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## From nuclear weapons-free NZ to a nuclear weapons-free world iCAN Aotearoa New Zealand (iCAN ANZ) supporters' update

February 2012

### • Select Committee to consider iCAN ANZ petition to parliament

This update is to let you know that the iCAN ANZ petition will be considered by a parliamentary Select Committee next month. The petition calls on the New Zealand government to actively engage with like-minded governments committed to abolishing nuclear weapons to launch, without delay, an initiative to start the process of negotiating a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

This means we need to have all signatures on the petition returned to us by **15 March** - the petition is available at <http://www.icanw.org.nz> and a copy is attached for your convenience, please collect as many additional signatures as you can over the next few weeks, thank you.

Although the Select Committee has not called for public submissions, iCAN ANZ can provide letters of support from other organisations as supplementary evidence. If your organisation can help with a letter of support, please contact iCAN ANZ for the guidelines - letters of support need to be sent to [icanz@xtra.co.nz](mailto:icanz@xtra.co.nz) by 15 March at the latest.

### • Report from International iCAN: 'Towards a nuclear weapons ban'

Three-quarters of all nations support UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's proposal for a treaty to outlaw and eliminate nuclear weapons, according to a study released in January by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (iCAN). The iCAN study shows that every nation in Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa is in favour of a treaty banning nuclear weapons, as are most nations in Asia, the Pacific and the Middle East. Support is weakest in Europe and North America, particularly among members of the NATO nuclear alliance. Nations that support a ban on nuclear weapons make up approximately 81% of the world's population. Only 26 nations are opposed to such a treaty, with 22 sitting on the fence.

The iCAN study is at [www.icanw.org/files/TowardsTreatyBanningNuclearWeapons.pdf](http://www.icanw.org/files/TowardsTreatyBanningNuclearWeapons.pdf) or you can request a copy from iCAN ANZ.

### • Thank you

Thank you to the groups and individuals who have made a donation to support iCAN ANZ's work, your generosity is appreciated. Financial support is still needed: **by cheque** - please make your cheque payable to 'Peace Movement Aotearoa' and post to iCAN ANZ, including a note with your name and address so we can send you a tax credit receipt; **by direct credit** - to 02 0536 0323908 97 - please email your name and address to [icanz@xtra.co.nz](mailto:icanz@xtra.co.nz) so we can send your receipt.



# Call for action to abolish nuclear weapons

## To the House of Representatives:

Since the detonation of the first atomic bomb in July 1945, the threat of use of nuclear weapons has cast a shadow over the future of the earth. Since then, each stage of the production of nuclear weapons has caused immeasurable harm to human health and wellbeing, and extensive contamination of the environment - from uranium mining, processing of radioactive materials, manufacturing of nuclear warheads, through to nuclear bomb testing.

Despite ongoing widespread public opposition to nuclear weapons, and the overwhelming majority of governments around the world now supporting the abolition of these weapons of mass destruction, little progress has been made - 20,530 nuclear warheads remain in the arsenals of eight nuclear weapons states.

Yet other weapons of mass destruction - chemical and biological weapons - have been banned by international law, as have some 'indiscriminate weapons' such as anti-personnel landmines and cluster munitions.

In 1987, the New Zealand government took a leading nuclear disarmament role by passing the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament and Arms Control Act to ban biological and nuclear weapons here. New Zealand was one of six governments that led the Oslo Process to ban cluster bombs which resulted in the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions, hosting a key meeting in Wellington as part of the process. It is time for the government to now take a leading role in achieving a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

**We therefore respectfully call on the House of Representatives to urge the government to actively engage with 'like-minded' governments committed to abolishing nuclear weapons to launch, without delay, an initiative to start the process of negotiating a Nuclear Weapons Convention - a treaty to prohibit the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat of use, and use of nuclear weapons.**

Name

Address [optional]

Signature [required]

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**Please note:** all signatures collected for this petition must be on the front of this form, as the Office of the Clerk will not accept signatures submitted in any other way. Please return signed petition forms to **ican** Aotearoa New Zealand, PO Box 9314, Wellington 6141 by **15 March 2012**. This petition form is available online at [www.icanw.org.nz](http://www.icanw.org.nz) or from **ican** Aotearoa New Zealand. Thank you.