

Non-violent action to advance nuclear abolition

Presentation for

Nonviolence in the 21st Century

International Day of Nonviolence, October 2, 2021

Alyn Ware

(New Zealand, Czech Republic)

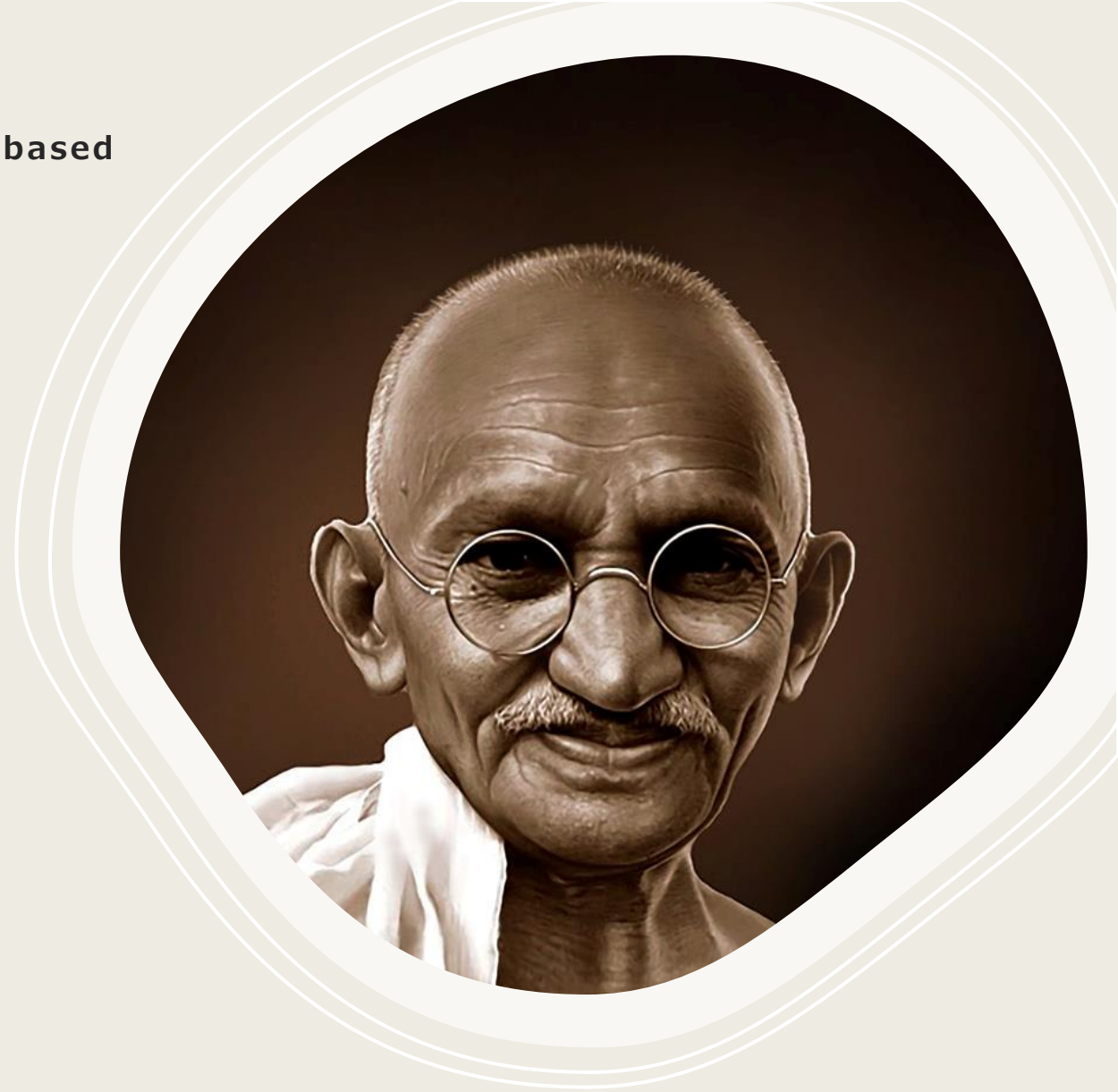
World Future Council, NZ Peace Foundation, Aotearoa Lawyers for
Peace, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and
Disarmament,
Right Livelihood Laureate 2009



Gandhi on nuclear weapons:

