

CAMPAIGN UPDATE—APRIL 2008

the first year

the momentum builds

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a global grassroots movement initiated in 2007 by the Nobel Prize-winning International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW). It aims to break the current stalemate in disarmament negotiations by generating support for a legally binding Nuclear Weapons Convention. Such a treaty is feasible, necessary and increasingly urgent. Now is the time to make it a reality.

ICAN's international launch was held at last year's meeting of parties to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and national launches have since taken place in Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, India, Malaysia, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. ICAN was central to discussions at this year's IPPNW World Congress held in New Delhi, which attracted more student delegates than ever before. ICAN ambassadors have travelled to dozens of countries to sow the seeds of the campaign.

The next few years may be the best opportunity for a generation to cast off the nuclear shadow burdening humanity and finally achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world. This exciting new movement for abolition is quickly gaining momentum, and you can be a part of the change.

embracing the campaign

Existing networks and organizations have embraced ICAN as a new vehicle to generate global support for a Nuclear Weapons Convention. Together they represent millions of people from all walks of life. National campaigns involve faith, environment, union and peace organizations. Our major international partners are:

- Abolition 2000
- Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
- Mayors for Peace
- Mouvement de la paix
- Nobel Women's Initiative
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
- World Federation of United Nations Associations

web presence

ICAN's website (www.icanw.org) attracts more than 10,000 visits per month, with the number of visitors constantly growing. The campaign has made use of social-networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook to generate support.



political developments

ICAN coordinated the updating and printing of the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) originally published in 1997. This document was submitted to the 2007 Non-Proliferation Treaty meeting by Costa Rica and Malaysia, and the Chairman mentioned it in his factual summary. At last year's UN General Assembly session, 127 nations voted in favour of a resolution calling for the immediate commencement of negotiations leading to an NWC.

The new Australian Government made a pre-election commitment in September to lead the international push for an NWC, and ICAN representatives have maintained pressure on key people within the Government to ensure that it fulfils this promise. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has declared that Australia will engage in activist middle power diplomacy with respect to nuclear weapons.

ICAN representatives in various other countries have fostered close ties with their respective foreign ministries and key parliamentarians.

prominent supporters

- **Tadatoshi Akiba:** Mayor of Hiroshima and president of Mayors for Peace
- **Dr Hans Blix:** Chair of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission and former foreign minister of Sweden
- **Jayantha Dhanapala:** Former United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs
- **Gareth Evans:** President of the International Crisis Group and former foreign minister of Australia
- **Malcolm Fraser:** Former Prime Minister of Australia
- **Justice Christopher Weeramantry:** President of the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms and former vice-president of the International Court of Justice
- **Professor Jody Williams:** Winner of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize and former coordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines

distribution of materials

Model Nuclear Weapons Convention

ICAN launched *Securing Our Survival*, the updated version of the Model NWC, which takes into account relevant international developments over the last decade and includes detailed analysis of the steps that countries must take to make the treaty a reality. The Model NWC has been supported at meetings of the Middle Power Initiative, Pugwash and several other organizations. One- and four-page summaries of the weighty document have also been produced.

Brochures and postcards

ICAN has printed and distributed hundreds of thousands of brochures and postcards with the aim of generating an irresistible groundswell of public support for nuclear weapons abolition. Without downplaying the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose, the materials have focused on the positive message that we can achieve a world without nuclear weapons, and everyone has a role to play. Some of the materials have been translated into other languages.

Education booklet

ICAN has produced an education booklet, *Learn Abolition*, consisting of 18 activities for primary and secondary school students. The activities are aimed at enhancing students' understanding of nuclear weapons issues and enabling them to contribute to the movement for abolition. They include holding a mock United Nations debate, role-playing the Cuban Missile Crisis, and folding paper cranes to honour the victims of the first atomic bombings.

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