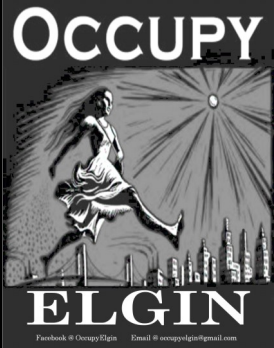


## Ban Nuclear Weapons!



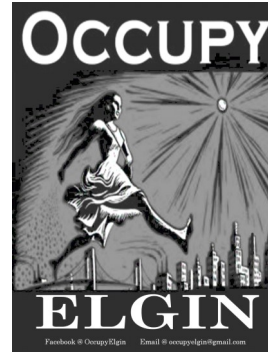
Nuclear Weapons pose an unacceptable existential threat to all humanity. Nine nuclear-armed nations together have over 13,000 nuclear weapons in their arsenals. The U.S. arsenal alone is 84,000 times more destructive than each of the bombs that killed over one hundred thousand in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan in 1945. The use of even one of these weapons will have catastrophic human and environmental consequences and negatively affect all life on the planet.

As long as these weapons exist, we face the risk of a nuclear detonation by accident, miscalculation or design. The risks posed to humanity are so grave that immediate action is needed. Even unused, nuclear weapons harm the environment. Uranium mining, nuclear waste dumps, and, of course, the testing of these weapons contaminate the earth.

Across the world, nations and individuals have come together to address this threat. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), is the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons with the ultimate goal being their total elimination. It bans their development, testing, and production, as well as their stationing, stockpiling, and transfer; it also bans the threat to use them. It was adopted at the United Nations on 7 July 2017, and entered into force on 22 January 2021.<sup>1</sup> By now, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has been ratified by 56 countries and signed by 88 countries.

Unfortunately, lead by the United States, the nine nuclear-armed nations have refused to sign that treaty. The United States even actively discouraged other nations from attending meetings to draft it. In fact, the US and several of the nuclear-armed states, are currently spending billions of dollars to "modernize" and upgrade their nuclear arsenals. While this recklessly endangers the earth, it also allows the super-wealthy manufacturers of such weapons to grow even richer.

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**With the largest arsenal of nuclear weapons, the United States is the only nation on Earth which has dropped a nuclear bomb on another country (on Hiroshima, Japan, exactly 77 years ago today.) We therefore have the responsibility to lead the way.**

**There is strong public support for the concept of the nuclear disarmament and for the treaty to ban nuclear weapons. Several states and some cities have passed resolutions in support of it. We endorse the following precepts taken from a resolution passed by the Chicago City Council. We call upon the U.S. government to spearhead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by taking the following steps:**

- **Negotiate in good faith and in a spirit of generosity with Iran to restore the Iran Nuclear Deal.**
- **Renounce the option of conducting nuclear preemptive strikes;**
- **End the sole, unchecked authority of any president to launch a nuclear attack without consulting Congress;**
- **Take U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert;**
- **Cancel the plan to replace the entire US arsenal with enhanced weapons at a cost of more than \$1 trillion over the next 30 years;**
- **Actively embrace both the letter and the spirit of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.**

**Call and email President Biden 202-456-1111, Senator Durbin 312-353-4952, Senator Duckworth 312-886-3506, and your member of Congress 202-224-3121 and tell them to act on these demands.**

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