



Basel Peace Office

*Advancing international peace and security through
the abolition of nuclear weapons*

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Director's Annual Report

December 2016 – November 2017

Alyn Ware

Introduction:

This is the fifth year of Basel Peace Office (BPO) operations. Despite very low funding, our programs and events have been very successful and have had impact in Switzerland and globally. We organized a number of events in Switzerland (Basel and Geneva), as well as global actions and campaigns. We also organised (or co-organised) events in Astana, Berlin, Bonn, Dhaka, Geneva, London, Los Angeles, Madrid, Minsk, New York, Oslo, Ottawa, Paris, Port Townsend (Nigeria) Prague, Rome, St Petersburg, Vienna and Washington DC

A. Programs

Abolition 2000

BPO serves on the coordinating committee of [Abolition 2000](#), the global network to eliminate nuclear weapons. In 2017, BPO upgraded the [website](#) and social media platforms for Abolition 2000. We also organised the [Abolition 2000 Annual General Meeting](#) in Vienna, launched new Abolition 2000 working groups and helped rebuild the existing working groups.

The [Abolition 2000 working groups](#) convened by BPO are the [Youth Network](#), [Inter-faith working group](#), [2018 UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament WG](#), [Nuclear Weapon Free Zones WG](#) and the [Economic Dimensions of Nuclearism Working Group](#).

Through these working groups we organised a number of events, actions and programs during 2017, including a [global appeal](#) regarding the nuclear threats between USA and North Korea (see **Nuclear-risk reduction** below) and an [international virtual \(webinar\) conference](#) in preparation for the 2018 UN High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament (see **UNFOLD ZERO** below).



*Abolition 2000 Inter-faith Group at the Isaiah Wall
next to the UN in New York*

International conference – Human rights, future generations and crimes in the nuclear age

One of our main events for 2017 was the international conference [Human Rights, Future Generations and Crimes in the Nuclear Age](#) which we organised in cooperation with Swiss IPPNW and some other organisations. The four-day conference brought together doctors, lawyers, scientists and nuclear experts from 27 countries to discuss the human impact of nuclear weapons and power, legal cases on behalf of victims, and protection of future generations. The Conference was held in conjunction with the award ceremony for the [Nuclear Free Future Award](#), for which I am one of the judges.



Participants at the Basel Conference: *Human Rights, Future Generations and Crimes in the Nuclear Age*

The conference also adopted the [Basel Declaration on trans-generational crimes of nuclear weapons & nuclear energy](#). The declaration draws from the scientific evidence presented to the conference, and the application of international law, to conclude that:

'The risks and impacts of nuclear weapons, depleted uranium weapons and nuclear energy, which are both transnational and trans-generational, constitute a violation of human rights, a transgression of international humanitarian and environmental law, and a crime against future generations.'



Helen Caldicott (Australia) speaking in Basel

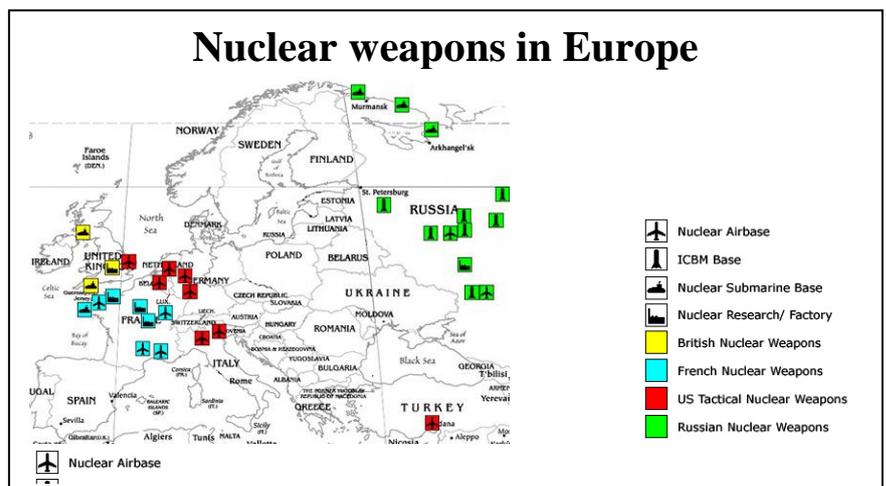


Nadezda Kutepova (Russia) speaking in Basel

Nuclear weapons & Europe

We organised a number of other events in Basel during 2017, including an international forum on [Nuclear weapons & Europe: New threats. Emerging solutions](#) in January.

