



# MP MEETING GUIDE

## TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Three out of four people want the Australian Government to sign and ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, but it hasn't happened yet.

As a Nuclear Weapon Ban Advocate and local constituent, you will get to know the views and position of your representatives as you urge them to work for Australia's ratification of the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty.

**By meeting with your local Member of Parliament, you will be involved in direct advocacy to help end nuclear weapons.**

### Before you start!

- Who is your state / federal Member of Parliament?
- What is their stance on the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty?
- What commitments has their party made?
- What is their parliamentary portfolio?



The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is also known as: The Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty, TPNW and the #NuclearBan.

### 1 Organise

- Write, call or email their office to request a meeting.
- Tell them you are a constituent.
- Let them know it's about the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty.
- Always opt for a face-to-face meeting or video call.
- Gather a diverse delegation, or go solo!

### 2 Meet

- Make it personal - explain why nuclear disarmament is important to you.
- Talk about the Treaty and why it is the way forward.
- Talk with them about the legacy of nuclear weapons testing in Australia
- Ask what their position is, and what more they can do to secure Australia's ratification.

### 3 Stay in touch

- Follow up with their office on any updates you discussed.
- Stay in touch with your MP by sending them campaign updates.
- Invite them to campaign events.
- Send them reminders and ask them to do more!

### Read on...

For more tips and background info for your advocacy!

# Why is it important to meet with your local MP?

## **THEY ARE ELECTED TO REPRESENT YOU!**

As your representative, an MP should be your first point of contact for policy advocacy and be open to hearing the views and opinions of their constituents.

It can be hard for a parliamentarian to keep their door closed to a delegation of constituents.

## **COMMUNICATING PUBLIC OPINION**

There is widespread public support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; from faith groups, lawyers, unions, medical professionals, local councils and more.

Polling shows 70-79% of Australians want to join the Treaty (IPSOS 2018, 2020).

## **BUILDING CROSS-PARTY SUPPORT**

The more parliamentarians that are supportive of the TPNW, the harder it will be for the federal government to refrain from signing.

Even if your local MP is already a supporter of the TPNW, we need them to do more to secure Australia's ratification.

## **ESTABLISHING LONG TERM RELATIONSHIPS**

If you understand the position of your elected representatives, you can better advocate to them.

In time, you may become a trusted source of information on the TPNW.



Stuck for words? Check out our sample letter to MP's at: [icanw.org.au/advocate/](https://icanw.org.au/advocate/)

# Ways your MP can support

## 'LADDER OF ENGAGEMENT'

Participate in **international meetings** that advance the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty.

Advocate for the Treaty during **internal party discussions**.

Sign the ICAN **Parliamentary Pledge**.

Join the national **Parliamentary Friends of the TPNW** group.

Commemorate significant days with **motions in Parliament and posting on social media**.

Include updates on the Treaty in their newsletter.



Depending on their stance on the Treaty, there are a number of actions your MPs and Senators can take to build consensus for Australia to join the TPNW.

### International meetings:

Engage with the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW on 21-23 June at the UN in Vienna.

### Talk to colleagues:

Raise the TPNW in caucus discussions and urge their party to do more.

### The Parliamentary Pledge:

The Parliamentary Pledge is a commitment by parliamentarians to work for their government to join the treaty. It can be signed by State or Federal MP's.

### Parliamentary Friends group:

A Forum for federal parliamentarians to meet and interact with nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation advocates on matters relating to the TPNW.

### Significant days:

**AUG 6 & 9:** Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days

**AUG 29:** Int'l Day Against Nuclear Tests

**SEPT 26:** Int'l Day for Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

**OCT 15:** 70th anniversary of first mainland nuclear test in Australia at Emu Field.



Just like a ladder!

Even if you start with the smallest of actions, the only way is up!

# Key points you can discuss with your MP:

## **NUCLEAR WEAPON BAN TREATY FACTS!**

Nuclear weapons pose a direct and constant threat to people everywhere. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons offers our best hope of ending decades of deadlock and inertia around nuclear disarmament. It provides a clear path towards abolition.

