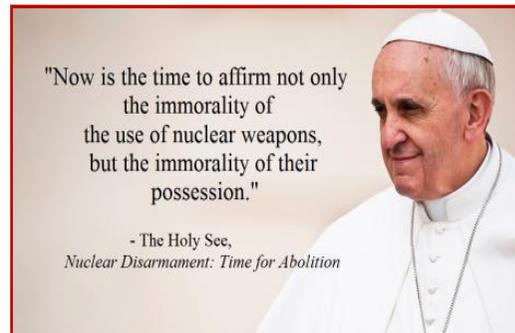
122 states vote in favour of a UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). 56 countries, including the Holy See, have already signed the treaty.

November 2017

The Vatican hosts a conference on Disarmament in Rome where Pope Francis affirms that the threat and possession of nuclear weapons is to be condemned.

December 2017

The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) for its work on the Ban Treaty. Pax Christi is a member.



"... genuinely concerned by the catastrophic humanitarian and environmental effects of any employment of nuclear devices and the risk of accidental detonation as a result of error of any kind, the threat of their use, as well as their very possession, is to be firmly condemned... they exist in the service of a mentality of fear..."

Pope Francis, speaking at a Vatican-hosted conference on nuclear weapons, Rome, November 2017

The not so good news

- The UK Government has so far refused to support or sign the TPNW. It says that "nuclear disarmament can only be achieved through a consensus-based approach taking into account the wider global security context".
- The Government believes that gradual multilateral disarmament within the framework of the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NNPT) is the way forward. However, negotiations with the NNPT have been deadlocked for many years and there are now more, not fewer, nuclear weapon states.
- The UK Government continues with its programme to replace Trident. The estimated cost for this is £205 billion.
- There is a new arms race with the development of new nuclear arsenals and spending commitments.

Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, London NW4 4TY

www.paxchristi.org.uk

April 2018

Statements on Nuclear Weapons and TPNW

England, Wales and Scotland

The very existence of nuclear weapons has always posed grave moral questions... The Church has always been clear in its teaching about the vital necessity for eventual total nuclear disarmament. Our judgement is that, by decommissioning its nuclear weapons, the UK now has a unique opportunity to offer the international community an approach to security and legitimate self-defence without the unconscionable threat of nuclear destruction.

Catholic Bishops of England and Wales, November 2006

The treaty is an open invitation from the majority of the world's states to all countries to sign up and work to make the abolition of nuclear weapons a reality. Our government says it is committed to the same aim, yet it boycotted the talks that produced the treaty and insists the UK will never sign. But the opportunity is there: the UK must seize it and work to make a success of it.

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon, Bishop Stephen Cottrell and others, letter to The Guardian, September 2017

There is a need for creative political leadership to ensure that any attempt to justify the threat of mass destruction in any circumstance is wholly rejected. A world free of nuclear weapons, achieved by building on established international norms, is a global public good of the highest order. No country or government must allow itself to be left behind. Therefore, we call on the UK government to add its support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Faith leaders statement (including Archbishop Malcolm McMahon and Bishop William Nolan) on occasion of Nobel Peace Prize, December 2017

International

What can be said, too, about those governments which count on nuclear arms as a means of ensuring the security of their countries? ... that nuclear weapons have any place in a civilized society, is not only baneful but also completely fallacious. In a nuclear war there would be no victors, only victims.

Pope Benedict XVI, 2007

The Church's fundamental goal...is to dispel the complacency that currently subverts and paralyzes international efforts at nuclear arms reductions, a complacency based upon denial and the false assumption that the logic of nuclear deterrence and proliferation has not fundamentally changed in the past fifty years.

Bishop Robert W. McElroy of San Diego, Vatican Conference on Perspectives for a World Free from Nuclear Weapons and for Integral Disarmament, November 2017

A quick guide to the Treaty

- It prohibits states parties from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, acquiring, stockpiling, transferring, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons.
- It prohibits the stationing, deployment or installation of nuclear weapons belonging to other states...
- It prohibits states parties from involvement/assistance to enable nuclear weapon production, deployment or other promotional activities. This could affect banks, companies and pension schemes involved in financing or maintaining nuclear weapons and their systems.
- It obliges states to provide assistance to individuals under their jurisdiction who are affected by nuclear weapon use or testing...
- It obliges states to cooperate and assist each other in fulfilling their obligations.



Our money should not be used to fund nuclear weapons!



The Treaty addresses the financing of nuclear weapon production. We can share and take action around the message that that our money should not be used to fund nuclear weapon production or deployment.

The *Don't Bank on the Bomb* initiative has just launched

its 2018 report which shows that twenty-six financial institutions are financially involved in nuclear weapon production, the largest of these being the Royal Bank of Scotland, Barclays and HSBC. The report gives details of the nuclear weapons-producing companies and institutions which invest in them. It also offers great campaigning support for individuals to take action by writing to their bank, insurance company or pension fund and raise awareness of the importance of this approach to preventing nuclear weapon production.

There are also opportunities for community campaigning. Do you belong to a trade union? Where are its pension funds? Are you a teacher or public employee? Where is that pension fund held?

Information and support resources can be found here www.dontbankonthebomb.com/