The forum outlined the emerging tensions and nuclear threat postures between Russia and the West, and explored various actions and initiatives to address these and to reduce the risks of regional nuclear war, by accident, miscalculation or intent.



#3D Nuclear Missile

The #3dNukeMissile, which was developed by World Future Council and Abolition 2000, is hosted in our office in Prague. #3DnukeMissile is a 3D art piece depicting a nuclear missile about to be fired. Members of the public are invited to have their photo taken (with their cell phone or camera) while they stand on the art work holding the chains to stop the missile launching. They can then post their photo on twitter, facebook etc with the hashtag #3DnukeMissile. In 2017 we used the #3DnukeMissile at events in Geneva, Berlin, Prague and Vienna.



#3dNukeMissile in Vienna



Abolition 2000 and the #3dNukeMissile

Engaging Parliamentarians - PNND

BPO serves as the head office for [Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament](#) (PNND). We are supported by a number of part-time, voluntary PNND Coordinators and interns in Amman, Auckland, Basel, Berlin, Geneva, London, New York, Paris, Prague, Seoul, Sydney, Tokyo and Washington.

PNND has about 700 parliamentarians as members, including a number of high-level parliamentarians such as: **Jacinda Arden** (Prime Minister, NZ), **Taro Kono** (Foreign Minister, Japan), **Jeremy Corbyn** (Leader of the Opposition, UK), **Saber Chowdhury** (President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union), **Federica Mogherini** (European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and International Security), **Christine Muttanen** (President, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly), **Senator Ed Markey** (US Senate Foreign Affairs Committee), **Mogens Lykketoft** (former President of the UN General Assembly), **Senator Laura Rojas** (President of the Mexican Senate Committee on External Relations), **Abdullah Ensour** (former Prime Minister of Jordan), **Francois de Rugy** (President of the National Assembly of France) and others...

In 2017, we organised actions in a range of parliaments and inter-parliamentary bodies, including:

- [Statement by 136 Japanese parliamentarians supporting UN negotiations on nuclear disarmament](#);
- [Parliamentary actions for nuclear disarmament](#) side-event at the 2017 NPT prep com in Vienna;
- [Examples of national implementation measures](#) panel during the UN negotiations on the treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons at the UN in New York;
- [Dialogue, detente and nuclear disarmament](#), panel at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Minsk;
- [Appeal by 64 United States congress members for diplomacy in Korea](#), led by PNND member Ed Markey;
- [UN process for nuclear disarmament](#), special session at the IPU Assembly in St Petersburg;
- [Call by NATO parliamentarians for détente and nuclear-risk reduction between Russia and the US](#); led by PNND German council member;
- [Parliamentary and Youth Forums](#) during the 136th IPU Assembly in Dhaka, Bangladesh;
- [US Congress call on President Trump to step back from the nuclear brink with North Korea](#).

In July, we launched a [Parliamentary Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World](#), which had been developed by PNND in consultation with the IPU and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The Action Plan was published and released at the 137th IPU Assembly in St Petersburg.

We also supported our PNND members around the world who took action on a number of issues including de-alerting, no-first-use, the Iran deal, the UN negotiations on a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, reducing nuclear weapons spending, and promoting nuclear-weapon-free zones. And we produced a PNND [electronic update](#) approximately every two weeks and distributed this to over 1000 parliamentarians and about 800 representatives of non-governmental organisations.



