

# VITAL SIGNS

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL PHYSICIANS FOR THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR (IPPNW)

## ICAN receives 2017 Nobel Peace Prize!

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons has been named the 2017 Nobel Peace Laureate for its role in achieving the Ban Treaty.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee recognized ICAN “for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.”

*[Continued on pg. 2]*



“Ms. Thurlow, today, finally, we can tell the world that we have a treaty that prohibits nuclear weapons. Thank you very much for not letting us rest.”

~Negotiating conference president Elayne Whyte Gomez (left) on July 7, acknowledging Hiroshima survivor Setsuko Thurlow moments after the Ban Treaty was adopted

Kathleen Sullivan photo

## We banned nuclear weapons! Elimination is next

The world took a huge and unprecedented step toward eliminating nuclear weapons when the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) opened for signature at the United Nations on September 20.

For IPPNW, the Ban Treaty is a milestone after years of campaigning to make the medical and humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons the driving force for nuclear abolition.

Adopted by 122 UN member states on July 7, the TPNW prohibits the possession, development, production, testing, transfer, use, and threatened use of nuclear weapons, and provides a legal basis for the elimination of the world’s worst weapons of mass destruction.

“This is a landmark achievement that

establishes the illegality of nuclear weapons once and for all,” said co-president Tilman Ruff. “The Ban Treaty is rooted firmly in the humanitarian principle that the consequences of nuclear weapons use are unacceptable under any circumstances and that any use of nuclear weapons would be contrary to the rules of international humanitarian law.”

The Treaty will enter into force once 50 states have ratified it.

The medical and scientific evidence about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons was given a human face and voice through the active participation of Hibakusha from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, survivors of nuclear testing, and representatives of indigenous communities whom the treaty recog-

nizes as having suffered a “disproportionate impact” from nuclear weapons.

The Ban Treaty has established a clear international norm that renounces not only nuclear weapons themselves, but also nuclear deterrence and other policy rationales used by nuclear-armed and nuclear-dependent states to justify possession

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# NUCLEAR ABOLITION NEWS AND UPDATES


For more information, please contact John Loretz (jloretz@ippnw.org) or follow on [twitter.com/JohnAtIPPNW](https://twitter.com/JohnAtIPPNW)

## ICAN awarded 2017 Nobel Peace Prize

[Continued from pg. 1]

“This year’s Nobel Peace Prize does more than recognize the Ban Treaty as a major step forward in nuclear disarmament,” said IPPNW co-president Ira Helfand. “It reminds us that we remain hostage to what can only be considered suicide bombs. Now that nuclear weapons have been stigmatized and prohibited, it’s up to all of us to increase the legal, moral and political pressure on the nuclear-armed and nuclear-dependent states.”

IPPNW co-president and ICAN founding co-chair Tilman Ruff emphasized the role of the Hibakusha, who “played a pivotal role in ICAN’s work to support the negotiations for the Ban Treaty. Their voices—and those of the victims of nuclear testing—can be heard clearly in the Treaty’s preamble, which cites ‘the unacceptable suffering of and harm caused to the victims of the use of nuclear weapons.’”

 **ONLINE:** Statement from the Norwegian Nobel Committee [www.nobelpeaceprize.org/The-Nobel-Peace-Prize-2017](http://www.nobelpeaceprize.org/The-Nobel-Peace-Prize-2017)

### Health federations call Ban Treaty “crucial step toward elimination”

The leading international federations representing millions of doctors, nurses, and public health professionals have joined with IPPNW in calling for swift entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The World Medical Association, the International Council of Nurses, the World Federation of Public Health Associations, and IPPNW, in a statement released on September 18, said the treaty “completes the process of

stigmatizing and delegitimizing nuclear weapons,” and urged the nuclear-armed and nuclear-dependent states to eliminate weapons “which threaten the security of everyone.” The TPNW “is a crucial step toward the elimination of nuclear weapons, but it is *only* a first step.”


“Our federations welcome this treaty as a significant forward step toward eliminating the most destructive weapons ever created.”

