



VITAL SIGNS

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CAN OBAMA DELIVER A NUCLEAR-WEAPONS-FREE WORLD? IT'S UP TO US

“ There is nothing humanity needs, yearns for, and deserves more than a US president who delivers on the long-standing promise to free the whole world—once and for all—from the worst weapons of terror—**nuclear weapons.** ”

DR. TILMAN RUFF, MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR PREVENTION OF WAR

For the first time, with the election of Barack Obama, a US President has come into office having committed himself to a world without nuclear weapons. President-elect Obama's pledge to repair US relations with the rest of the world and his preference for diplomacy over military intervention is welcome news for everyone who shares IPPNW's goals: the prevention of armed conflict and—most especially—the prevention of nuclear war and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The pressure on the new administration to keep nuclear weapons and to rebuild the US nuclear weapons infrastructure will be strong and relentless. Russia, China, Britain, France, and the other nuclear-weapon states are modernizing their

own arsenals. Iran and other non-nuclear-weapon states are poised to acquire nuclear weapons if they believe their security depends on it.

The Nuclear Weapons Convention is IPPNW's roadmap to a nuclear-weapons-free world, and we now have a window of opportunity to demand action. Between now and the all-important 2010 NPT Review, IPPNW and ICAN will be urging the commencement of negotiations on the Convention not only upon the new US administration, but also in UN disarmament bodies, at the upcoming NPT PrepCom, and in the newly established International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. Much of that work has already started (see pages 2 and 3).

If the threat of nuclear war is the paramount security issue of the 21st century, the global threat of armed violence is an immediate and ongoing public health crisis—a global scourge that each year kills hundreds of thousands, injures millions more, impedes achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and diverts scarce resources from disease prevention.

“ The ultimate mission of IPPNW is the prevention of violence. Small arms violence can lead to the use of weapons of mass destruction. It is therefore important the evil is nipped in the bud. ”

DR. ARUN MITRA, INDIAN DOCTORS FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

Aiming for Prevention, launched in 2001, brings IPPNW's unique medical expertise to bear in the global South, where rates of firearm-related death are generally higher than in the rest of the world. We take a public health approach to this problem because evidence-based research, followed by education and advocacy, is an effective way to reduce or prevent gun violence. The record of accomplishment by Aiming for Prevention activists has been impressive, and is reviewed on pages 4 and 5. [vs](#)

IPPNW'S TWO CAMPAIGNS, ICAN AND AIMING FOR PREVENTION ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY PHYSICIANS, MEDICAL STUDENTS, OTHER HEALTH WORKERS AND ACTIVISTS IN 62 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD.



AN IPPNW DELEGATION AT THE NICARAGUAN MISSION IN NEW YORK ON OCTOBER 20, TO DISCUSS THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS CONVENTION WITH AMBASSADOR MARIA RUBIALES DE CHAMORRO. FROM LEFT: JOHN BURROUGHS, LAWYERS ALLIANCE FOR NUCLEAR POLICY; CATHY FALVO, PSR-NYC; JIM WURST, GLOBAL SECURITY INSTITUTE; JOHN LORETZ, IPPNW; VIC SIDEL, IPPNW; AMBASSADOR CHAMORRO.



XANTHE HALL OF IPPNW-GERMANY (CENTER LEFT) MODERATED A PANEL ON GOOD FAITH AND DISARMAMENT AT A MAY 1ST CONFERENCE IN GENEVA CO-SPONSORED BY IPPNW. SPEAKERS INCLUDED (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) CTBT NEGOTIATOR JAAP RAMAKER OF THE NETHERLANDS, JOHN BURROUGHS OF LCNP, AND JACKIE CABASSO OF THE WESTERN STATES LEGAL FOUNDATION.

IPPNW TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY: TIME TO NEGOTIATE A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CONVENTION

The UN General Assembly convened its 63rd session in September, having failed over six decades to fulfill its very first resolution, adopted in 1946 and calling for "the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction."