PNND members and volunteer staff at the release of the Parliamentary Action Plan in St Petersburg

Move the Nuclear Weapons Money

In October 2016, we launched a new book [Move the Nuclear Weapons Money](#), which was published in cooperation with the World Future Council and International Peace Bureau.

The publication reports on nuclear weapons budgets, examines the influence of nuclear weapons corporations, explores the connections between nuclear disarmament and achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, and provides examples of parliamentary actions to convert nuclear weapons industries and shift the financing of nuclear weapons to SDG implementation.



During 2017, we organised a number of actions and events in conjunction with the Move the Nuclear Weapons Money campaign. These included:

- Campaign promotion as part of the [Global Days of Action on Military Spending](#);
- [Working paper on nuclear weapons divestment](#) to the UN Conference to negotiate a Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (ban treaty);
- Press conference at the United Nations in Geneva during informal consultations on the ban treaty;
- [Presentation on nuclear weapons divestment](#) to the June-July negotiating conference of the ban treaty;
- [Promotion of the campaign](#) following adoption of the ban treaty;
- Inclusion of the nuclear weapons divestment issue in the *Parliamentary Action Plan for a Nuclear Weapon Free World*, with examples of government divestment from New Zealand, Norway, Lichtenstein and Switzerland.



Speaking about nuclear weapons divestment at the UN negotiations on the ban treaty in June, 2017.

Nuclear risk reduction – DPRK/USA and Russia/West

BPO has been active on nuclear risk-reduction initiatives over the year. This has included assisting PNND members with statements, resolutions and draft legislation – especially those in the United States and in NATO and OSCE countries (see **Engaging legislators** – above).

It has also include drafting a global citizens appeal for diplomacy in North East Asia, circulating it for endorsement, and then forwarding it to the leadership of DPRK, USA, UN and European Union. See [North Korea tests nuclear bomb, Abolition 2000 members call for a diplomatic solution](#).

We also organised a number of events to inform and engage people about nuclear risks, including a side event at the IPU Assembly in St Petersburg where we invited Bruce Blair, co-founder of Global Zero and former nuclear weapons missile controller, to speak.

Religions for Peace

BPO worked with Religions for Peace (RfP) to produce the [Nuclear Disarmament Resource Guide for Religious Leaders and Communities](#). (Also published in [Arabic](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Japanese](#) and [Spanish](#)) which continues to be used by faith-based communities around the world.

BPO worked with RfP, PNND and Mayors for Peace to draft 'A Nuclear-Weapon-Free World: Our Common Good', a [joint statement of mayors, parliamentarians and religious leaders](#). In 2017 we gathered additional endorsers before [presenting this to the UN High Representative for Disarmament](#), and to the *UN Negotiating Conference for a treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*, in order to build and demonstrate support for UN nuclear disarmament processes.



We present *A Nuclear-Weapon-Free World: Our Common Good* to Ms Izumi Nakamitsu, UN High Representative for Disarmament.

Sport for Peace and Development

On the [International Day of Sport for Peace and Development](#), we organised an action with parliamentarians attending the IPU Assembly in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The action was part of the [#WhiteCard campaign](#) which highlights the many ways in which sport can be used to promote peace and development. Sport promotes fair play based on rules with a referee to sort out conflicts, similar to the UN approach to international conflicts which is based on international law and conflict resolution mechanisms.

The International Day of Sport for Peace and Development, emphasizes peace, respect and adherence to the rules. Sport also captures the imagination of youth, transcends national borders, and can be used to ensure inclusion and reconciliation.



#WhiteCard action at IPU Assembly for the International Day of Sport for Peace and Development

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

In December 2016, the United Nations General Assembly decided to commence negotiations on a *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*. This decision arose from the deliberations in the UN Open Ended Working Group on Taking Forward Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations (OEWG), which BPO had been deeply engaged with, as well as earlier work through the 2013 OEWG.

BPO was very active in the 2017 negotiations. This included participating in the formal sessions in New York (February, March and June-July) plus informal sessions in Geneva. It also included writing working papers, informing parliamentarians, liaising with governments and campaigning with NGOs.