## **WE CAN DO MORE TO FURTHER NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**

Australia has signed other international conventions which prohibit other unconventional weapons, including biological and chemical weapons, anti-personnel landmines and cluster munitions. We should look to continue this security rhetoric and support the TPNW.

The Treaty is consistent with other international agreements including the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty.

## **WE CAN BE A BETTER NEIGHBOUR!**

A great majority of the world's nations support the TPNW including Australia's neighbours in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

As a party to the Treaty, Australia will be in a far stronger position to work with other members of the international community to advance disarmament and non-proliferation.

## **REJECTING FALSE SECURITY OF NUCLEAR DETERRENCE**

Nuclear weapons do not keep the peace, instead they fuel enmity and mistrust among nations. Australia cannot credibly demand that other nations reject nuclear weapons while insisting that the same weapons are essential for its own security.

## **IMPACTS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING IN AUSTRALIA**

Seventy years ago, the British government tested nuclear weapons in Western Australia's Monte Bello islands, and at Emu Field and Maralinga in South Australia. Communities continue to feel the impacts to this day.

The TPNW creates a framework to offer assistance to all victims of nuclear weapons use and testing, as well as environmental remediation.

# Planning your first meeting

You might only have 30 minutes to meet with your MP... So let's make it count!

## Before your meeting:

- Consider the 'ladder of engagement', what might you ask them to do based on their existing position?
- Send through some background information ahead of time (their advisor will read it before the meeting).
- Prepare your questions.
- Get together any resources you would like to take with you.



Find out more about your MP's views on nuclear weapons by: researching their portfolio, reading their social media posts and checking their electorate website.

## During the meeting:

- Make sure you are on time, or early!
- Make your points and specific "asks" clearly - they will expect you to have requests!
- Parliamentarians enjoy talking, so make sure they listen to you.
- Watch the time and don't be too shy to bring the conversation back on track.
- If you are part of a faith group, union or other civil society organisation, explain how the Treaty relates to your group's mission and objectives.
- Identify important people in their party who are already in support.
- If they are blatantly opposed to banning nuclear weapons, ask them why.
- Get a picture!

## 30 MIN MEETING PLAN

Introduce who you are. Let them know why you're there and why the TPNW is important to you.

Explain why Australia should join the **Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty**.

Discuss the **legacy of nuclear weapons testing in Australia** and share some resources

Outline some key moments coming up nationally and internationally.

Invite them to take action. **Tell them what you want them to do!**

Take a photo. Thank them. Let them know you will keep in touch and follow up!

# You've met your MP... what's next?



Remember, this is just your first meeting, and only the start of your communications with your MP as a Nuclear Weapon Ban Advocate! We hope it leads to a long lasting relationship, and of course, Australia joining the #NuclearBan without delay!

## Stay in touch!

- Follow up with their electorate office - what actions have they taken since your initial meeting?

## Share good news

- Send them updates about the campaign: when new countries join the Treaty, or when something happens in the region.

## Invite them to events

- There are always plenty of events which discuss the Treaty, commemorate significant days or celebrate campaign wins!

## Make additional requests

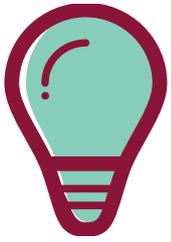
- See if you can move them up the ladder of engagement. It's ok to ask for more than one positive action!

## Meet with a Senator

- Is your Senator a supporter of the Treaty? See if you can double your impact and get them on board too!

## Keep the pressure up!

- Who else in your community can you encourage to contact their MP in support of the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty?



# Help! I need more information!

Don't worry, we know there is a lot to take in, and we know you want to be informed! We've got you covered! Check out these handy links on all things #NuclearBan, or get in touch with us at [australia@icanw.org.au](mailto:australia@icanw.org.au)

✦ Find your MP >

✦ Sample letter to MP's >

✦ Nuclear testing in Australia >

✦ Parliamentary Pledge >

✦ Parliamentary Friends >

✦ Report: Choosing Humanity >

✦ Australia and the TPNW >

✦ ICAN website >