### IPPNW calls for urgent negotiations to resolve Korean nuclear crisis

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea [DPRK] conducted a test of what it said was a hydrogen bomb on September 3. The new nuclear test, along with recent tests of intercontinental and medium-range missiles, were seen as North Korea’s response to joint military exercises by the US and South Korea, and added to heightened tensions in the

region. IPPNW issued a statement on September 5, warning that “there is no military solution to the nuclear confrontation between the United States and the DPRK. Any military action will lead to massive civilian casualties. If nuclear weapons are used the casualties could be in the tens of millions with widespread radioactive contamination and the possibility of global climate disruption.” IPPNW called on the US and the DPRK “to enter into direct negotiations without preconditions to resolve this dangerous crisis.”

### Dr. Helfand to receive prestigious peace leadership award

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will honor IPPNW co-president Ira Helfand with its 2017 Distinguished Peace Leadership Award on October 22. In announcing the award, which will be presented at the foundation’s 34th Annual Evening For Peace, NAPF said that IPPNW and Dr. Helfand “have inspired countless women and men to work on issues of peace, justice and nuclear abolition in their communities and beyond.” Past recipients have included the 14th Dalai Lama, Dr. Helen Caldicott, Hiroshima survivor Setsuko Thurlow, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. 

 **ONLINE:** Health federations statement on Ban Treaty [peaceandhealthblog.com/2017/09/18/forward-step/](http://peaceandhealthblog.com/2017/09/18/forward-step/)

 **ONLINE:** IPPNW statement on Korea crisis [tinyurl.com/ycuzvfzj](http://tinyurl.com/ycuzvfzj)

IPPNW

“A meaningful medical and humanitarian response to the use of nuclear weapons is impossible.”

TPNW

“The catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons cannot be adequately addressed.”

IPPNW

“[N]uclear weapons...produce radioactive contamination that remains active for millennia, causing cancers and other illnesses that can persist across generations. [T]he environmental consequences of nuclear war, including severe climate disruption, can lead to global famine and, in the most extreme case, human extinction.”

TPNW

“[T]he catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons pose grave implications for human survival, the environment, socioeconomic development, the global economy, food security and the health of current and future generations.”

## The Ban Treaty text: A closer look

*IPPNW made a number of recommendations about Treaty elements during the negotiating conference. How was our message reflected in the TPNW itself? Here are some key excerpts from IPPNW working papers, side by side with language from the final text.*

IPPNW

“The threat of nuclear weapons use that underpins [deterrence] policies should be unequivocally prohibited in the nuclear weapons ban treaty.”

TPNW

“Each State Party undertakes never under any circumstances to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons.”

IPPNW

The treaty should “reaffirm the rights of people who have been victimized by nuclear weapons, including the Hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the worldwide victims of nuclear testing, and nuclear weapons workers who suffer from a range of radiation-related illnesses.”

TPNW

Cites “the unacceptable suffering of and harm caused to the victims of the use of nuclear weapons (hibakusha), as well as of those affected by the testing of nuclear weapons.”



**ONLINE:** The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons [tinyurl.com/ycc49rfw](http://tinyurl.com/ycc49rfw)

IPPNW

“[T]he treaty [should] recognize the disproportionate vulnerability of women and girls to lifelong increased cancer risk as a result of exposure to ionizing radiation” and “the disproportionate harm suffered by indigenous people as a consequence of nuclear test explosions.”

TPNW


Nuclear weapons “have a disproportionate impact on women and girls, including as a result of ionizing radiation” and have a “disproportionate impact...on indigenous peoples.”

## We banned nuclear weapons!

*[Continued from pg. 1]*

and possible use. Moreover, it has shifted leadership for nuclear disarmament to non-nuclear-weapon states committed to the elimination of nuclear weapons, and away from the nuclear-armed states, who have dodged their disarmament commitments for decades.

“The nine nuclear-armed states,

which refused to participate in these negotiations, are now faced with a stark choice,” said IPPNW program director John Loretz. “They can comply with the norms that have been clearly and unambiguously established by the Treaty and eliminate their nuclear weapons, as they should have done decades ago, or they will be stigmatized as outlaw states.” 



