



# 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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