



Peace Movement Aotearoa

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NGO information for the biennial report of the UN Secretary General on the UN Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education

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Executive summary

Peace Movement Aotearoa is New Zealand's national networking peace organisation.

Our core disarmament activities comprise: networking, outreach and disarmament education; national coordination of humanitarian disarmament and related campaigns; and our youth disarmament engagement strategy.

Among other things, we coordinate the New Zealand campaigns of five global humanitarian disarmament campaigns - on nuclear weapons (**i**CAN), military spending, killer robots, cluster munitions and landmines; coordinate a range of other national peace and disarmament projects; and we are the New Zealand contact for the global campaigns on EWIPA and child soldiers.

The other main focus of our work is peace and human rights, and we regularly include disarmament issues in our reports to UN human rights treaty monitoring bodies and our publicly available resources.

Peace Movement Aotearoa's web site is the most comprehensive New Zealand peace and disarmament site, providing public information and resources on a wide range of topics.

A. Introduction

Peace Movement Aotearoa is the New Zealand national networking peace organisation, established by the collective will of local and national peace groups in 1981 and registered as a not-for-profit incorporated society in 1982.

We have a collaborative approach to peace and disarmament education: all of our core activities, networking and projects are done in collaboration with our member and supporting organisations, which include a wide range of national and local peace, disarmament, social justice, human rights and faith groups, in varying combinations depending on the particular topic at hand.

We have extensive national mailing lists, which include more than one hundred and fifty contacts for national or local peace, disarmament, human rights, church, faith-based and social justice groups. In addition to our general mailing list, we maintain topic-focused lists for those interested in receiving more detailed information on particular disarmament and human rights issues.

All of the information, updates and educational resources we publish or publicise are distributed via our national mailing lists, eleven other national and regional email lists, as well as to international

peace and disarmament organisations and networks when appropriate; and posted on our web site and Facebook page. Peace Movement Aotearoa's web site is the most comprehensive NZ peace and disarmament site, providing information and resources on a wide range of topics.

The informational and educational resources we produce are publicly available online, and are provided in print form for those without internet access and at public meetings and events nationwide; anyone can subscribe to our general or topic-focused mailing lists free of charge; and we freely provide information and analysis on any peace or disarmament topic, or links to where that information can be found, on request.

B. Disarmament campaigns and public education

Our disarmament work includes public education by way of public meetings, conference presentations, guest lectures at tertiary institutions, NGO briefings, media backgrounders and interviews, and widespread dissemination of information, analysis and educational resources on peace, disarmament and non-proliferation topics produced by ourselves and by others.

We provide national coordination for the following global humanitarian disarmament campaigns:

- **Aotearoa New Zealand Campaign on Military Spending** - working on disarmament and the reduction of military spending for sustainable peace and development. Although this campaign provides comments on New Zealand's military spending through each year, the key dates annually are the New Zealand release of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) global military spending figures, and the release of the New Zealand national Budget. We produced updated public resources for both in 2017 and 2018, and held public 'welfare or warfare?' forums for the 2017 and 2018 Global Days of Action on Military Spending. Our Coordinator, Edwina Hughes, is on the International Steering Committee of the Global Campaign on Military Spending;
- **Aotearoa New Zealand Campaign to Stop Killer Robots** - working for a pre-emptive ban on lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS), with a particular focus on New Zealand's position on LAWS. We provide background information and updates on every international development around LAWS, including the 2017 and 2018 Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) Group of Governmental Experts on LAWS meetings, developments in the UNGA First Committee, and the 2017 Open letter by CEOs and founders of leading robotics and AI companies. Over the past year, we have discussed New Zealand's position on LAWS with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and raised it with the Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control;
- **Aotearoa New Zealand Joint Working Group on Cluster Munitions and Landmines** - working for universalisation and implementation of both Conventions, and monitoring use of cluster munitions and landmines. Since June 2016, the New Zealand campaign has publicised the use of cluster munitions and landmines overseas, publicised key anniversaries and new resources produced by the international campaigns, and provided media briefings on the Cluster Munitions Prohibition Act 2009 and divestment; and
- **International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (iCAN) Aotearoa New Zealand** - since the national campaign was established in 2011, we have been focused on encouraging New Zealand to play a leading role in achieving a legal instrument to ban nuclear weapons. This has been the busiest of our specific disarmament campaigns over the past two years as we provided regular public backgrounders and updates, as well as media releases and interviews, on the key developments: the 2016 meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group Taking Forward

Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations; the 2016 UN General Assembly resolution (A/RES/71/258, 23 December 2016) mandating the convening of the UN conference which negotiated the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW); the two negotiating sessions in March and June / July 2017; the TPNW's adoption in July and opening for signature in September; and the award of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize to iCAN. We organised five public briefings with the New Zealand Disarmament Ambassador, H.E. Dell Higgie, and a TPNW / Nobel Peace Prize celebration in Wellington, with participants from a range of peace, disarmament, human rights, social justice, and faith groups, the New Zealand Red Cross, the Human Rights Commission, the Public Advisory Committee on Disarmament and Arms Control, diplomatic representatives and the media.

We have also publicised New Zealand's statements to, and background information on, the 2017 and 2018 Preparatory Committee meetings for the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

iCAN Aotearoa New Zealand is currently focused on the international treaty examination of the TPNW by the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee - the final step towards New Zealand ratifying the treaty - for which we have published a public guide with key points for submissions, and provided background information to media.

Peace Movement Aotearoa is the national contact for three further global campaigns and networks:

- **International Network on Explosive Weapons** - working for the development of international standards to prevent human suffering from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas;
- **Humanitarian Disarmament Campaigns Network** - Peace Movement Aotearoa is the only New Zealand-based national NGO involved in the international Humanitarian Disarmament Campaigns Network that was established at the first Humanitarian Disarmament Campaigns Summit in October 2012. The purpose of the Network is to collectively advance humanitarian disarmament through multilateral processes; and we regularly forward statements and details of other initiatives received via the Network to our national disarmament lists, and publicly advertise new resources received from Network members; and
- **Child Soldiers International (CSI)** - working for state party compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC). Most recently, we were responsible for the New Zealand release of CSI's report 'Why 18 Matters' and the first online global database mapping child recruitment practices worldwide on last week's 18th anniversary of the OPAC's adoption and opening for signature. Further information on our public education work around OPAC is provided in section C below.

We also coordinate two national disarmament related campaigns:

- **White Poppies for Peace** - which includes coordination of the Annual Appeal which funds the White Poppy Peace Scholarships to encourage New Zealand research on the impacts of militarism, militarisation and armed conflict, and peaceful means of resolving conflict; and
- **World War One Centenary Peace Project** - which provides alternative views to the dominant discourse, and alternative events such as the nationwide peace vigils on key anniversary dates that are coordinated by Peace Movement Aotearoa in conjunction with the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

Other aspects of our disarmament public education work include:

- **Women, Peace and Security (WPS)** - Peace Movement Aotearoa played a crucial role in establishing the national WPS network last year, and provides regular updates to the network and the public about WPS consultations, new WPS resources, and New Zealand's WPS National Action Plan;

- **New Zealand's disarmament statements** - last year we established a specific web page where all of New Zealand's disarmament statements are now uploaded for easy reference, this is the only online resource where they are publicly available: and

- **'Securing our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament'** - we widely publicised the UN Secretary General's comprehensive agenda for disarmament when it was released last week, highlighting its three priorities: disarmament to save humanity, disarmament that saves lives, and disarmament for future generations. We will be producing a summary overview of the agenda as part of our youth disarmament engagement strategy this year.

Our disarmament work is part-funded by the Disarmament Education UN Implementation Fund which is administered by the Public Advisory Committee for Disarmament and Arms Control.