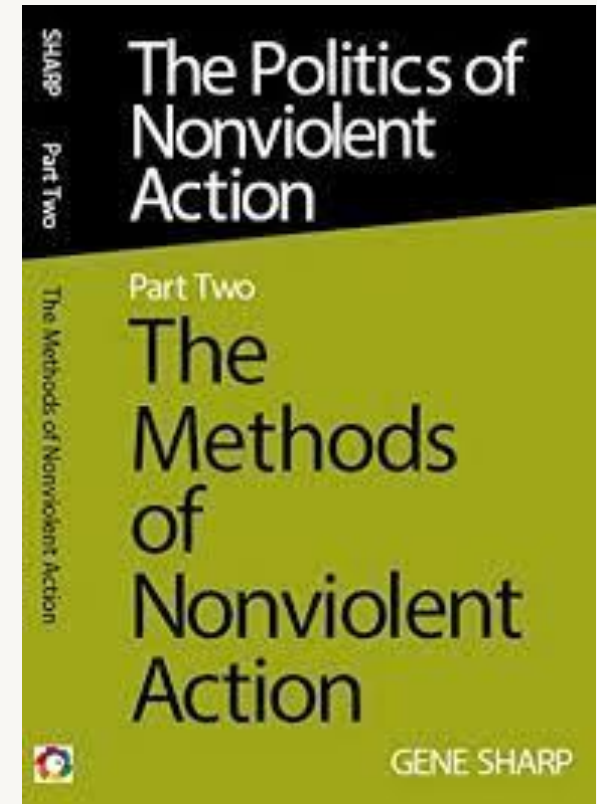
Nuclear weapons are not only the ultimate form of violence... They create an imperative to build a world based on nonviolence.

- **Danger:** *"Unless now the world adopts nonviolence, it will spell certain suicide for mankind"*
Gandhi on hearing about the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- **Impact:** *"The atom bomb brought an empty victory to the allied arms, but it resulted for the time being in destroying the soul of Japan. What has happened to the soul of the destroying nation is yet too early to see."*
Atom Bomb and Ahimsa
Cited in The Mind of Mahatma Gandhi
- **Solution:** *"The moral to be legitimately drawn from the supreme tragedy of the bomb is that it will not be destroyed by counter-bombs even as violence cannot be by counter-violence. Mankind has to get out of violence only through nonviolence."*
Atom Bomb and Ahimsa,
Cited in The Mind of Mahatma Gandhi



Methods/types of nonviolent action

- Protest and Persuasion
- Social non-cooperation
- Economic non-cooperation
- Political non-cooperation
- Non-violent intervention



Nonviolence and the New Zealand nuclear abolition campaign

- Until 1987, New Zealand was part of nuclear alliance with the United States;
- The government was welcoming visits by nuclear armed and powered submarines and surface ships;
- The New Zealand nuclear-free campaign of the 1980s used a number of methods of nonviolence to eventually achieve success with the nuclear free law being adopted in 1987.
- NZ has been nuclear-free ever since then.