In a written submission to incoming UNGA President Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann of Nicaragua, ICAN and IPPNW called on UN member states "to take up the Nuclear Weapons Convention as its highest disarmament and non-proliferation priority." The statement was delivered to President Brockmann and to the chairs of the First Committee and the Conference on Disarmament by Victor W. Sidel, IPPNW's principal UN representative.

Dr. Sidel led a delegation of Convention supporters to the Nicaraguan mission in New York in October, to press the case for commencement of negotiations on the

Convention. Later that month, Program Director John Loretz presented a joint NGO statement on nuclear disarmament, co-authored by IPPNW, during a formal session of the First Committee.

"A nuclear weapons convention," IPPNW said, "will enable nuclear weapons states to fulfill their legal obligations under the NPT, will bridge the divide between non-proliferation and disarmament, and will address the issue of universality, which has plagued the NPT from the beginning."

ICAN SENDS SOS TO RUDD COMMISSION

Members of the newly formed International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, established by Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, received a care package from ICAN in September: copies of "Securing Our Survival" and the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention, along with a recommendation that they make the Convention a focal point of their work for the next year and a half.

The Commission, co-chaired by Gareth Evans and Yoriko Kawaguchi,

held its first meeting in October, with a mandate to produce a set of practical recommendations in time for the 2010 NPT Review. In a cover letter to the Commissioners, ICAN Working Group chair Tilman Ruff and political advisor John Langmore described the expectations of civil society for the Commission's work:

"There is no task more vital or more urgent to securing global survival, security, and sustainability than achieving a world freed from nuclear weapons... We think that the most promising, practical and realistic way to approach the conjoined twins of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is through adoption of one consistent standard for all: zero nuclear weapons."

NUCLEAR ABOLITION ROUNDUP

Ira Helfand, author of IPPNW's paper on the health consequences of regional nuclear war, presented testimony about the danger of nuclear famine to congressional staff and representatives of the US Department of Homeland Security in June. Dr. Helfand explained that a nuclear war involving as few as

“ A world without nuclear weapons is profoundly in America’s interest and the world’s interest. It is our responsibility to make the commitment, and to do the hard work to make this vision a reality. ”

BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT ELECT OF THE USA



IPPNW AFFILIATES IN GERMANY AND SWEDEN HOSTED DOCTORS FROM THE KOREAN RED CROSS HOSPITAL IN SEPTEMBER. VISITING THE DPRK EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM WERE (FROM LEFT): DR. LI CHOL GUN, MEIT KRAKAU, LEONORE WIDE, FIRST SECRETARY KIM YONG GUK, MARTIN TONDEL, AND DR. YONG KIM HUN.

100 Hiroshima-sized warheads could result in the deaths of a billion people from starvation and epidemic disease. Dr. Helfand also had an opportunity to brief the UN diplomatic community on the medical effects of nuclear weapons on high alert status, at a UN event hosted by the Swiss and Chilean Ambassadors in October.

The Dialogues With Decision Makers program finished 2008 with meetings between IPPNW delegations and nuclear decision makers in Brussels during the week of November 3, and in Moscow on November 17. While in Brussels, IPPNW physicians and medical students met with members of the European Parliament and with nuclear experts at NATO Headquarters to discuss the Nuclear Weapons Convention and calls for the removal of US nuclear weapons from European soil and the end of NATO’s nuclear sharing policy.

A group of eight medical student participants in the Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project (NWIP) met in Brussels from June 30 to July 2 for a series of workshops, an Abolition 2000 round table discussion in the European


Parliament, and an international conference on the 40th anniversary of the NPT. The NWIP students fanned out across the halls of the EP to engage in dialogue with parliamentarians from Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Portugal. As one

German student summarized the experience, "it is great that students get the opportunity to get active on topics such as the Nuclear Weapons Convention. The parliamentarians also recognized young people being involved in these matters."

