

Interfaith Service for Nuclear Disarmament

Commemorating the 75th anniversaries of the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Honouring the victims and survivors.

Committing to the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

August 2020



**Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY**



ICAN 2017
NOBEL
PEACE
PRIZE
AUSTRALIA

FOREWORD

The Uniting Church in Australia, as a partner of ICAN, has a long history of working for a world free from nuclear weapons.

In the Uniting Church, we believe Jesus came to make peace. As Christians, we are called by God to love our neighbours and to work for an end to violence and fear in our world.

The destructive power of nuclear weapons threatens all life on this planet. Reliance upon nuclear weapons to attain peace and security represents a willingness to indiscriminately kill millions of civilians and is entirely contrary to God's creative will for the world.

We know that many of our brothers and sisters in faith share a similar desire for peace in our world. We are honoured to have this opportunity to come together in prayer for real and lasting peace.

As a key step towards global elimination of nuclear weapons, we encourage our Australian Government to sign and ratify the UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as part of our contribution to global peace-making.

Together, with our friends in other faith traditions, we seek to build a world transformed by hope, peace and justice where the sacredness of all life is protected.

We continue to pray that those who seek security in nuclear weapons may discover that genuine security can only be achieved through non-violent means and active efforts to live at peace with one another.

Uniting Church in Australia

INTRODUCTION

"Nuclear weapons have always been immoral. Now they are also illegal. Together, let us go forth and change the world."

- Hiroshima survivor Setsuko Thurlow

In this tumultuous year of 2020, our world feels unhinged. While our remaining native forests were burning with unprecedented scale and heat early this year, a particle measuring less than one millionth of a metre across was beginning its journey through human bodies. Millions are suffering, healthcare systems are cracking under pressure and rapid change is revising our understanding of "normal".

We now understand that "low probably, high impact" events do occur, reminding us that we cannot afford complacency in the face of the real and rising threat posed by nuclear weapons. Our world is armed to the brink with these inhumane, indiscriminate bombs, now rendered illegal by the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. There is a global public health crisis waiting in the wings, ready at the fingertips of nine nuclear-armed leaders. This is a crisis that we can and must avert.

Australia, a nation that has joined every treaty prohibiting an abhorrent weapon, claims its commitment to a nuclear-free world. However, actions speak louder than words, and we have not yet joined the ban.

Thankfully, change is afoot. Word is spreading about the Treaty's importance among civil society, faiths communities and at all levels of government. We will inevitably join the right side of history by ratifying the Treaty, let it be soon.

**International Campaign to Abolish
Nuclear Weapons, Australia**

PACIFIC CONFERENCES OF CHURCHES

Letter to the Australian Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition (excerpt)

On behalf of the 30 member churches and 9 national councils of churches across 18 countries and territories, and representing 80 per cent of the Pacific Christian community, I write to affirm the call of religious organisations and faith groups across the land now called Australia, who, with one voice, are urging the Australian Government to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons...

The people and environment of the Pacific have suffered as the guinea pigs for the proliferation of nuclear weapons. These experiments designed to secure world domination were undertaken by the United States which held 109 tests in the Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Johnson Atoll, Alaska and in the open ocean; the United Kingdom/Great Britain which held 21 tests in Australia and Kiribati; and France, which held 340 tests in Maohi Nui/French Polynesia...

The failure of the nuclear powers to disarm has heightened the risk of other countries acquiring nuclear weapons. The only guarantee against the spread and use of nuclear weapons is to eliminate them without delay...

The world must end any possibility of nuclear war; there must be no chance of even one weapon being ever detonated again. The Pacific must have justice and reparation for its forced role in nuclear testing.

And that justice must take place now.

