



THE HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI ACCORD – August 6 & 9, 2020

Introduction:

This historic occasion – the 75th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima - marks the first time that four of the world's prominent international interfaith/intercultural organizations have joined together to make a common statement on any subject. Leaders of the [Charter for Compassion](#), the [Parliament of the World's Religions](#), [Religions for Peace](#) and the [United Religions Initiative](#), together, now feel compelled to speak out, as one, for nuclear abolition. Today, we focus on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in order to remember, in sorrow, what happened on August 6, and 9 in 1945 and, to rage against the vastly greater sorrow if our present-day weapons are unleashed in fury on this planet, and to present a challenge to the human family, especially the young, to take action now to bring hope and sanity in the midst of our mutually-assured destruction.

August 6, 1945, was the first day in human history when one country targeted an atomic bomb on the people of another country. On August 6, 2020, we now live in a world where nine countries have over 14,000 such bombs, and many of these weapons are aimed at specific peoples around the world. Ready to launch! We now live at a time when we can reasonably imagine the entire world, in the 21st century, looking like Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. The Hibakusha in these cities whisper over the years to tell us what these bombs are built to achieve, i.e. unimaginable suffering and extermination. So, it is indeed critical for the world to pause and look backwards 75 years. And to look forward to a time when the threat of nuclear weapons will have been, not only contained but, eliminated.

What was at stake, with the bombs in 1945, was the fate of two cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the outcome of a world war. What is at stake with today's nuclear arsenal – 75 years later – is the fate of all plants, animals, and human beings on planet Earth. The whole world has become the enemy and the target in a silent war of nuclear proliferation by nine countries.

In 1945, those two bombs were officially judged, by one nation, to be morally legitimate in the service of a higher purpose, i.e. ending a war. Once that moral threshold was crossed, eight other nations created their own rationale for such weapons possession and began building their own nuclear weapons. Now, among the most powerful nations, the prevailing morality is dominated by nuclear weapons

manufacturers and politicians with nuclear arsenals. So strong is their hold on modern thinking that in countries with nuclear weapons, generations of young people exist who believe that they are safe and have no need to make choices or raise their voices concerning matters of nuclear weapons.

Yet, if today's nuclear weapons actually hit their intended targets, no one will be around to judge us for what we allowed to happen. No one, except the Author of Life, or a cloud of moral remorse hovering over the scarred and sacred cinders of Earth's former communities. We must judge for ourselves now, today, if there is going to be a tomorrow. We have to declare that the possession of nuclear weapons is morally illegitimate. We must move from proliferation to abolition for the sake of a sustainable Earth.

In 1945, the issues were seen in terms of war and peace. Today, there is only one nuclear weapons issue, i.e. the life of this Earth's environment. We can keep it alive, or we can destroy it with the weapons of nine nations. We have maximized our capacity for self-delusion and self-destruction, and all life is at risk. Therefore, we must now move beyond the 1945 thinking that weds nuclear weapons to national security. Today, our bombs do not bring national security for one moment in time; they bring international insecurity for all time.

In 2020, how are we to "judge for ourselves" and reverse our dash toward nuclear annihilation?

- If you are young, demand urgent governmental action before these weapons rob you and your children of a future;
- If you are a diplomat, keep pounding away on the fulfillment of legal commitments, already contained in Treaties in force, that call for the reduction and elimination of the threat posed by these weapons;
- If you are a religious leader: pray, preach, prophesy to stop the nuclear end of the world;
- If you are not informed on these matters, become educated, subscribe to a nuclear newsletter and wake up;
- If you are a politician, join parliamentarians and leaders world-wide who are working to stop the modernization and expansion of the capacity of nuclear weapons in quality and quantity. And advance policies and legislation that reduces the threat of the use of the weapons, stops their spread and leads to their elimination;
- If you are a citizen, join a nuclear weapons abolition group, march in the streets, write letters, pray fervently, and demand that institutions stop investing in the nuclear weapon industry.
- If you are a scientist, don't be used by politicians who champion nuclear stockpiles, find solidarity in your ranks and reach across national boundaries to scientists in other countries.
- If you are an environmentalist, recognize that nuclear weapons are the immediate and ultimate climate change for all time.
- If you are a nation armed with nuclear weapons, join with other nuclear nations to establish a joint enterprise committed to working for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

We need to give birth to children who are not the targets of nuclear weapons. Let us prove the resiliency of the human spirit. Let us learn from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and arise, now, from our nuclear darkness.