Halting the use of highly enriched uranium (HEU) in radiopharmaceutical production is a high priority for IPPNW. The HEU campaign celebrated two milestones this summer, with the passage of resolutions by the Malaysian Medical Association and the California Medical Association calling on radiopharmaceutical suppliers to expedite universal conversion of isotope production targets and reactor fuel from HEU to low-enriched uranium (LEU). The resolutions were championed by former IPPNW co-president Ron McCoy in Malaysia, and by former PSR president Robert Gould in the US. The groundwork is now laid for advancing to the World Medical Association and the American Medical Association.

IPPNW co-sponsored a one-day conference on the concept of good faith and disarmament on May 1, during a break at the 2008 NPT

PrepCom in Geneva. The International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA), the International Peace Bureau, and other NGOs organized the conference, entitled "Good Faith, International Law, and Elimination of Nuclear Weapons," as part of a larger project to return to the World Court for a new advisory opinion on whether the nuclear weapon states are in good faith compliance with their disarmament obligations. The keynote speaker at the conference was Judge Mohammed Bedjaoui, the President of the Court at the time of its historic 1996 advisory opinion, who spoke in public for the first time since that opinion was issued.

A year-long search for a successor to retiring Middle Powers Initiative chair Douglas Roche came to a successful conclusion in October with the appointment of Ambassador Henrik Salander, a Swedish diplomat and internationally renowned expert on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. IPPNW executive director Michael Christ headed the search committee, which had the unenviable task of finding an equal to one of the abolition movement’s foremost advocates. Salander, who was Sweden’s Ambassador to the Geneva Conference on Disarmament from 1999 to 2003, and who was General Secretary of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, joins MPI at an important juncture for the NPT and for disarmament. IPPNW was a co-founder of MPI in 1998, and has been a regular participant in the Article VI Forum, a series of consultations with middle-power states who are encouraged to press the nuclear weapons states to fulfill their nuclear disarmament responsibilities. 

AIMING FOR PREVENTION 3 KEY INITIATIVES

Action-oriented injury research to identify risk factors and help inform public health intervention strategies.

Education to inform medical professionals about what they can do to help prevent firearm violence.

Organizing and Advocacy to contribute fact-based health information to policy makers, health professionals, and citizen groups; to build capacity and engage medical practitioners and students in violence prevention activities.



ONLINE: MORE ON THIS CAMPAIGN
IPPNW.ORG/PROGRAMS/AFP

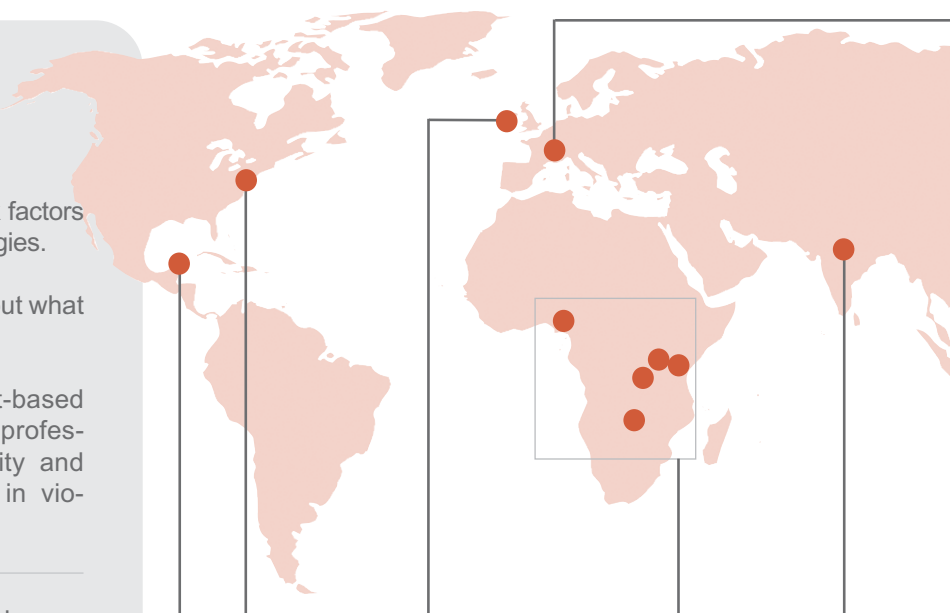


PHOTO: MARIA VALENTI

United Nations New York City, USA

IPPNW leadership at the 3rd Biennial Meeting of States of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons includes the public health panel “Risk and Resilience” and distribution of the policy paper, “Prescriptions for Prevention.”