*Tilman Ruff (left) and John Loretz congratulate conference president Elayne Whyte Gomez. Tim Wright photo.*

“Health Through Peace 2017,” the joint Medact forum and 22nd IPPNW World Congress, was a resounding success. More than 400 participants from the UK and from IPPNW’s global network of affiliates gathered at York University for three days of in-depth discussions about the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the impacts of armed violence on health and security, and the role of health professionals in building a medical peace movement.

The entire text of the York Declaration, excerpts from which are reprinted here, is on the IPPNW Peace and Health blog.



Medact executive director David McCoy (left) checks final Congress details with Frank Boulton.

## Health Through IPPNW family for 22nd Wo



IPPNW and Medact unite behind the... in York. Xanthe Hall photo



Thirteen medical students and young doctors from seven countries bicycled more than 500 kilometers from the Trident submarine base in Faslane, Scotland to the IPPNW World Congress in York. Along the way, the cyclists met with local communities, elected officials (including Scottish parliamentarian Bill Kidd, above center), and the media to discuss nuclear abolition and the health impacts of war and armed violence. Photo courtesy Bimal Kadka.



Incoming vice president Sally Ndung'u from Kenya (see pg. 7) discusses plans for a new mentoring program during African regional meeting. The goal is to support medical students and young doctors who find it challenging to balance peace activism with intense work and study schedules.



Newly elected co-president Arun Mitra of Indian Doctors for Peace and Development (third from left), joins (from left) Ira Helfand, Daniel Bassey, and Tilman Ruff, who were re-elected to new terms in York.

“As doctors, medical students, other concerned citizens gathered at York conference Health Through Peace Congress, we celebrate a milestone in the world of nuclear weapons.

The new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is a historic step toward the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons. For too long, nuclear weapons have been illegal because of their medical, environmental, and humanitarian consequences, placing those who use them on the wrong side of a power imbalance.

Even with the Ban Treaty in hand, nine nuclear-armed States, which possess 95 percent of nuclear weapons among them—a total of 12,000 nuclear weapons—spend \$100 billion dollars every year in research and development. The risk that nuclear weapons will be used is increasing. The increasing tensions between the United States and China, exacerbated recently by large-scale nuclear test, the destabilizing presence of nuclear weapons in Asia and the Middle East, and heightened tensions between the United States and its NATO allies and Russia have made the risk of nuclear war than at any time since the end of World War II.

There is much more we need to do to protect humanity at risk, armed violence is a global threat every year, and undermines our economic well-being, and security of people through the world. At the Congress, we pledge our continued commitment to peace and health are achieved for all. The world has been abolished for all time.”

 **ONLINE: York Declaration**  
[peaceandhealthblog.com/2017/09/05/milestone/](http://peaceandhealthblog.com/2017/09/05/milestone/)

# High Peace 2017 Gathers in York World Congress



*Treaty Behind Ban Treaty at 22nd World Congress*

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...ork University for the international  
...e 2017 and IPPNW's 22nd World  
...ne in the global campaign to rid the

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...on of nuclear weapons. For the first  
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*- York Congress Declaration*



*Among the featured speakers at the York Congress were (clockwise from upper left) Austrian Ambassador Thomas Hajnoczi, ICAN executive director Beatrice Fihn, WHO Violence Prevention Coordinator Alex Butchart, Acronym Institute director Rebecca Johnson, and incoming president of the World Medical Association Yoshitake Yokokura.*



*Kimiaki Kawai of Soka Gakkai International, Bea Fihn of ICAN, and John Loretz (from left) speak at the launch of SGI's exhibition "Everything You Treasure." The exhibition has traveled the world educating the public about the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.*



*Executive director Michael Christ (center) with new international student representatives Kelvin Kibert of Kenya and Franca Brügge of Germany.*



# AIMING FOR PREVENTION

## WORLD ROUNDUP

Contact Maria Valenti ([mvalenti@ippnw.org](mailto:mvalenti@ippnw.org)) or follow on [Twitter.com/mariaippnw](https://twitter.com/mariaippnw)

### NGO's to ATT diplomats: "Stop shuffling papers and start saving lives"

Control Arms Coalition campaigners urged diplomats at the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Third Conference of States Parties to remember that the ATT's main purpose is to end human suffering around the world. Peter Maurer, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, said: "Failing to control the supply chain of arms is putting a dirt-cheap price on the lives of civilians. There is an urgent need to turn words into deeds, to prevent the irreparable harm caused when weapons fall into the wrong hands."