Rev James Shri Bhagwan
General Secretary

HINDU COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah - Let all be happy

Om Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah

Sarve Santu Nir-Aamayaah I

Sarve Bhadraanni Pashyantu

Maa Kashcid-Duhkha-Bhaag-Bhavet I

Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantih II

Meaning:

May all become happy

May none fall ill I

May all see auspiciousness everywhere

May none ever feel sorrow I

Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantih II

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA ASSEMBLY

Prayer for peace on the 75th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Written by President, Dr Deidre Palmer

*Creator God,
You have created us to live in community with one another.
You have called us to love each other and to live in peace and
harmony.*

*Forgive us when we use our creative powers and our resources
to wage war. We pray for all who are the victims of war.
Particularly today, we remember those who perished in the
bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We mourn those who
died, and those who have suffered a living hell from the terrible
impacts of nuclear weapons.*

*Christ Jesus, you came among us as the Prince of Peace, and
we hear your words again today: "Peace be with you"
Forgive us when we reject peace, and prefer to generate
hatred and suspicion of those who are different, rather
than nurturing love and acceptance. Empower us to shape
communities based on respect, hospitality, and love for our
neighbour.*

*We pray for all those who work for peace. We pray for the
International Campaign against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) –
sustain this inspired international movement, that works to
eliminate nuclear weapons from the face of the earth.*

*As we gather this day, may your Holy Spirit give us courage
and wisdom as we work for a world of peace with justice, and
social and economic systems that promote the flourishing of all
people, and the healing of your earth.*

Amen.

AUSTRALIAN BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY

Prayer for humanity

O Thou kind Lord! Thou hast created all humanity from the same stock. Thou hast decreed that all shall belong to the same household. In Thy Holy Presence they are all Thy servants, and all mankind are sheltered beneath Thy Tabernacle; all have gathered together at Thy Table of Bounty; all are illumined through the light of Thy Providence.

O God! Thou art kind to all, Thou hast provided for all, dost shelter all, conferrest life upon all. Thou hast endowed each and all with talents and faculties, and all are submerged in the Ocean of Thy Mercy.

O Thou kind Lord! Unite all. Let the religions agree and make the nations one, so that they may see each other as one family and the whole earth as one home. May they all live together in perfect harmony.

O God! Raise aloft the banner of the oneness of mankind.

O God! Establish the Most Great Peace.

Cement Thou, O God, the hearts together.

O Thou kind Father, God! Gladden our hearts through the fragrance of Thy love. Brighten our eyes through the Light of Thy Guidance. Delight our ears with the melody of Thy Word, and shelter us all in the Stronghold of Thy Providence.

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

A prayer for the abolition and prohibition of nuclear weapons

Written by Reverend Dr Elizabeth J Smith

*Let us pray for an end to all violence and war,
and especially for the abolition and prohibition of nuclear
weapons.*

*God of peace, **hear our prayer.***

*We ask forgiveness for all the wars ever fought
in anger, greed or hunger for power,
with conventional or nuclear weapons.
Teach us just and gracious ways to live as neighbours.*

*God of peace, **hear our prayer.***

*We ask forgiveness for the violence of all the fighting
in Asia and the Pacific during World War II,
and for the horror that fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
Teach us just and gentle ways to resolve our disputes.*

*God of peace, **hear our prayer.***

*We ask forgiveness for turning neutral science
to destructive purposes in nuclear weapons,
and for the profits made from making and keeping them.
Teach us just and healing ways to use our skill and ingenuity.*

*God of peace, **hear our prayer.***

*We ask forgiveness for clinging to our fears
in missile silos and secret weapon stores,
hoarding the power of death for the planet and its people.
Teach us just and generous ways to care for each other.*

*God of peace, **hear our prayer.***

*We ask forgiveness for growing weary in the work of peace,
for becoming distracted, disheartened or forgetful,
for losing touch with your desire for peace on earth.
Teach us hopeful, humble ways to work with you.*

*God of peace, **hear our prayer.***

*Hear us and help us, living God, we pray,
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who breathes his peace on us
and who sends us, as you sent him,
to bring forgiveness, blessing and hope,
now and for ever. **Amen.***



Image: Nobel Peace March, Canberra, September 2018. Credit: Martin Ollman

Muslim Prayer

Ibrahim Karaisli

O Allah, Guide us among those whom You guided.

Relieve us from sickness among those whom You relieved.

