



**ICAN** 2017  
NOBEL  
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MEDIA RELEASE

## 50 COUNTRIES RATIFY BAN

# MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH AS NUCLEAR WEAPONS TREATY ACHIEVES LEGAL THRESHOLD

25<sup>th</sup> October 2020

History was made today as the number of countries ratifying the [UN Treaty](#) on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons reached 50.

Honduras ratified the treaty overnight bringing the world a step closer to the abolition of nuclear weapons. Just a day ago, on United Nations Day, Jamaica and Nauru ratified the treaty.

This milestone means the treaty will become international law on January 22, 2021, increasing pressure on nuclear armed states and other countries to support the treaty. It now has 84 signatories and 50 states parties.

“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,” said Dr Tilman Ruff AO, co-founder of ICAN, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

“Entry-into-force will cement the illegality of nuclear weapons in international law. 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.”

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

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 in signing and ratifying this treaty which will soon become international law.”

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

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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](#).