

Celebrating this year's achievements and looking forward to 2018

We had a great gathering in Wellington on 14 December to celebrate the award of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (iCAN) and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, with people from a range of peace, disarmament, human rights, social justice, and faith groups, the NZ Red Cross, the Human Rights Commission, the Public Advisory Committee on Disarmament and Arms Control (PACDAC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including Disarmament Ambassador H.E. Dell Higgin), Ambassador H.E. Gary Domingo (Philippines), Chloe Swarbrick MP (Green Party Spokesperson for Youth), and Radio NZ International.



Apologies and best wishes were received from Rt Hon Winston Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon Tracey Martin (NZ First), Minister for Children, and H.E. Yala, High Commissioner for the Cook Islands; as well as apologies from MP Simon O'Connor (National), Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee, Hon Meka Whaitiri (Labour), Iranian Ambassador H.E. Namini Mianjil, the Royal Thai Embassy, and MP Golriz Ghahraman, Green Party Spokesperson for Global Affairs, who unfortunately was unable to speak as scheduled at the last moment.

During the celebration, a peace candle was gifted to St Andrew's on The Terrace as a thank you for hosting every year's iCAN Aotearoa New Zealand public meeting and briefing forum held in Wellington since 2011. Messages of congratulations and best wishes from four iCAN Aotearoa New Zealand supporting NGOs - Pax Christi, UNANZ, WILPF Aotearoa, and Quaker Yearly meeting - were shared, along with the list of apologies, best wishes and thanks received from individual supporters around the country from the far south to the far north, and the statement of congratulations by NZ Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in the celebration, and to all who have supported iCAN Aotearoa New Zealand's work during 2017.

With best wishes for the new year, and for even more progress towards a nuclear weapons-free world in 2018 :-)

Photos from the celebration:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1543676405679723.1073741879.116517195062325&type=1&l=896155f8af>

To support our work in 2018, please donate online at www.converge.org.nz/pma/donate.htm

- thank you