

**An invitation to prayer and fasting in support of the  
Vatican Conference**  
*“Perspectives for a World Free from Nuclear Weapons  
and for Integral Disarmament”*  
Rome, 10 - 11 November 2017

## **We live in a time of hope and of sadness**

**Hope** - expressed in the support for the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty which many countries have begun to endorse. (see over)

**Hope** - in the powerful words of Pope Francis calling for total nuclear abolition.

**Sadness** - that the nuclear weapon states, including the UK, the USA, Russia, France and China, refuse to participate in or sign the Treaty.

**Sadness** - that many responses to the threats arising from conflict over Korea **increase** the possibility of military intervention and the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons.

*“The ultimate goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons becomes both a challenge and a moral and humanitarian imperative.”*

**Pope Francis, message to UN, March 2017**

## **Prayer**

Creator God,

We ask your Holy Spirit to guide those meeting in Rome including the Pax Christi delegation.

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**

## Background to the Nuclear Ban Treaty

In July 2017, 122 governments adopted a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. This treaty outlaws the manufacture, possession and use of nuclear weapons. It is grounded in international humanitarian law and sets out steps for states that rely on nuclear arms to get rid of their arsenals.

Nine countries with nuclear weapons, and others who rely on NATO nuclear forces, boycotted the treaty. The UK is one of these. They have made it clear that they will not sign.



## What you can do

- **Join** with us on 10 and 11 November, alone or in your community or parish, in times of prayer and fasting in support and encouragement of this Vatican Conference.
- **Pray** that the gathering will affirm for all time a total ban on nuclear weapons and challenge any support for nuclear deterrence.
- **Keep up pressure** on our Government. Write via your MP to the Government. Ask why they refuse to sign. Ask how they can justify their nuclear weapons programme with a Nuclear Ban Treaty in place.
- **Encourage** Church leaders to speak out in support of the Ban Treaty and ask that prayers be offered in each parish / community at the time of the Vatican Conference.

## Resources

**Vote for the Ban is a vote for the earth's future** [www.paxchristi.net/news/un-vote-ban-nuclear-weapons-vote-earths-future/6733#sthash.xNsuuSVM.dpbs](http://www.paxchristi.net/news/un-vote-ban-nuclear-weapons-vote-earths-future/6733#sthash.xNsuuSVM.dpbs)

### Holy See signs the Ban Treaty

[www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/vatican-at-un-nukes-wont-save-us-lets-seek-a-better-path-36870/](http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/vatican-at-un-nukes-wont-save-us-lets-seek-a-better-path-36870/)

**Message of Pope Francis** to opening meeting of the UN Ban Treaty negotiations.

[www.wagingpeace.org/message-un-conference-negotiating-nuclear-ban-treaty/](http://www.wagingpeace.org/message-un-conference-negotiating-nuclear-ban-treaty/)

**Full details of UN Process and Ban Treaty** from International Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons

[www.icanw.org/](http://www.icanw.org/)

### Global Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

[www.cnduk.org/campaigns/global-abolition](http://www.cnduk.org/campaigns/global-abolition)