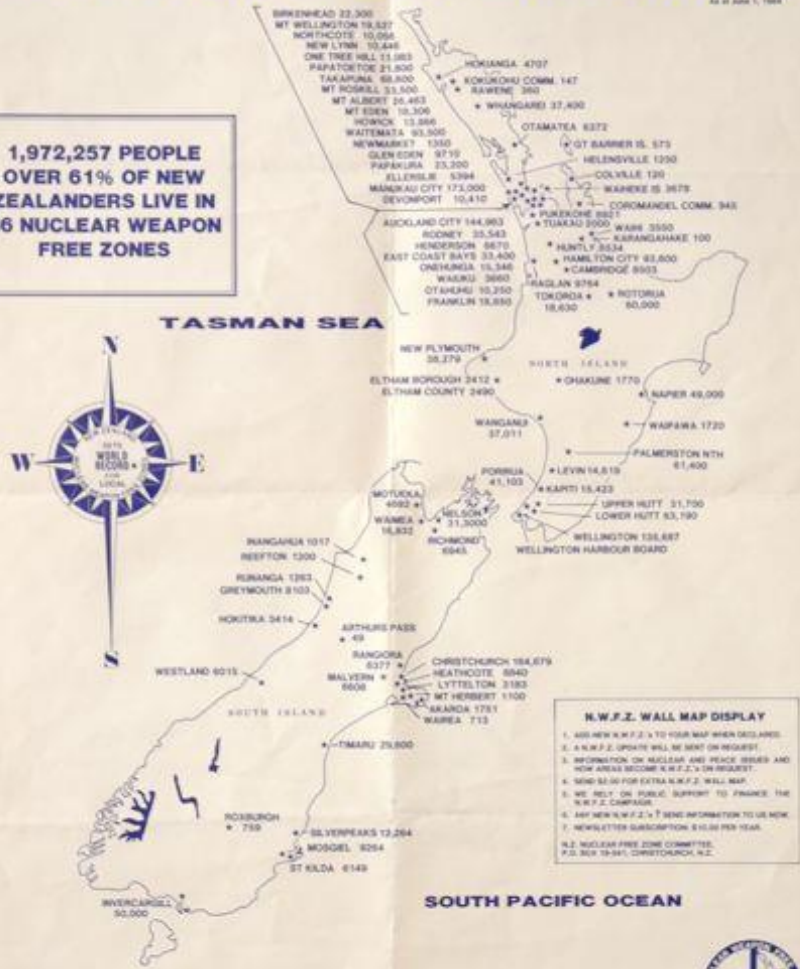


NZ Prime Minister Robert Muldoon welcoming a nuclear warship to New Zealand, 1982

NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONES IN NEW ZEALAND

As at June 1, 1984

1,972,257 PEOPLE
OVER 61% OF NEW
ZEALANDERS LIVE IN
86 NUCLEAR WEAPON
FREE ZONES



N.W.F.Z. WALL MAP DISPLAY

1. ADD NEW N.W.F.Z. TO YOUR MAP WHEN DECLARED.
2. A N.W.F.Z. DISPLAY WILL BE SENT ON REQUEST.
3. INFORMATION ON NUCLEAR AND PEACE ISSUES AND HOW AREAS BECOME N.W.F.Z.'S ON REQUEST.
4. SEND \$2.00 FOR EXTRA N.W.F.Z. WALL MAP.
5. WE RELY ON PUBLIC SUPPORT TO FINANCE THE N.W.F.Z. CAMPAIGN.
6. ANY NEW N.W.F.Z.'S? SEND INFORMATION TO US NOW.
7. NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION: \$1.50 PER YEAR.

N.W.F.Z. WALL MAP DISPLAY
P.O. BOX 19341, CHRISTCHURCH, N.Z.

HELP STOP WAR



DECLARE NEW ZEALAND A NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE WITH POSITIVE NEUTRALITY,
ACTIVE PEACEMAKING AND SUPPORT FOR A SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE

NEW ZEALAND NUCLEAR FREE ZONE COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 19341, CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

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Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones is a world peace-making initiative and
international campaign "Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones"
Publication Space based on N.Z. Government's Ministry of Defence Information - December, 1983

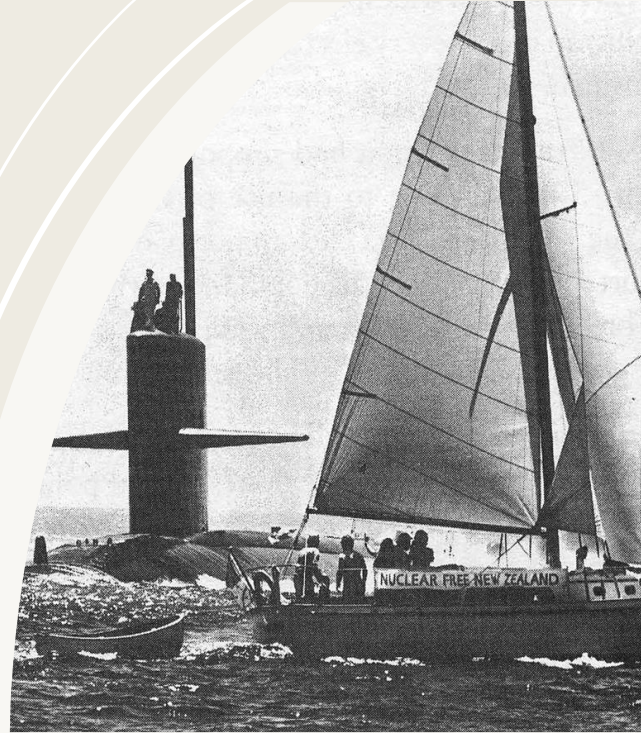
Local body nuclear-weapon-free zones *Political non-cooperation*

- By 1984, 75% of New Zealanders lived in local body nuclear-weapon-free zones
- City officials and workers in Wellington – a NWFZ – refused to service the visiting nuclear warships to the port of Wellington.