Be an ally to us along with those whom you have allied with

And bless us with that which you have bestowed upon us.

Protect us against the evil of what you created.

*For you are the One Who orders (ordains) and not the One
Who is ordered (ordained for)*

*And he is not humiliated whom you have befriended, nor is he
honoured who is your enemy.*

Blessed are you, O Lord and Exalted.

To you is all the praise on what you have decreed.

All praise is yours for what you decree.

*We ask your forgiveness from all sins and turn to you in
repentance.*

*O Allah, apportion to us such fear as should serve as a barrier
between us and acts of disobedience.*

And such obedience as will take us to your paradise,

*And such as will make easy for us to bear in the calamities of
this world.*

O Allah! Remind us of what we forgot of it

Teach us of it what we have not learned.

*O Allah! Forgive us, have mercy upon us, and free our necks
from the fire.*

O Allah! Forgive our parents our families and our children.

O Allah! Forgive those who have instructed us to pray for goodness.

O Allah! You are our God; there is none to be worshipped except You.

You are rich, and we are Poor.

O Allah! Show us no deprivation

O Allah! Afflict us not with disappointment and loss.

O Allah! Do not return or reject (our supplications), and thus make us return without any hope.

O Ever- Giving One! O Compassionate!

Do not leave a sin of ours in this position, except that You forgive it,

And all the grief but you heal it,

And illness unhealed, and handicap without relief

And do not leave any of our needs unfulfilled, By Your Mercy, Oh most Merciful of the merciful!

O Allah! We beseech You (to grant us) the love of You.

O Allah! We ask You everything that is good, in this world and in the hereafter,

And seek Your protection from everything that is bad in this world and the hereafter,

O Allah! Save us from the fire!

And send our prayers, Peace and blessing on Prophet Muhammad And all other Prophets

Amen.

BUDDHIST COUNCIL OF NSW

Buddhist Peace Prayer by Rev Shigenobu Watanabe, Hongwanji Buddhist Mission of Australia

(Chanting begin)

*Namo Tassa Bhagavato Arahato Samma Sambuddhassa
Homage to him, the Exalted One, the Enlightened One, the
Supremely Awakened One.*

*Buddham Saranam Gacchami.
I go to the Buddha for guidance.
Namo Kie Butsu / 南無歸依仏*

*Dhammam Saranam Gacchami.
I go to the Dharma for guidance.
Namo Kie Ho / 南無歸依法*

*Sangham Saranam Gacchami.
I go to the Sangha for guidance.
Namo Kie So / 南無歸依僧*

(Chanting end)

*People of the world, parents and children, brothers and
sisters, husbands and wives, and other family members and
kinsmen, should respect and love each other, refraining from
hatred and envy. They should share things with others, and
not be greedy and miserly, always speak friendly words with
a pleasing smile, and not hurt each other.*

May all beings be happy and safe.

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Dear God,

Thank you for the opportunity to be united in prayer with our brothers and sisters from so many different faith groups, in the awareness that we are all part of the same human family.

We recognise the unspeakable horror of all the precious and irreplaceable human lives lost because of the deliberate nuclear bombings at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We recognise the devastating physical, psychological, and emotional effects those bombings had on those who survived.

We recognise the irreparable damage those events did to our planet, the only home that we have and which we must share. No human being, community or people should ever have to face those consequences again.

We pray and call on leaders of faith groups and civil society organisations and all people of good will to take concrete action to ensure that such wanton destruction of life never happens again, by working for complete and swift nuclear disarmament.

We pray that all of us can work together in solidarity to help build a world of peace, both for those of us that are here now and for the generations that will follow. Though the task may be daunting, we pray that with the grace of God and a commitment from all those who desire peace, we will be able to achieve our goal.

Amen.

**OFFICE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE,
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE**

A Prayer for Nuclear Disarmament

*Lord of all creation, make us instruments of your peace.
Let us learn the lessons of the past, and put an end to
nuclear weapons.*

Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

*May our love for each other and for all of your creation
leave no place for making or owning weapons of mass
destruction.*

*Where there is injury, let us be bearers of your healing and
pardon.*

*May we create paths to dialogue, understanding and
reconciliation.*

Where there is doubt, let us foster faith in you.