The Hiroshima/Nagasaki Accord Endorsers

Council for a Livable World; Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation – John Tierney, Executive Director

Global Security Institute – Jonathan Granoff, President

**Lightbridge Corporation – Ambassador Thomas Graham Jr., Chairman
Mayors for Peace**

Disarmament and Security Centre – New Zealand – Dr. Kate Dewes ONZM

International Peace Bureau – Lisa Clark, Co-President

Ploughshares Fund - Joe Cirincione, President

Nuclear Watch New Mexico – Jay Coghlan, Executive Director

Peace Action – Paul Kawika Martin, Senior Director, Policy and Political Affairs

Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary – Karenna Gore Founder and Director

American Renewable Energy Institute – Chip Comins Chairman and CEO

Atomic Reporters – Peter Rickwood, Founder

Earth Day Network: México – Tiahoga Ruge, Regional Director

World Beyond War – David Swanson Journalist and Antiwar Activist

NSquare – Erika Gregory, Managing Director

Interfaith Power and Light – Rev. Susan Hendershot President

Union for Reform Judaism

Chishty Foundation – Haji Syed Salman Chishty, Chairman

Sufi Ruhaniat International – Pir Shabda Kahn

Tri-Faith Initiative – Wendy Goldberg, Executive Director

International Youth Alliance for Peace – Thirukumar Premakumar, Founder and President, Sri Lanka

Veterans for Peace Golden Rule Project – Helen Jaccard, Executive Director

May Peace Prevail on Earth International – Fumi Johns Stewart, Executive Director

The Shift Network – Philip M. Hellmich, Global Peace Ambassador

Goi Peace Foundation – Hiroo Saionji, President, Masami Miyazaki, Executive Director

Project Ploughshares – Cesar Jaramillo, Executive Director

**Heiwa Peace and Reconciliation Foundation of New York – Rev. Dr. TK Nakagaki, President and
Founder, Hiroshima Peace Ambassador, Nagasaki Peace Correspondent**

Church Council of Greater Seattle – John Ramos, Executive Director

Global Consciousness Project – Dr. Roger Nelson, Director

Tanenbaum – Rev. Mark E. Fowler, CEO

Middle Powers Initiative – Tarja Cronberg, Chair

Friends Committee on National Legislation – Diane Randall, General Secretary

One Billion Youth for Peace – Abraham Karickam, Founder

Green Hope Foundation – Kehkashan Basu Founder, and President

Unity Earth – Ben Bowler, Executive Director

Living Peace Projects – Brigitte van Baren Chair, Co-Founder

The Global Sunrise Project – Kasha and Marla Slavner

One Life Alliance – Kia Scherr, President

MasterPeace – Aart Bos, CEO

A Common Word Among the Youth (ACWAY) – Rawaad Mahyub, Executive Director

Pathways to Peace (PTP) – Tezikiah Gabriel, Executive Director

Soka Gakkai International

Committee of Religious NGOs at the UN – Hiro Sakurai, President

Sérgio Duarte – Ambassador, President of Pugwash

Bruce Knotts – President and CEO: NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security; and Director of the Unitarian Universalist Office at the United Nations

Daryl G. Kimball – Executive Director, Arms Control Association

Bruce Blair – Co- founder, Global Zero

Ken Kimmell – President, Union of Concerned Scientists

Lieutenant-General (ret) the Honourable Roméo Dallaire

Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford – International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Winner 1985 Noble Peace Prize

Dr. Hans Blix – former Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Michael Krepon – Co-Founder and Distinguished Fellow The Stimson Center

Richard Rhodes – Pulitzer Prize-winning historian

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend – former Lieutenant Governor of the State of Maryland

Pierce Corden – Expert Advisor, Holy See Mission to the United Nations in New York, and former US arms control official

David T. Ives – Executive Director Emeritus, The Albert Schweitzer Institute, and Senior Advisor for the Summits of Nobel Peace Laureates

Alyn Ware – Director, World Future Council, Peace & Disarmament Program

Dr. Kim Phuc PHAN THI – UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, Founder, Kim Foundation International

Joan Brown Campbell, Rev. Dr. – General Secretary, National Council of Churches of Christ (ret.) and Former Director, Department of Religion, Chautauqua Institution

His Holiness Tep Vong, The Great Supreme Patriarch of the Kingdom of Cambodia

His Holiness Chamgon Kenting Tai Situpa

Bhai Sahib, Bhai Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia OBE KSG – Chairman of Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha and the Nishkam Group of Charitable Organizations

The Rev. Canon Sally G. Bingham – President Emerita, The Regeneration Project, Interfaith Power and Light

Hereditary Chief Phil Lane Jr. – Four World’s International Institute

Angaangaq Angakkorsuaq – Shaman and Healer, Greenland

Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji – Spiritual Leader and President of Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh, India

Rev. Drew Christiansen, S. J. – Distinguished Professor of Ethics and Global Human Development Senior Research Fellow, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs Georgetown University

Swamini Adityananda Saraswati – Spiritual Leader and Co-Founder of Pan African Association

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji – Spiritual Leader and Secretary General of The Global Interfaith WASH Alliance

Mohanji – Humanitarian and Philanthropist, Founder of the Mohanji Foundation

Dharma master Hsin Tao – Founder, Museum of World Religions

Rabbi David Rosen KSG, CBE – International Co-President of Religions for Peace

Rev. Kosho Niwano – President-Designate, Rissho Kosei Kai, Co-Moderator Religions for Peace

Bishop Rubén Tierrablanca González – ofm Apostolic Vicar of Istanbul – Latin Catholic Church

James Carroll – Author, Historian, Journalist

Cynthia Lazaroff – Founder, NuclearWakeUpCall.Earth

Dr. Karen Hallberg – Professor of Physics at Balseiro Institute and Research Director Centro Atómico Bariloche