### Parliamentarians talk violence and public health in Panama

Latin American parliamentarians met in Panama City to discuss how to "connect the dots" between the Arms Trade Treaty and the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms & Light Weapons (UN PoA) with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and especially SDG



(l-r) Fausto Brindis, PFSALW, Manuel Martinez Miralles, UN Regional Centre for Peace, Dr. Diego Zavala, Karin Olofsson, Scty. Gen. PFSALW



Dr. Cathey Falvo of Physicians for Social Responsibility represented IPPNW at the ATT meeting held recently in Geneva.

16. Dr. Diego Zavala, professor of epidemiology at the Ponce School of Medicine in Puerto Rico, represented IPPNW at the meeting organized by the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PFSALW) and hosted by the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament. He spoke about how public health approaches can help prevent armed violence, and the need for health professionals and policymakers to work together leading up to the June 2018 UN PoA Third Review Conference.

### Local action on SDG violence prevention goals focus of WHO summit in Ottawa

Translating sustainable development goals on violence prevention into national and local action is the theme of the World Health Organizations 8th Milestones Meeting on Violence Prevention being held in Ottawa, Canada in October. What will it take to build peaceful and prosperous communities worldwide? WHO Violence

Prevention Department coordinator Dr. Alexander Butchart spoke about key issues that need to be addressed at a York Congress plenary that focused on the structural drivers of violence and war. AFP Director Maria Valenti will participate at the WHO Milestones forum and at the Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) meetings in Canada.

### Nigeria radio project for peace poised to broadcast

Radio remains a predominant source of news for the African public. Broadcasts can be used to inflame violence, but also to educate about violence prevention. IPPNW Nigeria, supported by IPPNW Finland, is poised to launch a radio series in Abuja, Nigeria with programs designed to reach young people and others about a range of armed violence prevention issues, from women's role in peacemaking to goals of the ATT. Broadcasts will reach more than 5 million through the radio and potentially many more via social media. Related research will try to measure levels of knowledge before and after the broadcasts. 



Nigeria IPPNW's Dr. Emeka Okolo describes the violence prevention radio project at York Congress.

# “NO HEALTHY SOCIETY WITHOUT A PEACEFUL SOCIETY”

## INTERVIEW WITH SALLY NDUNG’U

*Sally Ndung’u from the Kenya Association of Physicians and Medical Workers for Social Responsibility is the new IPPNW regional vice president for Africa and Deputy Chair of the Board. This November, she will represent the federation at an international conference on nuclear disarmament, development, and peace at the Vatican.*

**VS:** Sally, only a few years ago you were a medical student, and you just went home from the York Congress as the African regional vice president. That’s quite an achievement. What drew you into IPPNW?

**SN:** I got involved in IPPNW when I was in medical school. One of the Kenyan students participated in the German affiliate’s medical exchange program, and formed a student chapter when he got home. He gathered a few of us together, and that’s how I joined the movement.

**VS:** You’re a doctor who works on peace issues. How do those things connect for you?

IPPNW deals with the bigger issues that not many people actually think about. Very few people really understand nuclear disarmament, for example, especially in Africa. When they learn about it, they realize it’s actually a grave issue.


You can’t have a healthy society without a peaceful society. The WHO defines health as not merely the absence of disease, but also as the total well being of the person. As a doctor, I see a lot of victims of violence who are maimed for life, they have disabilities, their families suffer, and we have to keep following up with their care constantly. Although you do as much as you can for your patients, you are contributing more to the society if you can prevent these consequences of armed violence from happening at all.

**VS:** What IPPNW activities have you been involved with in Kenya?

**SN:** Among our core activities are the medical peace work courses and skills training sessions, where we try to educate medical students and young doctors in their role as promoters of conflict resolution and peace. Through this we draw them into the movement and into our other “health through peace” activities. I’ve also been attending conferences on nuclear disarmament, in an effort to provide an African perspective. Election violence has been a growing problem in Kenya and elsewhere in Africa, so we’ve been working both before and after elections, organizing public meetings in an effort to promote peaceful dialogue.



