



IPPNW and Humanitarian Impacts Movement to Ban Nuclear Weapons: A Timeline

IPPNW has made substantial contributions over the past decade to the humanitarian-based movement for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. The following highlights are by no means comprehensive.

May 2007

In the wake of the failed 2005 NPT Review, IPPNW Co-President Ron McCoy proposes a new civil society campaign, ICAN—the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. MAPW (IPPNW-Australia) provides strong initial leadership and **launches ICAN at the 2007 NPT PrepCom.**



September 2007

IPPNW and the Royal Society of Medicine hold an international medical conference on nuclear weapons. **“The Final Pandemic”** presents important new scientific data on the climate effects of regional nuclear war and refocuses attention on the dire medical and environmental consequences of nuclear weapons.



May 2008

Growing evidence about the climate and health consequences of nuclear war presented during a formal session at the 2008 NPT PrepCom.

March 2009

Medical appeal by more than 300 of the world's top physicians calls on US and Russian presidents to “end the nuclear weapons era once and for all.”

May 2010

IPPNW organizes panel on the medical and environmental consequences of nuclear war at 2010 NPT Review Conference. Physicians, climate scientists, and Red Cross leaders renew call for abolition of nuclear weapons. **For the first time, NPT Review outcome cites “catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons,” opening the door to a new humanitarian initiative.**

November 2010

World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates issues statement drafted by IPPNW that “nuclear weapons...can and must be outlawed.”

November 2011

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies adopts resolution calling for abolition of nuclear weapons. IPPNW physicians consult with IFRC Council, offer full cooperation in educating public about the medical and humanitarian consequences of nuclear war.

March 2012

New poster exhibition produced by IPPNW Germany—**Hibakusha Worldwide**—documents health and environmental effects of nuclear weapons testing and production on millions of people, including Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors, indigenous peoples, down-winders, and others exposed to radioactive fallout.

April 2012

IPPNW publishes **Nuclear famine: A billion people at risk—global impacts of limited nuclear war on agriculture, food supplies, and human nutrition**; presents findings at World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Chicago.

May 2012

IPPNW tells NPT PrepCom that “the medical, humanitarian, and environmental consequences of the use of nuclear weapons [are] irrefutable proof that their continued existence is incompatible with the security and survival of everyone on Earth.”

August 2012

An editorial in the *Australia and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, calling the eradication of nuclear weapons a humanitarian and public health imperative, is an early example of a series of articles by IPPNW authors that will appear in medical journals during the coming years.

October 2012

IPPNW Co-Presidents Ira Helfand and Bob Mtonga describe climate and famine effects of nuclear war, with a particular focus on Africa, at standing-room-only diplomatic briefing hosted by Swiss government and ICAN.

November 2012

IPPNW assists Red Cross in development of action plan to implement nuclear weapons resolution.

January 2013

New video on medical, environmental, and humanitarian consequences of nuclear war goes viral, with more than 90,000 views on IPPNW's YouTube channel. Online platforms and social media are used increasingly to spread IPPNW's message.



March 2013

127 counties attend 1st International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (HINW), in Oslo, takes up IPPNW message of 30 years: consequences of



nuclear war would be catastrophic; a medical and humanitarian response is impossible; only responsible course of action

is prevention; prevention means elimination of nuclear weapons. Dr. Helfand gives powerful presentation on global climate and health effects of nuclear war. ICAN civil society meeting parallels diplomatic conference and call for political action based on medical, environmental, and humanitarian evidence.

April 2013

80 nations deliver joint statement on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons to NPT PrepCom, warning that “socio-economic development will be impeded, the environment will be destroyed, and future generations will be robbed of their health, food, water and other vital resources....The only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons will never be used again is through their total elimination.” This is IPPNW’s core message.

May 2013



IPPNW joins ICAN in calling for **new humanitarian-based treaty to ban nuclear weapons.**

June 2013

At an unprecedented meeting in Israel, Dr. Helfand debates nuclear abolition with a member of Israel's Likud Party in the Knesset. The dialogue is captured on video and viewed by thousands on YouTube.

September 2013

At a meeting of the UN General Assembly observing 4th International Day Against Nuclear Testing, IPPNW vice president Andrew Kanter describes catastrophic humanitarian consequences and calls for a treaty banning nuclear weapons leading to their total elimination.

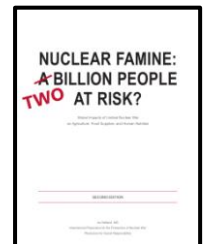
October 2013

Effective campaigning by ICAN and IPPNW helps increase endorsement of joint statement on humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons to 125 states at UN First Committee.

13th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, meeting in Warsaw, issues statement drafted by IPPNW calling for outlawing and eliminating nuclear weapons as a humanitarian imperative.

November 2013

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement renews call for the elimination of nuclear weapons. IPPNW works with ICRC and IFRC leaders, providing medical and scientific expertise and assisting with the development of materials such as a new ICRC booklet, *Climate effects of nuclear war and implications for global food production.*



December 2013

Updated edition of IPPNW’s **Nuclear famine study** includes new data about climate impact of regional nuclear war on food production in China; projects global population at risk of starvation will be twice that of previous estimates.