The NZ Peace Squadron:

Nonviolent intervention

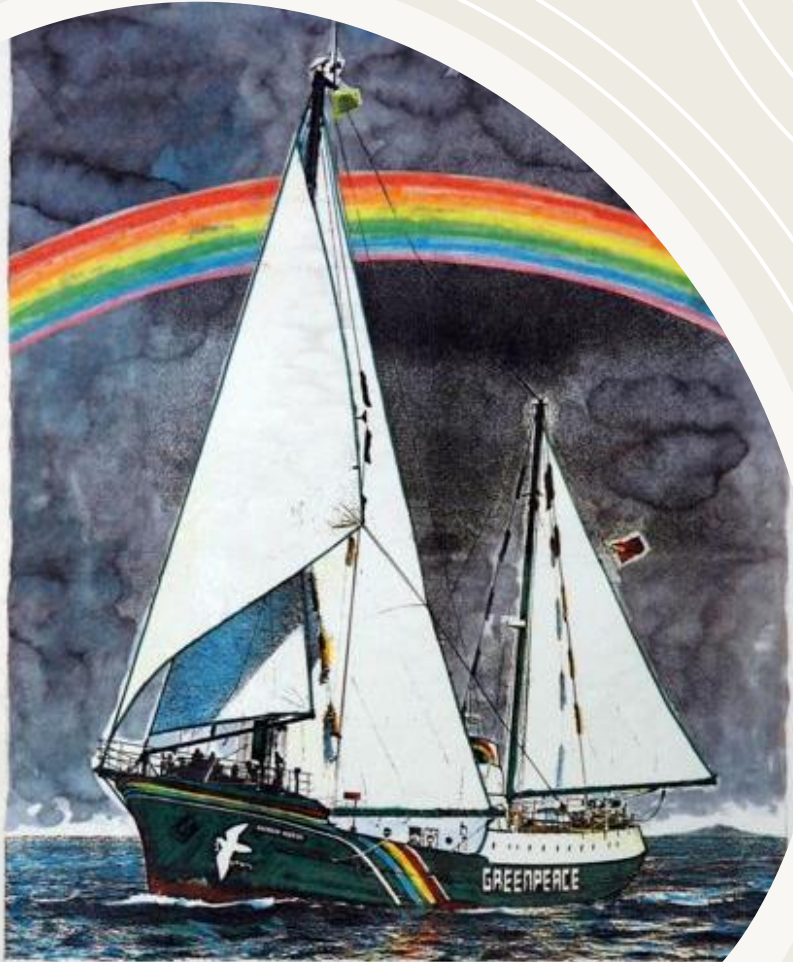
- Ordinary people in yachts, small motor-boats, kayaks and even on surfboards attempted to block the nuclear warships from docking at New Zealand ports (mostly Auckland and Wellington).
- **Key message:** *We love Americans. We welcome you here. But not your nukes.*