*May we let the weapons fall from our hands and know that
you are God.*

Where there is despair, let us hold up hope.

*May our lives reflect your love in the face of violence,
knowing that love is stronger than death.*

Where there is darkness, let us be bearers of your light.

May our choices show that peace is possible.

Where there is sadness, let us bring the joy of the Gospel.

Amen.



Image: Negotiations on the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at the UN in New York City, 2017

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN JEWRY

Prayer on the seventy fifth anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Atomic Bombings

Rabbi Dr Benjamin Elton, Orthodox Rabbinical Adviser to the Executive Council of Australian Jewry

Lord, God of the spirits of all flesh, we offer our prayer to you on the seventy fifth anniversary of the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

We mourn for the innocent men, women and children whose lives were ended by the dropping of those bombs, and for the many more whose health was severely affected by the effects of the bombs for many years afterwards.

We thank you for the Allied victory over Japan in the Second World War, which ended the reign of a cruel and aggressive regime. We also give thanks for the peace-loving and life-enhancing nation that Japan has become over the last seventy five years.

We pray that nuclear bombs will never be used again, with all the devastation that they wreak. We hope that the nations of the world will come to rely only on peaceful means to resolve disputes.

We look forward to the day when the words of the Prophet will be fulfilled: 'nation will not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore'.

May this be your will. Amen.

Sikh prayer - Shloak Mehla 3 - Jagat Jalanda Raakh Lai

slok mÚ 3]

salok ma 3 ||

Shalok, Third Mehl:

ਜਗਤ ਜਲੰਦਾ ਰਾਖਿ ਤੈ ਆਪਣੀ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਧਾਰਿ ॥

jagath jalandhaa rakh lai aapanee kirapaa dhhaar ||

The world is going up in flames { (flames of the vices of lust (kama), wrath (krodh), greed (lobh), attachment (moh) and ego or excessive pride (ahankar) } - shower it with Your Mercy, and save it!

ਜਿਤ ਦੁਆਰੈ ਉਚਰੈ ਤਿਤੈ ਤੈਹ ਉਚਾਰਿ ॥

jith dhuaarai oubarai thithai lai hu oubaar ||

Save it, and deliver it, by whatever method it takes.

ਸਤਿਗੁਰਿ ਸੁਖੁ ਵੇਖਾਇਆ ਸਚਾ ਸਚੁਦੁ ਬੀਚਾਰਿ ॥

sathigur sukh vaekhaaliaa sachaa sabadh beehaar ||

The Guru (guide) has shown the way to eternal bliss (peace), which is by contemplating the 'Word of the Shabad' (teachings of peaceful, honest and righteous living which have been pertinent though out the ages and will always remain relevant).

ਨਾਨਕ ਅਵਰ ਨ ਸੁਛਈ ਹਰਿ ਬਿਭੁ ਬਖਸ਼ਿਯਾਰੁ ॥੧॥

naanak avar n sujhee har bin bakhसानेहार ||1||

Nanak (the person who has been blessed with the understanding) now knows no one other than the Almighty will be able to save. ||1||

Soka Gakkai International

Peace is a competition between despair and hope, between disempowerment and committed persistence. To the degree that powerlessness takes root in people's consciousness, there is a greater tendency to resort to force. Powerlessness breeds violence. But it was human beings that gave birth to these instruments of hellish destruction. It cannot be beyond the power of human wisdom to eliminate them.

Crying out in opposition to war and nuclear weapons is neither emotionalism nor self-pity. It is the highest expression of human reason based on an unflinching perception of the dignity of life. Faced with the horrifying facts of nuclear proliferation, we must call forth the power of hope from within the depths of each individual's life. This is the power that can transform even the most intractable reality.