**VS:** What do you see as some of the priorities for African affiliates and for your work over the next couple of years?

**SN:** We need to implement the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and I’ll be focused on how we can contribute in the region to making this treaty effective. At the end of these two years, I’d like to see that the African community has actually contributed towards the implementation of this treaty in a meaningful way. 

### Swords to ploughshares - German relay run against arms exports 2018

IPPNW Germany and many other peace organizations will conduct an “Olympic torch-like” relay run from the Heckler & Koch weapons’ manufactory in Oberndorf, Germany to Berlin. The route leads participants

through other areas where armament manufacturers have facilities. The goal is to demand no more exports of weapons of war and to seek conversion of arms factories to production of goods for peaceful uses. Relay takes place 21 May-2 June, 2018. more information online at: [www.frieden-geht.de/](http://www.frieden-geht.de/)





Hiroshima survivor Setsuko Thurlow and former IPPNW co-president (and ICAN “godfather”) Ron McCoy celebrate moments after the adoption of the Ban Treaty at the UN. As Setsuko told the negotiators, “this treaty will change the world.”

### Make an ongoing commitment to peace and disarmament

Monthly giving helps ensure that IPPNW has the funds necessary to manage our global education and advocacy programs, while reducing our environmental footprint and fundraising costs. Becoming a Partner in Peace is simple: Sign up online and choose the amount you wish to donate each month. Whether it's \$10, \$25, or \$100, a little from many makes a lot. You can change or cancel your pledge at any time.




ONLINE:  
<http://ippnw.org/donate-monthly-giving.html>

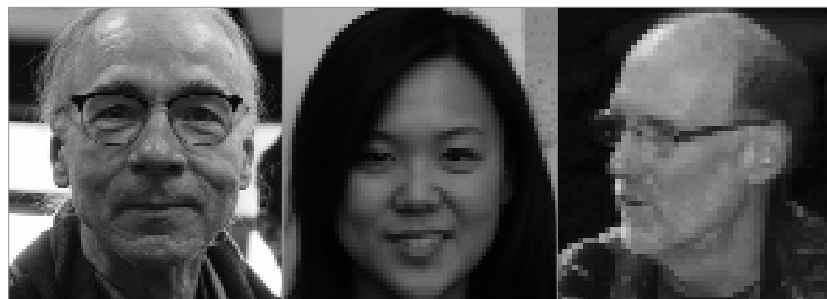
## Staff farewells...and a warm welcome to a new colleague

After more than three decades of tireless anti-nuclear campaigning, IPPNW program director John Loretz will retire in December. Since 2000, John has been instrumental in shaping IPPNW's successful global educational work on the catastrophic health, humanitarian, and environmental consequences of nuclear warfare, and in turning that understanding into action for the abolition of nuclear weapons. As a member of the ICAN international steering committee since its founding, he helped guide the effort to secure the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. While John will take a well-deserved break from full-time campaigning, he has graciously offered to carry on as IPPNW's newest volunteer! We are enormously grateful to John for his immense contributions, and we look forward to our continued partnership to eliminate the nuclear threat.

We also say farewell to Aki Morizono, who has coordinated our communications since 2005, designing and producing *Vital Signs*, managing our website, ensuring our active participation in the increasingly important world of social media, and providing invaluable support to the board and affiliate activists. We wish her every success.

Charles “Chuck” Johnson will join the staff as director of nuclear abolition programs in January. A long-time antinuclear activist who was a grassroots organizer for IPPNW's US affiliate, PSR, in the late 1980s, Chuck then went on to direct

Nuclear-Free America, a campaign that passed nuclear-free-zone ordinances in hundreds of US cities and towns. He currently serves on the US Department of Energy's Hanford Advisory Board and directs PSR Oregon and Washington's program to oppose construction of the first “small modular reactor” system in the United States and to close the Columbia Generating Station nuclear power plant. 



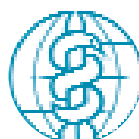
John Loretz

Aki Morizono

Chuck Johnson

IPPNW is a non-partisan federation of national medical organizations in 64 countries dedicated to safeguarding health by working to ban nuclear weapons and to address the impact of militarism and war on human health.

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