PHOTO: DR. VICTOR SIDEL SPEAKING TO UN PROGRAMME OF ACTION DELEGATES AND NGOS AT THE PANEL. DR. DAVID MEDDINGS OF WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION SEATED.



PHOTO: MARIA VALENTI

Merida, Mexico ippnw.org/Programs/AFP/News.html

9th World Conference on Injury and Safety Promotion—IPPNW activists from six countries participate in presenting 13 papers and posters on violence prevention.

PHOTO: MEDICAL STUDENT MANSUR RAMALAN (LEFT) AND DR. IME JOHN (RIGHT)



PHOTO: MARY WAREHAM, CMC

Dublin, Ireland stopclustermunitions.org

Following 18 months of intensive negotiations, IPPNW leaders such as Dr. Robert Mtonga from Zambia (on left) and Russia help pass the landmark Cluster Munitions Treaty signed by 107 countries banning the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster bombs.



PHOTO: MARY WAREHAM, CMC

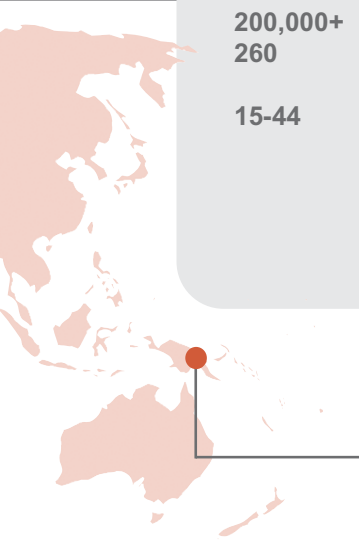
Nigeria Uganda

IPPNW students conduct research of injuries in African

SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS (SALW) BY THE NUMBERS

51	Countries that produce SALW
600 million+	SALW in circulation
1 million+	Injured or maimed each year by SALW
200,000+	Killed each year by SALW
260	Killed or injured by one 120 mm mortar shell
15-44	Age group in which violence is among the leading causes of death

SOURCES: WHO, UN, SMALL ARMS SURVEY



New Zealand and Papua New Guinea

New Zealand medical students foster exchange programs with hospitals in the highlands of Papua New Guinea and examine hospital-based injury data to assess the impact of conflict mediation on the island of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea.

ONLINE: INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COALITION TO ABOLISH SMALL ARMS (ISCASA)
IPPNW-STUDENTS.ORG



eria, Zambia, Kenya, nda, and DR Congo

W physicians and medical stu- s conduct hospital-based injury arch, collecting over 4,000 cases uries at emergency rooms in five an countries.



PHOTO: PSR NEPAL

Bhaktupar, Nepal
ippnw.org/Programs/AFP/News.html

South Asian students from medical and public health colleges of Nepal, Bangladesh, India and Germany meet to educate and activate on public health approaches to armed violence in the region.



Geneva, Switzerland
smallarmssurvey.org

“The Small Arms Survey 2008: Risk and Resilience demonstrates the need to and our ability to reduce armed violence by focusing on preventative efforts rather than just punitive measures. The evidence-based public health approach allows us to understand the risk of violence in a community, design targeted reduction interventions, and measure the effectiveness of these programmes in building safer communities.”

IPPNW Co-President and former Finnish Minister of Health, Dr. Vappu Taipale, was chosen to write an editorial review for the 2008 annual yearbook on global small arms issues. Summaries of the 2008 survey are available from the SAS website in English, French, German and Russian.