Symbol of peace glows above frigate





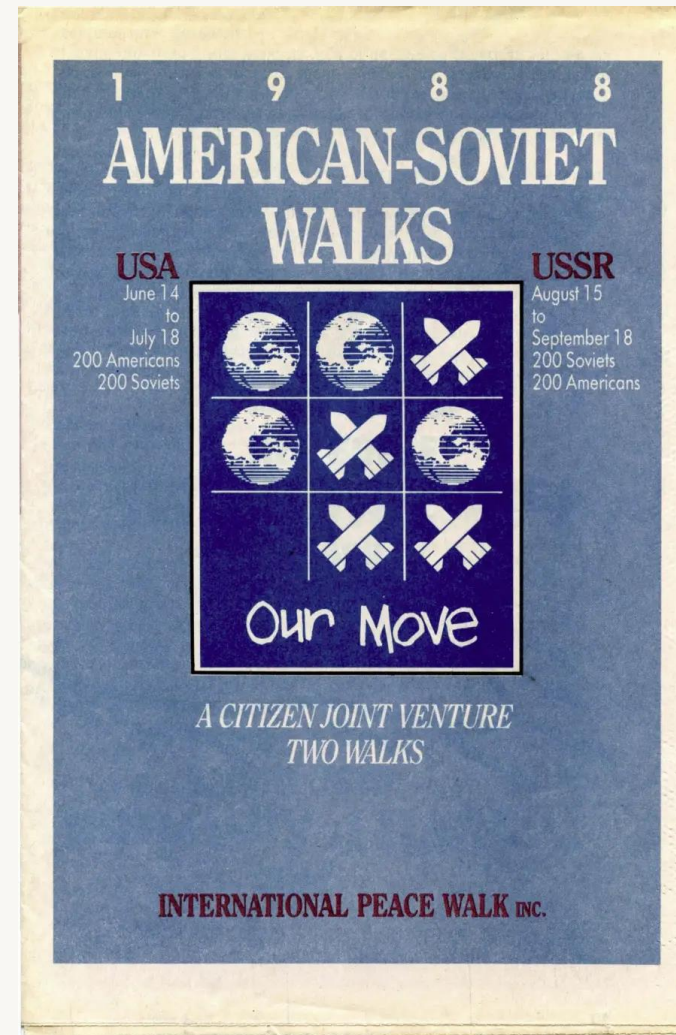
You can't sink a Rainbow

Rainbow Warrior and the Peace Flotilla to Moruroa

Non-violent intervention

Soviet American Peace Walk 1988

Citizen diplomacy



ICJ advisory Opinion on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons - 1996



- The threat or use of nuclear weapons is generally illegal
- There is an obligation to negotiate to achieve the complete elimination of nuclear weapons under international control.

Citizens' nuclear weapons inspection teams

Nonviolent intervention

- Inspired by the ICJ Advisory Opinion and UNSCOM - UN weapons inspections of Iraq's compliance with UNSC resolutions to eliminate their weapons of mass destruction programs;
- Citizens' weapon inspection teams attempted to inspect nuclear weapons facilities in nuclear armed and allied countries in order to monitor compliance (or report non-compliance) with the law prohibiting nuclear weapons.

Citizens Weapons Inspection Handbook



Citizens Weapons Inspection Working Group –
A working group of Abolition 2000

For Mother Earth,
Maria Hendrikaplein 5,
9000 Gent,
Belgium
Tel: 0032 9 242 87 52
belgium@motherearth.org
<http://www.motherearth.org/inspection>





Citizens nuclear weapons inspection teams in the USA and Germany

Plowshares actions

Direct 'disarmament' actions at nuclear weapons facilities

- 1980: First Plowshares action. Fr Daniel Berrigan, Philip Berrigan and six others (the "Plowshares Eight") entered General Electric nuclear weapons production facility in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. They 'disarmed' nuclear warhead nose cones and poured blood onto documents and files.
- About 200 people have participated in some 101 plowshares actions since then. Most have been convicted and sentenced to time in prison.
- 1999: *Trident Ploughshares*, Scotland. Defendants acquitted based on the 1996 ICJ opinion. Right Livelihood Laureate 2001.
- 2018: Kings Bay Plowshares 7. Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base, Georgia.

<https://kingsbayplowshares7.org/plowshares-history/>



Angie Zelter, one of the Trident Ploughshares activists



Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base, Georgia

Nuclear boycotts and divestment

Economic non-cooperation

- General Electric boycott, 1980s
- Move the Nuclear Weapons Money campaign:
- Cut nuclear weapons budgets, end investments in the nuclear weapons industry, socially responsible reinvestment.
- Divest as an individual, university, religious organization, city, state, pension fund, federal government.
- Federal level: Lichtenstein, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland have adopted nuclear weapons divestment policy.

www.nuclearweaponsmoney.org



3DNukeMissile in front of the Euronext Stock exchange in Amsterdam



The action called for divestment from European companies involved in the manufacture of nuclear weapons

Protect People and the Planet Appeal

- Nuclear risk reduction
- Cutting nuclear weapons budgets and investments to re-invest in COVID-19 recovery, climate stabilization and sustainable development
- Committing to elimination within a timeframe – at the latest by 2045.

**Endorse at
www.unfoldzero.org**

#wethepeoples2020



**Protect People and the Planet:
Appeal for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World**

Ela Gandhi: Endorser of the Appeal for a Nuclear Weapon Free World

"75 years ago the people of the world shocked at the devastating effects of nuclear weapons called for an entity that could intervene in conflict situations to avoid war and settle disputes through nonviolent means [the United Nations].

The abhorrent nuclear weapon should have been dismantled and its manufacture discontinued at that time. So the time is now to dismantle and discontinue its manufacture and work towards provision of SDGs instead."