C. Human rights / disarmament work and public education

Peace Movement Aotearoa regularly includes disarmament topics in our reports and submissions to UN human rights treaty monitoring bodies, and the linkages between human rights and disarmament are an important part of our public education work, in keeping with paragraph 10 of the UN Study (A/57/124, 30 August 2002):

"Disarmament and non-proliferation education and training draws upon, contributes to and mutually reinforces education for conflict resolution, communication, cross-cultural understanding, tolerance of diversity, non-violence, economic justice and gender equity, environmental preservation, demilitarization, development, human rights and international humanitarian law. If it is to retain its relevance to the security requirements of peoples and States, disarmament and non-proliferation education and training must not be viewed in a vacuum but rather integrated into that broad perspective."

Peace Movement Aotearoa is the only New Zealand NGO that provides information to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on New Zealand's compliance with OPAC, most recently, in our 2016 report to the 73rd CRC session when New Zealand's fifth Periodic Report was considered. Following on from our 2015 submission to the CRC on Draft General Comment on Article 4 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Public Spending, which included issues around military spending, we also raised the prioritising of military over social spending in our report for the 73rd session.

Our other work in support of OPAC has included establishing a web page with information on the militarisation of children, young persons and their education in New Zealand. We produced specific public and media resources on the 2018 Ministry of Education's consultation on Draft Guidelines for Schools Developing a Firearms Policy, including guidelines for anyone wishing to make a submission to the consultation, and publicly released our submission on the Draft Guidelines.

We raised issues around public spending priorities, and the prioritising of military over social spending, in our briefing to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights when it considered New Zealand's performance in March 2018 - a follow up on the section on public spending priorities and military expenditure in our February 2016 report to the Committee.

Our October 2017 submission for the Human Rights Committee's consultation on Draft General Comment No. 36, Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Right to Life, included points about nuclear weapons, unmanned weapons systems, lethal autonomous weapons systems, and militarisation and the right to life.

All of our reports and submissions to UN human rights monitoring bodies are released publicly, and we produce backgrounders and updates for public education and for the media at each stage of the processes involving New Zealand - with an emphasis on disarmament issues whenever we have raised disarmament topics in our reports or submissions.

D. Youth Disarmament Engagement Strategy

There are two phases to Peace Movement Aotearoa's Youth Disarmament Engagement Strategy:

Phase 1 - 'by youth for youth' research, which has been conducted over the past year and comprised a series of youth-run focus groups with those already actively engaged in a wide range of youth networks to discuss their ideas about effectively engaging youth in disarmament, with open questions and others such as: which disarmament topics are most likely to catch their imagination; what kind of information is most likely to interest them and what are the best ways to present it; and what synthesis there is between their existing campaigns and disarmament issues.

The research phase included discussion with NGOs who are involved in youth education and advocacy; and a widely disseminated nation-wide online survey to ascertain the existing level of knowledge of, and interest in, disarmament topics, as well as to identify those who are interested in being involved in Phase 2. In-depth interviews were conducted with young persons involved in a range of organisations including peace, disarmament, church, interfaith, Treaty of Waitangi education, human rights, social justice, refugee support, migrant rights, climate justice, environmental protection, sustainability, and animal rights groups; and in a range of student clubs and campaigns.

Our Phase 1 research indicated a strong level of interest in disarmament, with more than half of the participants saying they would like to know more about a range of disarmament issues; and a clear need for youth-focused disarmament resources, and educational materials linking disarmament with other issues such as human rights, social justice, health and climate justice. Use of social media featured in almost all of the survey and interview responses, as well as a range of other methods.

Phase 2 - the establishment of the Youth Disarmament Project (YDP) based on the outcomes of our phase 1 research. While one outcome is increased use of social media, our intention is that the strategy will enable more durable and deeper youth engagement in disarmament issues than can be achieved by clicking a 'like' button. We are currently seeking two youth workers to establish the YDP.

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the UN Secretary General's biennial report.