

Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons Becomes Law

A letter from from the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, Nukewatch, *The Nuclear Resister*, and the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability:

Dear nuclear abolitionists,

Now that nuclear weapons are outlawed, it's time to take action!

On January 22, 2021, people around the world will celebrate the day that the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons enters into force, a day the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) describes so eloquently as "the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons."

Please join us—the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, Nukewatch, *the Nuclear Resister* and the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability—to help maximize the global impact of this historic event with a wide variety of public actions across the US on January 22 and beyond. (See list in progress online at [ICANw.org/events](https://www.icanw.org/events))

We envision organized, nationwide public actions that spotlight the treaty ban as a victory for humanity on this historic day, with coordinated publicity and documentation of these events. Places to act (including some where action planning is already underway) include: nuclear weapons facilities, military bases, federal buildings, congressional offices, churches, public squares, overpasses, financial institutions, corporate facilities, and academic institutions that are participating in nuclear weapons activities. See the materials produced by PAX/The Netherlands and ICAN available at [ICANw.org](https://www.icanw.org).

We hope to develop an enduring collaboration with organizations who recognize that the treaty is an opportunity to renew the disarmament effort in the US.

Please join us!

If you have any questions or want more information contact: nuclearbantreatyEiF@gmx.com

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said, "This treaty ... marks a historic milestone for a decades-long, intergenerational movement to abolish nuclear weapons."

Also in New York, **António Guterres, the UN Secretary General**, said the treaty's coming into force is "the culmination of a worldwide movement to draw attention to the catastrophic ... consequences of any use of nuclear weapons." Peter Maurer, president of the **International Committee of the Red Cross**, said it was "a victory for and a promise of a safer future."

England's **Trident Ploughshares**, which targets Britain's Trident submarines (armed with US-made Trident missiles that are then "leased" to the

UK's navy) posted an Open

Letter to the Prime Minister Dec. 1, 2020.

The letter rebuts regular complaints about the treaty ban made by H-bomb governments and nuclear industry lobbyists. "It is time," Trident Ploughshares wrote, "for governments to relinquish the expectation that nuclear disarmament will only be delivered at a time of the nuclear-armed states' choosing ... and to recognize that the [new treaty] provides the missing legal instrument that can ensure progress instead of stalling on Nonproliferation Treaty Article VI."

The **Alliance for Nuclear Accountability**, is a national coalition of watchdog groups that track US nuclear weapons production sites. ANA

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WHAT YOU CAN DO on January 22, 2021 to Celebrate the Entry Into Force of the

TREATY on the PROHIBITION of NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Yes, celebrate—and organize. Any celebration should include an action item that raises the profile of the treaty ban in the United States. The first goal is to make people aware of the treaty. Goal 2 is to make sure they know that it is entering into force. And Goal 3 is to begin to use public awareness to pressure the government to recognize, sign, ratify and comply with the treaty ban. If that sounds like a lot it is, and it will take time. And it will never happen if we don't make it happen.

What follows are several options that you can mix and match with your own ideas. Some can be done all by yourself, others work better with small groups—with pandemic precautions please.

And please, report back! This is crucial—even if your action seems like a simple one. We gain strength from working together and knowing that people all over are taking action. And your effort, large or small, is amplified when it is shared. We hope to build a database of actions and to demonstrate widespread support for the treaty across the country. You can post your actions on Facebook at the Nuclear Ban Treaty EIF group. We will publicize other sites as they become available.

1. Everyone can **learn about the treaty**, and you don't have to wait until January 22. A quick google search will turn up resources, some as brief as 90 seconds. Others are deep-dive webinars. There is

pointedly said, "Nations that possess or stage nuclear weapons, including the United States, will now find themselves standing outside the bounds of international law. Today, the international 'norm' changes and nuclear weapons are illegal."

Maurer wrote, "Ten years ago, the ICRC called for a new debate on nuclear weapons, saying: 'The existence of nuclear weapons poses some of the most profound questions about the point at which the rights of States must yield to the interests of humanity, the capacity of our species to master the technology it creates, the reach of international humanitarian law, and the extent of human suffering we are willing to inflict, or to permit, in warfare.'"

Later, in preparation for the treaty ban negotiations, the **Red Cross and Red Crescent** produced overwhelming evidence of the medical community's devastating inability to respond to the catastrophic consequences of even a single nuclear weapon's detonation on a city. Mr. Maurer added, "This treaty first became possible when the nuclear weapons debate shifted from focusing on the possessors of these weapons and their motives, to the weapon itself and its profound humanitarian impact.... [We] are proud to have contributed to these efforts. Today is a victory for humanity."

a Fact Sheet with basic information here: <https://orepa.org/nuclear-ban-treaty-entry-into-force-resources/>.

2. **Hang or hold a banner in a public space.** Activists will be hanging banners at nuclear weapons sites and nuclear military bases across the country. We have a template that you can use to have a banner made (around \$50 if you go on-line) that you can hang or hold at any federal building, your local post office, federal courthouse, or representative's office. You download the template here: <https://orepa.org/nuclear-ban-treaty-entry-into-force-resources/>

2b. Is a banner too much? Here is a template for a **poster size version of the treaty** that you can hold or deliver or post in the place of your choice.

3. Focus on the \$\$\$\$. Our friends in Europe have been successful in pushing investment funds and corporations to **divest from companies or investment funds that profit from nuclear weapons production**—and the treaty gives us even more leverage. You can find a list of the companies and banks that invest in nuclear weapons at Don't Bank on the Bomb. You can hold a poster outside the local Bank of America or Wells Fargo branch office. If your credit card is issued by a nuke-bank, you can change cards or write to the issuer and ask them to get out of the illegal nuclear weapons business. See: <https://www.dontbankonthebomb.com/>

4. There is a list of **US universities and colleges that are directly involved in supporting nuclear weapons production**. Some of them even operate nuclear weapons sites! If your school is not on the list, you could find out where their endowment funds are invested—chances are there is a link to a nuclear weapons corporation or fund. See Schools of Mass Destruction at: <https://universities.icanw.org/>

5. **Write your representatives in the House and Senate.** Tell them you expect their name to be on the first bill introduced in the new Congress that addresses the treaty ban. Tell them you'll be watching.

6. **Write a letter to the editor.** This is an important way to broaden your reach throughout the public arena. Mention your congressional representatives by name so their staff will clip the letter and show it to their boss.

7. **Share the news!** If you use Instagram or Facebook or if you tweet, you can share ICAN's pages and other news about the Entry Into Force.

8. **Donate!** Please write a check or give on-line. There are dozens of groups around the country that are dedicating themselves to long-haul work to make the promise of the treaty a reality at home and around the world. They rely on donations and public support to keep going. Even a small contribution counts.

9. Commit for the long haul. **Find the group** nearest and dearest to your heart and join so you can stay involved, track the progress of the treaty, and learn about more things you can do to help make it a reality. Get on their mailing list, either on-line or on paper.

10. Ask your local place of worship to **ring its bell** for peace on January 22 or place a notice in the bulletin.

11. **Ask your local government to join the ICAN Cities appeal**—present a copy of the treaty and ask for a resolution calling on the United States to join.

12. **Deliver copies of the treaty in person or send via mail** (link to printable format) to congressional representatives and other public officials, and business, financial and educational institutions with ties to nuclear weapons activities, with a warning of their unlawful complicity.

13. Watch for more ideas: **Please post your plans on the Nuclear Ban Treaty EIF facebook group**, and look at what others are planning to do.