

# Affected Communities Statement

## To the Second Meeting of States Parties to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, 2023

We are people bound together by what nuclear weapons have inflicted. Our lives, our lands, our waters, and our communities were permanently changed by the development, testing and use of nuclear weapons. Our struggles against radioactive violence have continued for many decades, throughout the generations. We have the right and responsibility to speak about what nuclear weapons really do.

War rages around us. It's heartbreaking that nuclear weapons still exist in the 21st Century. Are we adding to life or are we adding to death? Our common humanity is undermined by the existential threat hanging over us, that nuclear weapons will again unleash mass terror, contaminating our homes and our bodies, again.

Nuclear weapons do harm every day. From the mining of uranium to the creation of the bomb and the everlasting radioactive waste, our planet carries the scars of so many nuclear sacrifice zones. Nuclear colonialism has disproportionately impacted Indigenous Peoples and marginalised communities. Indigenous Peoples lands were taken. Bodies were used, people were bombed.

Indigenous Peoples carry responsibility and share connections to the lands, air, oceans, and waters, acting as guardians of life. This includes all living creatures, animals, and plants, some of which are sacred and others of which are food and medicine. Environmental violence impacts all of Mother Earth. Our sacred cultural heritage has been under attack, creating displacement for many survivors. We feel as though governments are waiting for us to vanish, hoping their responsibilities will die with us. But the effects continue for our children and grandchildren and beyond. We are anxious about the future. How much longer will we suffer?

As affected communities, we acknowledge the initial and robust advocacy of our predecessors and Elders. We have rights and dignity to firmly reclaim the life force that nuclear weapons attempted to take away. With the next generations, there is not only hope but also an assurance of continued advocacy for justice, as long as nuclear colonialism is not ended, and justice is not granted to our communities.

Together with the global community, we have banned nuclear weapons. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons holds great potential and is the first of its kind to take into account communities affected by nuclear weapons.

Healing comes through action.

We call for all states to do everything in their conscious power to implement Articles 6 and 7.

We call for the clean-up of our contaminated lands and waters. We call for assistance for victims and survivors, whether we are Indigenous Peoples, hibakusha, hibakunisei, nuclear veterans, test survivors, downwinders, or anyone whose lives are scarred by the intergenerational harms caused by the development and production of these weapons of mass destruction. We deserve recognition, respect, and reparations.

States, institutions, and companies that are enabling and funding nuclear destruction must stop. We call for the nuclear-armed states, in particular, to join the Treaty and be accountable for their actions.

We call on States Parties to the TPNW to push relentlessly for its universalisation.

We hope that governments of the day recognise that Indigenous Peoples rights matter, as do the rights of all victims of nuclear bombs everywhere.

**Finally, let us all commit to put an end to the possession, development, testing, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, so that not one more person will suffer as we have.**

### ENDORSED BY (AFFECTED COMMUNITIES):

- Asia Pacific Network of Environment Defenders - Pacific
- Australian Nuclear Free Alliance - Australia
- Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety - USA
- Eastern Navajo Diné Against Uranium Mining - USA
- Fiji Nuclear Veterans Association - Fiji
- Hiroshima Alliance for Nuclear Weapons Abolition - Japan
- Indigenous Life Ways Inc - USA
- Indigenous World Association - Canada
- Japanese Liaison Council of Second-Generation Atomic Bomb Survivors - Japan
- Jharkhand Organisation Against Radiation - India
- LABRATS - UK
- Laguna Acoma Coalition for a Safe Environment - USA
- Marshallse Education Initiative - Marshall Islands
- Moruroa e Tātou - Maohi Nui / French Polynesia
- Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment - USA
- NIHON HIDANKYO (Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Orgs) - Japan
- Nuclear Truth Project - International
- Pacific Conference of Churches - Pacific
- Pacific Network on Globalisation - Pacific
- REACH-MI - Marshall Islands
- Southwest Indigenous Uranium Forum - USA
- Taourirt Association - Algeria
- Tewa Women United - USA
- The Lop Nor Project - China
- West Mallee Protection - Australia
- Youngsolwara Pacific - Pacific

### SUPPORTED BY:

- ANT-Hiroshima - Japan
- Article 36 - UK
- Association of Citizens for the Support of South Korean Atomic Bomb Victims - Japan
- Australian Conservation Foundation - Australia
- beHuman - Singapore
- Congolese Civil Society of South Africa - South Africa
- Connect Hiroshima - Japan
- Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace - USA
- GENSUIKIN (Japan Congress against A-and H-Bombs) - Japan
- Global Campaign for Peace Education Japan - Japan
- HELP Resources - Papua New Guinea
- ICAN - International
- ICAN Aotearoa New Zealand - New Zealand
- ICAN Australia - Australia
- ICAN France - France
- ICAN Germany - Germany
- International Association of Liberal Religious Women - Japan
- International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War - International
- KNOW NUKES TOKYO - Japan
- Norwegian Physicians Against Nuclear Weapons - Norway
- Nuclear Age Peace Foundation - USA
- Nuclear Free Western Australia - Australia
- Nuclear Resister - USA

- Nuclear Watch New Mexico - USA
- Nukewatch - USA
- Peace Action - USA
- Peace Boat - Japan
- Peace Depot - Japan
- Peace Movement Aotearoa - New Zealand
- Peace, Justice, Sustainability NOW! - USA
- Peaceplatform - Japan
- Peoples' Federation for National Peace and Development - Malawi
- Physicians Against Nuclear War - Japan
- Reverse the Trend: Save Our People, Save Our Planet - USA/Pacific
- Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament - Scotland
- Secure Scotland - Scotland
- SHOAA for Human Rights - UK
- Soka Gakkai International - International
- Swedish Physicians Against Nuclear Weapons - Sweden
- WE Rotary WORLD - USA
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom - International
- World Friendship Center - Japan
- Youth for TPNW - International
- Youth Nuclear Peace Summit - Canada
- YWCA of Japan - Japan