The result of the negotiations was the adoption on July 7 of the [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#), which to-date has been signed by 53 countries and ratified by 3.

BPO's main activities on the treaty in the latter part of 2017 have been on encouraging additional countries to sign, providing information and advice on national implementation measures (to be adopted in order to ratify the treaty) and advancing mutually reinforcing measures for those countries who will not sign (nuclear armed States and their allies).



BPO Director Alyn Ware with Ambassador Elayne Whyte Gómez, President of the UN negotiating conference for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

UNFOLD ZERO

[UNFOLD ZERO](#), which BPO established in partnership with several other key international NGOs, has provided a very useful platform to promote UN initiatives for nuclear disarmament and to highlight the opportunities arising from UN bodies to facilitate nuclear disarmament.

The main UNFOLD ZERO activities in 2017 were promoting the UN negotiations on the nuclear prohibition treaty, promoting the [anniversary of the 1st UN general Assembly resolution](#), organising the [Reaching HIGH](#) global social media and political campaigns for the [International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons](#), organising events and promotions for the [2018 UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament](#).

UN consultation events

From January until September 2017, BPO co-organised a series of [roundtable consultation events](#) with PNND and UNFOLD ZERO on *UN processes for nuclear disarmament* and the roles of parliamentarians and civil society. The consultations included a focus on the nuclear ban treaty and the 2018 UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament. The roundtable events were held in Berlin, Dhaka, Geneva (2 events), London, New York (2 events), Vienna (2 events), and Washington DC.

The events brought together parliamentarians, academics, policy analysts, government officials, UN agencies and civil society activists. The deliberations helped guide us in preparing the draft *Parliamentary Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World* and also in preparing briefing papers for the UN Conference to negotiate the Nuclear prohibition treaty, and the 2018 UNHLC.

Youth

Engaging youth in peace and disarmament is an important focus of BPO. We have an internship program to give university students direct experience working with parliamentarians, diplomats at the UN and other civil society organisations.

In addition, BPO convenes the [Abolition 2000 Youth Network](#). Events organised by the network in 2017 included youth panels at the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly, social media actions for key UN days, and an [International Youth Conference](#) that was held in Prague from Nov 27-29.



Prague youth conference

B. Finances and Staffing

Finances

Financially we have continued to have serious challenges. We were able to raise small amounts of funding for the Move the Nuclear Weapons Project, Abolition 2000 work (including for the Youth Network) and for our events at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

However, funding for staff compensation continues to be elusive. We received no funding from the Basel Canton for this financial year. We continue to receive small grants and donations for general program support from New Zealand Quakers and from a few individuals.

Staffing and interns

In 2018, I will continue to serve as the Director. Marzhan Nurzhan, Bethan Edwards and Nilo Castaldini will serve as program officers. Due to low funding, none of these positions are salaried.

We will also host a number of interns in Basel and Prague (where living expenses are cheaper), mostly self-financed. Through our partnerships with World Future Council and Global Security Institute, we are also able to host interns in Geneva, New York and Washington.

Thanks

A note of thanks to our staff and interns for 2017: Caroline Leroy, Marzhan Nurzhan, Lars Voellmy, Rachel Day, Caroline Schlunke, Nina Delafontaine, Calvin Konig, Bethan Edwards, Alexandra Goman, Nilo Castaldini, Kanau Kobayashi and Max Beech.

A special thanks also to the fabulous PNND coordinators, most of whom are worked for little or no compensation over 2017: Rob van Riet, Jean-Marie Collin, Jana Jedlickova, Julia Berghofer, Muna Makhamreh, Daisuke Yamaguchi, Alexandra Arce and Matt Robson.

And a note of deep gratitude to Andi Nidecker for being a totally hands-on President, providing guidance, support and leadership far beyond the call of duty.

Finally I would like to thank all the Board Members and partner organisations for their involvement in the program and management of the Basel Peace Office. Together we can celebrate a successful 2017 and plan for another successful year in 2018.

December 6, 2017

Alyn Ware