AFP PAPERS PUBLISHED

Publishing in international policy, science and medical journals on health approaches to preventing gun violence is a priority of Aiming for Prevention.

In this past year, Aiming for Prevention and its activists have had their research and work appear in the *Journal of Public Health Policy* (Vol. 28), Volume 24, Issue 4 *Medicine Conflict & Survival* (MC&S), and the *East African Medical Journal*.



IPPNW IN PHOTOS

ONLINE: ADDITIONAL PHOTOS AND REPORTS

IPPNW.ORG, ICANW.ORG AND IPPNW-STUDENTS.ORG



PHOTO:IDPFD



PHOTO: MAPW



PHOTO:IPPNW GERMANY

- 1 INDIAN YOUTH PAY HOMAGE TO VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI BOMBINGS DURING ONE OF SEVERAL MARCHES ORGANIZED DURING BY INDIAN DOCTORS FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT (IDPD). WORKSHOPS AND SPEAKERS WERE ALSO ORGANIZED BY THE INDIAN INSTITUTE FOR PEACE, DISARMAMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (IIPDEP).
- 2 DOCTORS AND MEDICAL STUDENTS GATHERED FOR A HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI COMMEMORATION ORGANIZED BY AFFILIATE CHAPTER, MAPW -MELBOURNE.
- 3 PHYSICIANS FROM IPPNW-GERMANY DRESSED IN WHITE LAB COATS AND JOINED OVER 15,000 PROTESTERS AT A NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE FACILITY IN GORLEBEN, GERMANY ON NOVEMBER 8, 2008. THE PROTESTERS, WHO REJECT NUCLEAR POWER AS UNSAFE, ATTEMPTED TO BLOCK THE ELEVEN TRUCKS FILLED WITH NUCLEAR WASTE THAT WERE HEADED TO GORLEBEN, AND CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO RETHINK AND RESTRUCTURE THE PLANNED NUCLEAR PHASEOUT.

IN SEPTEMBER IPPNW-GERMANY ORGANIZED A THREE DAY CONFERENCE AND CONCERT IN BERLIN. "THE CULTURE OF PEACE" CONFERENCE INCLUDED 50 INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS AS SPEAKERS AND HAD OVER 700 ATTENDEES.

ONLINE:SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS
KULTUR-DES-FRIEDENS.DE

CO-PRESIDENTS CORNER

BRINGING PEACE STRATEGIES TO HEALTH CONFERENCES AND COMMUNICATING HEALTH PERSPECTIVES AT PEACE CONFERENCES



PHOTO: A.MORIZONO

Sergey Kolesnikov (left) spoke of the need for a new Euro-Atlantic security and peace agreement during Dialogues with

Decision Makers meetings in Brussels in October. Dr. Kolesnikov organized a round of Dialogues with members of the Duma and with government ministries in November in Moscow.



PHOTO: A.MORIZONO

IPPNW Co-President Ime John was a featured speaker at the Point of Peace Summit in Stavanger

Norway on September 12. The summit is an annual gathering of Nobel Peace Prize laureates, conflict resolution experts, and NGOs. Dr. John told the conference that

“the choice between two paradigms—one based on unilateralism, force, ideology, and narrowly defined national interests; the other based on diplomacy, a search for consensus, and a respect for international law—has rarely been so manifest or so urgent.”

IPPNW endorsed Save the Children's campaign "Rewrite the Future" in September, and conveyed

A DISARMING BEGINNING

IPPNW FOUNDING CO-PRESIDENT HONORED — BUILDING BRIDGES CONTINUES TODAY

Prescription for Survival - A Doctor's Journey to End Nuclear Madness
by Dr. Bernard Lown

In October, a bridge spanning two cities in Maine was renamed the Bernard Lown Peace Bridge. During the ribbon cutting ceremony at the bridge, Dr. Lown said, "the bridge is especially meaningful to me as a physician. To be an effective doctor one must be able to connect with another human being. In fact to connect is to build a bridge. It is a prerequisite to fostering trust; indispensable for gaining understanding, obligatory in comprehending illness and mandatory for healing the afflicted. It is key to exposing and grasping the deeper human ache. One is always building bridges in order to gain friends."



