

NUCLEAR WEAPONS BANNED AS HISTORIC UN TREATY BECOMES INTERNATIONAL LAW

The 2017 [UN Treaty](#) on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) has today become international law with its “entry into force” now official.

86 states have signed the treaty and 51 countries have now ratified it.

“Entry-into-force cements the illegality of nuclear weapons in international law,” said Dr Tilman Ruff AO, co-founder of ICAN, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

The treaty seeks to do to nuclear weapons what previous international treaties have done to chemical and biological weapons - ban their use on humanitarian grounds.

“This change will influence the behaviour of states, even those which don’t join the treaty, interrupt the flow of funds to nuclear arms producers, stimulate debate and increase pressure on treaty hold-outs.”

Anti-nuclear campaigners are celebrating across the globe today as the international community takes a huge step toward the elimination of all nuclear weapons. Full event list here: <https://icanw.org.au/celebrating-eif/>

But Australia has not signed or ratified the Treaty, despite committing to pursue nuclear disarmament under the 1970 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

“The Morrison government claims to be in favour of disarmament but refuses to support this treaty,” said Gem Romuld, the Director of ICAN Australia.

“It’s high time the Australian government followed New Zealand and most other countries in our region and got on the right side of history.”

88 Federal MPs and Senators from across the political spectrum support Australia joining the treaty, and the federal Opposition has [committed](#) to sign and ratify in government.

“The international community is demanding an end to nuclear weapons, which pose an unacceptable danger to every single one of us every day that they stand ready to be launched.”

Despite some reductions in recent years there are still over 13,400 nuclear weapons across the globe, controlled by nine nations.

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The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a coalition of non-governmental organisations in 100 countries promoting the implementation of the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Founded in Melbourne in 2007, ICAN was awarded the [2017 Nobel Peace Prize](#).