Interfaith Open Letter

in support of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

To: the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition, August 2020

We, the undersigned leaders of religious organisations and faith groups, express our grave concern with the persistent global threat posed by nuclear weapons.

We believe nuclear weapons are illegitimate, inhumane and indiscriminate. They have the power to extinguish in minutes everyone and everything that humankind holds dear.

We continue to witness massive investment in existing and new nuclear weaponry and are deeply concerned that nine heads-of-state hold such power over the global community.

We are heartened by the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Negotiated by a majority of nations, the new treaty champions collective security beyond nuclear weapons. It sets the new highest standard for nations seeking nuclear abolition, to ensure these weapons are never used again. It is a treaty that cannot be bent to suit the wishes of the nuclear-armed.

Australia claims to support nuclear disarmament yet, to our deep disappointment, our nation remains outside the TPNW.

As people of faith across Australia we join together in one voice to urge the Australian Government to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Our future depends on the successful implementation of this treaty.

Signed,

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Signed,

The Most Reverend Geoffrey Smith
Archbishop of Adelaide and Primate
Anglican Church of Australia

Australasian Muslim Times
Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL, Chairperson
Bishops Commission for Social Justice
Australia Catholic Bishops Conference

Right Reverend Professor Stephen Pickard
Executive Director
Australia Centre for Christianity and Culture
Charles Sturt University

Australian Jewish Democratic Society
Australian Raielian Movement
Australian Student Christian Movement
Ballarat Interfaith Network
Believing Women for a Culture of Peace
Brigitte Sisters Kildara Centre
Judith McKinlay and Jared Mitchell, Co-Chairs
Canberra Region Presbytery, Uniting Church in Australia
Carmelite Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation
Commission for Australia & Timor-Leste
Fr Peter Smith, Justice and Peace Promoter
Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

Br Peter Carroll FMS, President, and Anne Walker,
National Executive Director
Catholic Religious Australia

Christians for Peace Newcastle
Rev Dr Patrick Mchawony, Director
Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations

Dr Patricia Medigan OP, Executive Director
Dominican Centre for Interfaith Ministry, Education
and Research (CIMER)

Phil Glendenning AM, Director
Edmund Rice Centre

Rev Dr Gordon Pearce, Chair
Ethos: Centre for Christianity & Society

Michael Wells PSM, President
Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils

Hasanom Hataz Australia
Rev Shiganandak Watadek
Hongonji Buddhist Mission of Australia

Inner West Chavurah
Mohamed Mokhedian, President
Islamic Council of Victoria

Jealous Labour Band
Jewish Voices for Peace and Justice NSW

Justice and Peace Committee, Tasmanian Quakers

Rev Dr Gordon Pearce, Chair
Melbourne Anglican Diocesan Social Responsibilities Committee

Melbourne Unitarian Peace Memorial Church

Father Claude Mostowik msc, Director
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Justice and Peace Centre (Australian Province)

Stanpe Vohie, Congregational Leader
Missionary Sisters of Service

Philippe Rowland, President
Multifaith Association of South Australia

Muslim Charitable Foundation
Muslim Women’s Association of South Australia

Bishop Philip Huggins, President
National Council of Churches in Australia

NSW Ecumenical Council
Office of Justice and Peace
Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

Pace e Bene Australia, Inc
Rev James Bhagwan, General Secretary
Pacific Conference of Churches

Pak Pak Nano, General Secretary
Parramatta Mission

Rev Dr Dasdeo Palmer, President
Uniting Church in Australia

Rev Dr Gordon Pearce, Honorary Director
University of Divinity, Religion and Social Policy Network

Seams Sunthithanananda, Vice President
Vedanta Centre of National Australia

Victoria’s Quakers

Religions for Peace

Rev Dr Jason Watts, Chair
Public Affairs Commission of the Anglican Church of Australia

Queensland Faith Communities Council

Religion for Peace

Ann Zubrick, Presiding Clerk
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia

Shepparton Interfaith Network

Jatinder Singh
Sikh Youth Australia

Sr Monica Cavanagh, Congregational Leader
Sisters of St Joseph

Chris Stearns, General Director
Soka Gakkai International Australia

Temple Society Australia Regional Council

Dr Daido Palmer, President
Temple Church in Australia

Rev Dr Gordon Pearce, Honorary Director
University of Divinity, Religion and Social Policy Network

Victorian Quakers

Alexander Scott, Leader
Wellspring Community Australia

Whittlesea Interfaith Network