

UN Conference, SLC 2019 Workshop: Join the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) Cities Appeal: Your city can join others in supporting the new UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

“BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND TO HAWAII. THIS IS NOT A DRILL” Jan. 13, 2018, Hawaii and Kauai (alert recognized as a mistake and canceled after 38 minute). Had you been there, what would have been your thoughts, during the 38 minutes, and afterward? Aren't nuclear weapons still a dire threat to everyone on Earth?

The nuclear devices held by nine countries are designed to obliterate targeted cities. What geopolitical goal is worth any risk of the obliteration of your city? Is sustainability compatible with the existence of nuclear weapons?

Launch of the 192 warheads from a single US nuclear submarine--of fourteen--could devastate an entire continent, making it uninhabitable. Even a single nuclear detonation over a major city would change the course of the world, provided it did not lead to a massive exchange definitively ending human society. Are nuclear devices in fact far too devastatingly powerful to be thought of and used as “weapons” by humans? Is it reasonable for us to rely on such “weapons” never, ever, being used--by anyone, anywhere?

Can we continue to accept that rivalries between states over domination or territory be pursued via threats of mutual annihilation? Can any vulnerable or targeted city be considered “sustainable?”

Details of nuclear deployment, control, security and launch protocols are kept top secret by all nuclear states. Citizens have no say whatsoever about them. Existential power over the human species is closely held in very few hands, largely anonymous, unaccountable to the vast majority of the world's citizens. Is this acceptable?

The United States government adamantly insists, as a matter of principle, that white supremacist fanatics and the criminally deranged, for instance, have easy access to powerful military weaponry. Can you rely on its top secret nuclear policies being any more rational than such a stance? What about the secret policies of the other nuclear armed states? Aren't their contingencies also completely opaque?

Numerous instances of a nuclear exchange being averted at the last moment, often by a single person, have been disclosed decades after the fact. Instances abound of nuclear bombs being dropped from bombers by accident, of submarines sinking with their nuclear missiles--never recovered., of ejection of a megaton H-bomb warhead from a missile silo, of missile launch crews discovered to be high on drugs. Security of nuclear weapons is far from absolute, yet don't we rely on it being near 100%?

Nuclear war between two of even the lesser nuclear powers would shroud the Northern hemisphere in 5 billion tons of stratospheric smoke from burning cities, blotting out the sun for up to ten years, and resulting in famine and starvation of up to two billion people. Is it impossible for this to happen?

If your country presumes itself to be protected by the US nuclear “umbrella,” how confident are you that the US would risk its own obliteration by coming to your defense in the crunch? In any case, is your survival guaranteed?

Historically, the US and other governments have willingly authorized and launched huge bombing campaigns against cities, taking millions of civilian lives. Preemptive nuclear strikes are supported by significant percentages in the US. Can we accept this level of risk? Nuclear advocates say the bigger the threat the better; they are at a loss when rivals seek to counter or evade their threats, upping the ante. Their answer: an even bigger threat, costing astronomical sums, and plunging the world into the current new nuclear arms race.

Your city can take action toward ridding our (only) world of these satanic, omnicidal devices. See over for resources and steps you can take to encourage your city to act on the ICAN Cities Appeal:

What can residents of your city do to support the process of ridding the world of the nuclear threat?

Pass a City Resolution urging your national government to ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The Treaty outlaws nuclear weapons, as previous treaties have outlawed poison gas, land mines, cluster munitions, biological weapons, etc. Further, it enjoins timely cooperation and negotiation between nuclear powers under UN auspices, leading to the elimination all nuclear weapons, ongoing monitoring, and verification.

Your city's Mayor, City Council, peace groups, and all concerned city residents can help draft a Resolution. Links to Resolutions passed by other cities--including that of Salt Lake City—are online on the Back From the Brink website listed below. All contain numerous very good reasons for getting rid of nuclear weapons. You can copy and paste them, adding any other reasons of your own. You don't need to be exhaustive, since practically every reason is overwhelming on its own! Be succinct and open to edits. Provide references for factual statements.

Back From the Brink lists incremental steps which you can urge your country to adopt immediately, leading up to ratification of the Treaty: Declaring “No First Use,” ending sole authority to launch a nuclear strike, taking all weapons off “hair-trigger” alert, and ending all investment in new or “improved” nuclear weapons (halting the new nuclear arms race). Most resolutions endorse and advocate these five steps, last of which is the UN Treaty.

Websites:

[icanw.org](http://icanw.org) and [nuclearban.org](http://nuclearban.org), ICAN sites. Explanation of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, list of cities worldwide responding to the Cities Appeal, countries ratifying the Treaty, link to the exciting proposal “Warheads to Windmills,” showing how skilled jobs in the nuclear weapons industry can be shifted to socially productive jobs countering climate chaos in a new global green economy.

[Preventnuclearwar.org](http://Preventnuclearwar.org), Back From the Brink site. Five incremental steps toward a total ban on nuclear weapons, links to Resolutions passed by other cities, states and civic organizations, like the US Council of Mayors.

[Wagingpeace.org](http://Wagingpeace.org), Nuclear Age Peace Foundation site, sponsor of this Workshop. Deep wisdom on nuclear weapons issues and the struggle to eliminate them. (David Krieger, Founder, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation: “...basing the security of one's country on the threat to kill millions of innocent people, perhaps billions, and risking the destruction of civilization, has no moral justification and deserves the strongest condemnation.”)

[Nucleardarkness.org](http://Nucleardarkness.org) “Small” nuclear war; 5 billion tons of smoke from burning cities into stratosphere; nuclear winter for up to 10 years over entire Northern hemisphere, mass starvation.

Books:

*The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner.* Daniel Ellsberg. 2017.

(Reveals truths about the nuclear establishment from decades past, truths that continue to hold today, which lead the author to conclude that we have set up a global Doomsday Machine which now constitutes a grave and imminent threat to the existence of all human and other multicellular life on Earth.)

*Disarming the Nuclear Argument. The Truth About Nuclear Weapons.* Timmon Milne Wallis. 2017.

(Examines the shaky, perverse logic of nuclear deterrence--espoused as obvious by the nuclear establishment, arguing that nuclear weapons do not at all make us safe, and that we should do our best to eliminate them while our luck still holds). Wallis is the author of “Warheads to Windmills” on the ICAN site above.

*The Path to Zero. Dialogs on Nuclear Dangers.* Richard Falk and David Krieger. 2012

Utah Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (UCAN) [utahcan.org](http://utahcan.org)