



Aotearoa New Zealand

Hon Murray McCully,
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Private Bag 18888
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

1 February 2013

Dear Minister,

Re: Invitation to speak at a Wellington Seminar linked to the forthcoming Oslo Conference on Nuclear Weapons.

The forthcoming Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, to be hosted by the Norwegian Government in Oslo on 4-5 March, represents a critical opportunity to renew dialogue between governments and civil society on the urgent need to eliminate nuclear weapons.

In anticipation of this event, we warmly invite you to speak about New Zealand's position at the "Nuclear Weapons, NZ & Norway: Making disarmament progress in 2013" seminar, to be held on **Thursday 21 February 2013** from 6pm at Victoria University's Law School (Old Government Buildings). The seminar will be hosted by Victoria University, New Zealand Red Cross, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons Aotearoa New Zealand (iCAN ANZ). The purpose of the seminar is to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to learn from decision-makers and experts in the nuclear abolition field about the exciting possibilities for the Oslo Conference.

While nuclear weapons regularly enter the public discourse from a military security perspective, it is the environmental and humanitarian impacts that represent a fundamental threat to the future of human civilisation. These threats are both grave and well-documented, and in particular there are new data on the potentially catastrophic climate impacts of even a relatively "small" regional nuclear war. The Oslo Conference will particularly reflect these humanitarian and environmental concerns and the lack of any adequate humanitarian response capacity in the event of a nuclear attack.

Given New Zealand's historically principled and independent stance on nuclear disarmament issues, we look forward to seeing our Government take a proactive and supportive role in Oslo Conference. Against this backdrop we invite you to speak at our seminar on New Zealand's position at the Oslo Conference, and how New Zealand can effectively maximise its impact in Norway and move once again to a position of global leadership on nuclear disarmament.

If you require any additional information about this event or for confirmation of your attendance please contact gabrielle.emery@redcross.org.nz or ph (04) 470 7747. We very much look forward to your response and your participation.

Yours sincerely

Dr Jenny McMahon
President, New Zealand Red Cross

Dr Nick Wilson
Chair, IPPNW

Edwina Hughes
Coordinator, iCAN ANZ