February 2014

146 countries attend 2nd HINW Conference in Nayarit, Mexico. IPPNW provides substantive input to development of conference program; expert speakers detail medical and climate effects of nuclear war. Movement for a ban treaty gains momentum.

August 2014

IPPNW, US affiliate PSR, and Pax Christi International submit an amicus brief in landmark case brought by the Republic of the Marshall Islands at the **International Court of Justice** and in US federal court, claiming that nuclear-armed nations have failed to comply with legal obligations to negotiate global elimination of nuclear weapons.

October 2014

At the 65th **World Medical Association** General Assembly in Durban, South Africa, IPPNW collaborates with the WMA doctors on a new resolution condemning nuclear weapons and calling for their prohibition and elimination. The resolution will work its way through the WMA system, with support from IPPNW affiliates, in preparation for a final adoption the following year.

December 2014

IPPNW launches a new online **Campaign Kit on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons** at the ICAN Civil Society Forum in Vienna.

158 countries attend 3rd HINW Conference

in Vienna. IPPNW again contributes medical and scientific evidence. Concludes with **“Humanitarian Pledge”** from the Austrian government to cooperate with all stakeholders “to stigmatize, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons in light of their unacceptable humanitarian consequences.”



The **14th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates**, meeting in Rome, issues statement drafted in part by IPPNW, condemning nuclear weapons and calling for a treaty to ban them.

April 2015

IPPNW organizes event at NPT Review Conference where Rutgers scientist Alan Robock presents **“Nuclear famine and the ban treaty: how prohibiting and eliminating nuclear weapons can prevent a climate disaster”** that examines the scientific and medical evidence supporting the conclusion that the number of nuclear weapons in the world must be reduced to zero without delay.

IPPNW doctors publish "Nuclear war: a greater threat than Ebola" in the April issue of the *World Medical Journal*.

June 2015

Outreach to important new constituencies continues, as IPPNW addresses peace symposium during Rotary International Convention in São Paulo.

June-July 2015

IPPNW activists climb Mt. Kilimanjaro to raise awareness about the humanitarian and health effects of nuclear weapons and uranium mining.



August 2015

IPPNW medical students join youth activists from 20 countries in Hiroshima for an International Youth Summit for Nuclear Abolition sponsored by Soka Gakkai International.

October 2015

Long-time IPPNW leaders Victor W. Sidel and Ira Helfand challenge the medical community to once again take up the task of banning and eliminating nuclear weapons as a humanitarian priority. Their article “Docs and nukes—still a live issue” is published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

The General Assembly of the **World Medical Association**, meeting in Moscow, unanimously adopts a powerful new resolution condemning nuclear weapons, stating that the medical profession has a duty to work for the elimination of nuclear weapons and urging all governments to work to ban and eliminate them. IPPNW and its affiliates work to promote this resolution as widely as possible.

November 2015

At IPPNW’s urging, the 15th World Summit of **Nobel Peace Laureates**, meeting in Barcelona, calls on all states to join the Humanitarian Pledge and to make the evidence about the consequences of nuclear weapons a central focus of the political and diplomatic process to ban and eliminate them.



January 2016

Dr. Helfand delivers a TEDx talk in Vail, Colorado called “Can we prevent nuclear war?” The video, shared widely, is viewed thousands of times.

February 2016

Leading Dutch health professionals, organized by IPPNW’s affiliate NVMP, warn against the dangers of nuclear weapons in a medical appeal published on the BMJ blog. Affiliates in Norway and Germany organize similar appeals.

May 2016

IPPNW, the World Medical Association, the World Federation of Public Health Associations, and the International Council of Nurses submit a joint paper to the UN Open-Ended Working Group on nuclear disarmament (OEWG) in Geneva, calling for urgent action to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons as “the only course of action commensurate with the existential danger they pose.”



Dr. Helfand testifies at OEWG, calling nuclear weapons “suicide bombs on a global scale” and says “our knowledge of what they will do leads inescapably to the conclusion that they must be prohibited and eliminated.”

September 2016

Austria’s foreign minister, Sebastian Kurz, announces that his country will join other UN member states in tabling a **resolution to convene negotiations on a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons in 2017.**



October 2016

The UN First Committee takes up the resolution to mandate negotiations on a new treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons. The leaders of **IPPNW, the WMA, the ICN, and the WFPHA** co-author a new editorial calling for a ban treaty on health and humanitarian grounds. The op-ed, published in *The Guardian*, is soon followed by similar pieces produced by affiliates for their national media.

As the First Committee prepares to vote on the ban treaty resolution, IPPNW releases a **statement signed by 17 Nobel Laureates**, including 15 Peace Laureates. The Laureates urge the UN “to ensure that negotiations on a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons commence in 2017.”



UN votes to outlaw nuclear weapons. Resolution L.41, mandating negotiations on a new treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons leading to their elimination, passes by a vote of 123-38. Treaty negotiations to commence in March 2017, open to all States and blockable by none.

Coming in 2017!



[Pictured left is IPPNW Vice President Dr. Masao Tomonaga, a lifetime resident of Nagasaki, was two years old at the time of the atomic bombing on August 9, 1945.]