PHOTO: AMORIZONO

ABOVE: DR. LOWN AT A BOOK SIGNING AFTER A SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT AT THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Today, the call for nuclear abolition and small arms violence prevention continues to build and IPPNW's 62 affiliates around the globe answer that need by working together on ICAN and Aiming for Prevention programs.



ONLINE: READ EXCERPTS / PURCHASE BOOK
WWW.IPPNW.ORG/PRESCRIPTIONFORSURVIVAL.HTML


IPPNW CO-PRESIDENTS FOR 2008-2010: (LEFT TO RIGHT) DRs. SERGEY KOLESNIKOV OF RUSSIA, IME JOHN OF NIGERIA, AND VAPPU TAIPALE OF FINLAND.

ONLINE: IPPNW BOARD OF DIRECTORS BIOS
IPPNW.ORG/CONTACT/BOARD.HTML



PHOTO: A. MORIZONO

a message of support from Co-President Vappu Taipale. The campaign has helped millions of children in war zones and other conflict-affected areas gain access to education. Dr. Taipale told Save the Children that "under warlike conditions children are exposed to crude, violent, fearful

and shocking experiences. They have been forced to become soldiers or have been used as first trespassers in mine fields....The education for war has long traditions, compared to the traditions of peace education....We have to develop new methods for working for peace education, and a new sense of responsibility for all adults." 

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VAPPU TAIPALE, MD	FINLAND

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SECRETARY 19TH WORLD CONGRESS

ANDI NIDECKER, MD	SWITZERLAND
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INTERNATIONAL PHYSICIANS FOR THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR (IPPNW)

IPPNW is a non - partisan federation of national medical organizations in 62 countries dedicated to safeguarding health by working to ban nuclear weapons and to address the impact of militarism and war on human health.

IPPNW is a non - profit organization registered under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. Tax ID#: 04-2702110

All gifts to IPPNW are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.



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NEW CENTRAL OFFICE LOCATION

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS BOOKS



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THE CENTRAL OFFICE
FOR IPPNW HAS MOVED
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MASSACHUSETTS.

STAFF EMAIL ADDRESSES
REMAIN THE SAME AND
THE GENERAL EMAIL BOX
IS IPPNWBOS@IPPNW.ORG.

ACTIVISTS' TOOLKIT

CD-ROM AVAILABLE: CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

In response to physician and medical student requests for up-to-date resources on the nuclear threat, the importance of abolition, and public health interventions that can reduce the devastation caused by small arms violence, IPPNW has produced an activists' toolkit comprising three Powerpoint presentations and a wealth of supporting materials, including fact sheets, briefing papers, and scientific studies.

The CD-ROM, which was sent to affiliate contacts in October, contains presentations on:

1) Climate and Health Effects of Regional Nuclear War: How sudden global cooling could produce a "nuclear famine"



2) Doctors and the "Terrorist Bomb": Proliferation dangers associated with radio-pharmaceutical production

3) Small Arms Violence: A global health crisis, a public health approach

Each presentation will be found in a separate folder, along with background materials and other resources designed to support the presenter and to provide additional information to the audience.

The CD also includes basic IPPNW literature and a full set of papers

from last year's conference Nuclear Weapons: The Final Pandemic.

As an incentive, IPPNW has offered a free copy of Dr. Bernard Lown's book, *Prescription for Survival*,

to any affiliate or student group that makes each presentation at least once to an audience of health professionals, decision makers, or the public.

The toolkit is a great resource for anyone interested in learning more about the abolition of nuclear weapons and the prevention of small arms violence. CD-ROMs may be purchased from the Central Office for \$10 (\$15 outside the US).

Contact ippnwbos@ippnw.org for more information.