To emerge from the shadow of nuclear weapons we need a revolution in the consciousness of countless individuals - a revolution that gives rise to the heartfelt confidence that "There is something I can do." Then, finally, we will see a coming together of the world's people, and hear their common voice, their cry for an end to this terrible madness of destruction.

Daisaku Ikeda, SGI President
Emerging from the Nuclear Shadow
The Japan Times, Sep. 14, 2006



Image: Nobel Peace Prize procession for ICAN in Oslo, December 2017.

Quakers Australia

Dear God,

We give thanks for places of simplicity and peace; let us find such a place within ourselves.

We give thanks for places of refuge and beauty; let us find such a place within ourselves.

We give thanks for places of nature's truth and freedom, of joy, inspiration and renewal, places where all creatures may find acceptance and belonging.

Let us search for these places; in the world, in ourselves and in others.

Let us restore them. Let us strengthen and protect them and let us create them.

May we mend this outer world according to the truth of our inner life and may our souls be shaped and nourished by nature's eternal wisdom.

Amen!

- Leunig

Dominican Centre for Interfaith Ministry, Education and Research (CIMER)

(We) call upon ourselves, upon the leaders of the world as well as the architects of international policy and world economy, to work strenuously to spread the culture of tolerance and of living together in peace; to intervene at the earliest opportunity to stop the shedding of innocent blood and bring an end to wars, conflicts, environmental decay and the moral and cultural decline that the world is presently experiencing.

- Excerpt from A Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together, signed by the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, and His Holiness Pope Francis, Abu Dhabi, 4 February 2019.

Open letter 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.

In each of our faith communities, we believe we are called to pursue peace and to love and care for all humanity and all creation. Collectively, our faith leads us to reject weapons designed to cause mass death and destruction and instil terror and fear. It is this faith that compels us to act for the eradication of weapons of mass destruction.

Seventy-five years on from the horrific atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the whole earth remains under the threat of nuclear weapons. Well-intentioned efforts over the decades have failed to halt the proliferation of nuclear weapons or to achieve total nuclear disarmament.

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. Nuclear arms control agreements are expiring, languishing or collapsing.

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,

Anglican Church of Australia
Australasian Muslim Times
Australia Centre for Christianity and Culture, Charles Sturt University
Australian Jewish Democratic Society
Australian Raelian Movement
Australian Student Christian Movement
Ballarat Interfaith Network
Believing Women for a Culture of Peace
Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
Brigidine Sisters Kildara Centre
Canberra Region Presbytery, Uniting Church in Australia
Carmelite Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Commission for Australia & Timor-Leste
Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney
Catholic Religious Australia
Christians for Peace Newcastle
Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations
Creators of Peace
Dominican Centre for Interfaith Ministry, Education and Research (CIMER)
Edmund Rice Centre
Ethos: Centre for Christianity & Society
Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils
Hashomer Hatzair Australia
Hongwanji Buddhist Mission of Australia
Inner West Chavurah
Islamic Council of Victoria
Jewish Labour Bund
Jewish Voices for Peace and Justice NSW
Jewish Voices for Power
Justice and Peace Committee, Tasmanian Quakers

Melbourne Anglican Diocese Social Responsibilities Committee
Melbourne Unitarian Peace Memorial Church
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Justice and Peace Centre (Australian Province)
Missionary Sisters of Service
Multifaith Association of South Australia
Muslim Charitable Foundation
Muslim Women's Association of South Australia
National Council of Churches in Australia
NSW Ecumenical Council
Office of Justice and Peace, Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney
Pace e Bene Australia, Inc
Pacific Conference of Churches
Parramatta Mission
Pax Christi Australia
Public Affairs Commission of the Anglican Church of Australia
Queensland Faith Communities Council
Religions for Peace
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia
Shepparton Interfaith Network
Sikh Youth Australia
Sisters of St Joseph
Soka Gakkai International Australia
Temple Society Australia Regional Council
Uniting Church in Australia Assembly
University of Divinity, Religion and Social Policy Network
Vedanta Centre of Melbourne
Victorian Quakers
Wellspring Community Australia
Whittlesea Interfaith Network