

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours



Nuclear Weapons

We, Sisters of Bon Secours, call each other to advocate to end violence in all its forms.

Chapter 2014

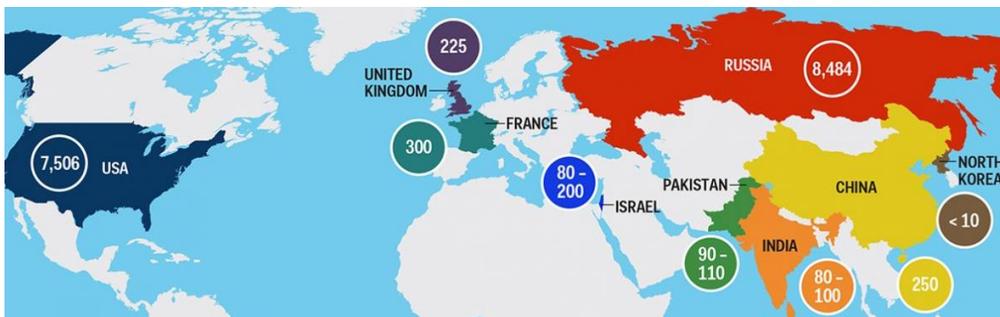
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“There is urgent need to work for a world free of nuclear weapons, in full application of the Non Proliferation Treaty, in letter and spirit with the goal of a complete prohibition of these weapons.” (Pope Francis)

This month as we commemorate the anniversaries of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as well as the *International Day Against Nuclear Tests* there is room for **hope**. On July 7th 122 nations – two-thirds of the United Nations member states – adopted a ban on nuclear weapons. The unprecedented agreement outlaws the manufacture, possession and use of nuclear weapons, is grounded in international humanitarian law and includes steps for states that rely on nuclear arms to get rid of their arsenals. Sadly, the nine countries with nuclear weapons (see map below) and 30 countries that rely on U.S nuclear forces boycotted the treaty negotiations. The Vatican played a key role in the U.N. negotiations on the treaty. In a rare action, the United Nations allowed the Holy See, as a permanent observer state, to vote on the treaty and their vote was supportive.

Countries with Nuclear Weapons



Voting Results – Countries Where Bon Secours Live and Minister

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>France United Kingdom United States</p> <p>Not Supportive</p> | <p>France, the United Kingdom and the United States voted against the UN resolution on a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons. They have declared their strong opposition to such a treaty, and have failed to fulfill its legally binding disarmament obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty. On the opening day of negotiations, these countries held an anti-ban protest outside the UN General Assembly Hall.</p> |
| <p>Ireland</p> <p>Supportive</p> | <p>Ireland co-sponsored the UN resolution to begin negotiations in 2017 on a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons. It is a member of the core group of nations leading this treaty-making process, and has pledged to cooperate in efforts to stigmatize, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons in light of their unacceptable humanitarian consequences.</p> |
| <p>Peru</p> <p>Supportive</p> | <p>Peru co-sponsored the UN resolution. It has pledged to cooperate in efforts to stigmatize, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons in light of their unacceptable humanitarian consequences.</p> |

August
JPIC Days of Remembrance

August 6 and 9
Anniversary of the Bombings of Hiroshima & Nagasaki

August 9
International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples



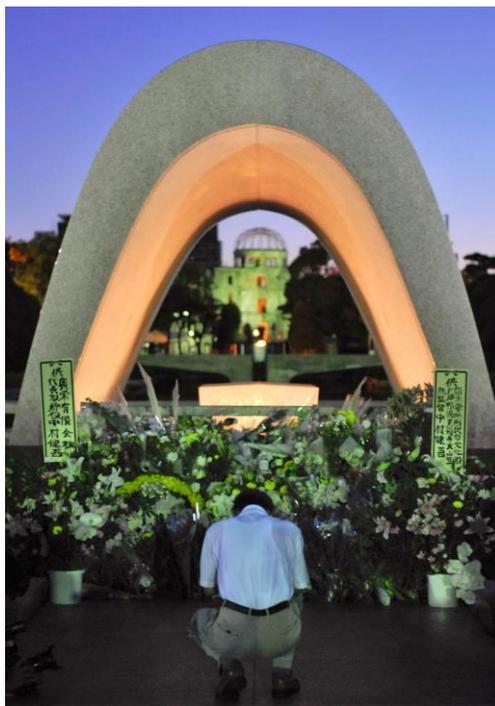
August 19
World Humanitarian Day

August 23
International Day for Remembrance of the Slave Trade & Its Abolition

August 29
International Day Against Nuclear Tests

"The world that God has made, the love of God and the love we are bound to have for each other are all reminders that nuclear weapons are unacceptable in every way."

Marie Dennis, Co-President
Pax Christi International



"We have definitely said never, ever, ever again... We must not await another Hiroshima or Nagasaki... before mustering the political will to banish these weapons from arsenals."

Ambassador Nozioho Mxakato-Diseko,
South Africa

Statement from Pax Christi France on Nuclear Weapons Ban

The Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on July 7, 2017 represents a significant advance for our society.

Pax Christi France is pleased that 122 states out of the 193 represented at the UN have signed this treaty. It is the assertion that many people reject nuclear weapons, notwithstanding the argument put forward by those rejecting the treaty that because of the risks nuclear proliferation is still a necessary step for security and international stability.

Peace is not built by promoting a weapon whose power of destruction is immeasurable. It is the responsibility of the countries which possess it to express clearly their nuclear disarmament as soon as possible, welcoming a significant and concrete step in the direction of this disarmament, since the maintenance of nuclear armaments maintains the proliferation of nuclear weapons and largely the safety of all. This treaty calls for a strategy of disarmament in which it will advance only by proscribing the fatal weapon and by putting together the elements of peaceful and harmonious international relations.

Organizations Addressing Nuclear Disarmament



Pax Christi International is a Catholic peace movement with 120 member organizations worldwide that promotes peace, respect of human rights, justice & reconciliation throughout the world. The Congregation of Bon Secours recently became a member of this organization.

Grounded in the belief that peace is possible and that vicious cycles of violence and injustice can be broken, Pax Christi International addresses the root causes & destructive consequences of violent conflict and war.
<http://www.paxchristi.net/>

Reflection and Sharing

The real work ahead under the new UN treaty banning the possession of nuclear weapons is getting the world's nuclear-weapons possessing countries to take seriously the call to reduce and eventually rid the world of ballistic arsenals. Most of us who are reading this JPIC News live in these weapons possessing countries.

What opportunity does this offer us to use our voice in support of Gospel nonviolence?

How can nations work together toward the vision of a world without nuclear weapons and take practical steps towards that goal?

How can the world address the nuclear threat posed by North Korea?



The **International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)** is a coalition of non-government organizations in one hundred countries advocating for a strong and effective nuclear weapon ban treaty.

Learn more about this organization. Their website offers resources in English, French and Spanish.

<http://www.icanw.org/>

International Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee

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Sr. Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ Co-chair
Sr. Mary Leamy, CBS (Ireland)
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