



Photo: ICAN/ Flickr

A nuclear weapons free world: 71 years in the making – is there an end in sight?

Welcome!

Speakers: Dr Helen Caldicott
Ray Acheson (RCW)
Daniel Högsta (ICAN)

Tweet #hiroshima
#goodbyenukes

Facilitator: Chris Henderson (WILPF)

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Chris Henderson



Communications
Coordinator
WILPF Australia



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Technical issues



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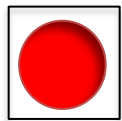
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= Raise your hand



= Force quit – login again



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Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

presents



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A nuclear weapons free world

**71 years in the making
– is there an end in sight?**



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Agenda

- Introduction
- Three speakers
- Shared discussion
- Q&A
- Action



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Dr Helen Caldicott



Physician, author, and
veteran anti-nuclear
advocate
(Australia/United States)



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Daniel Högsta



Network Coordinator,
International Campaign to
Abolish Nuclear Weapons
(ICAN)
(Geneva)



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The Humanitarian Initiative

A new opportunity for nuclear
disarmament



At a glance...

- **What do we mean when we refer to the “humanitarian initiative”?**
- A shift in the way that nuclear weapons are discussed in general
- The growing political support among governments, spurred by civil society, to find new (legal) pathways to nuclear disarmament, based on humanitarian considerations



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Why a humanitarian (re)framing?

- Words matter: finding a progressive starting point for action
- Empowerment: nuclear weapons are a concern for all States → all States have the responsibility (and ability) to act
- Lessons from past processes: banning landmines and cluster munitions



Milestones

- 2010: “humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons” in final report of NPT Conference
- Government Joint Statements (from 2012 to 2015): From **16** to **155 States**
- *2013 Norway: First ‘Humanitarian Impacts’ Conference, **128 States**
- *2014: Second and Third ‘Humanitarian Impacts’ conferences (Mexico & Austria) **146 → 155 States**
- 2015 / 2016: Establishment of UN Working Group (OEWG)



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The 'Humanitarian Impacts' Conferences

- *Norway (2013), Mexico (2014), Austria (2014)*
- New expert evidence: scope, nature of the catastrophe and the risks of accidental or intentional detonation
- Hibakusha testimonies
- The “Legal Gap” and the development of political will to ban nuclear weapons
- **The Humanitarian Pledge**



Banning nuclear weapons...

- ... the only WMD not yet explicitly prohibited by international treaty (“a legal gap”)
- A new treaty which prohibits the possession, deployment, stockpiling, use, threat of use [...] of nuclear weapons
- A negotiating process which is “open to all, blockable by none”
- Even without the participation of the nuclear weapon states



The “OEWG” (2016)

- Established by a UN Resolution to identify new “effective legal measures, provisions and norms”
- Findings and recommendations will be negotiated and submitted to the United Nations General Assembly
- Majority support for negotiations on a new treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons
- Final session started today!



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Reactions

- Renewed energy and momentum – a sense of optimism in nuclear disarmament
- Involvement of new actors / stakeholders
- Pushback: from “step-by-step” to “building blocks” to “the progressive approach”



What's next?

- OEWG will negotiate a final report with recommendations for the UNGA
- October 2016: a resolution to start negotiations on a nuclear weapons ban?
- 2017... negotiations?



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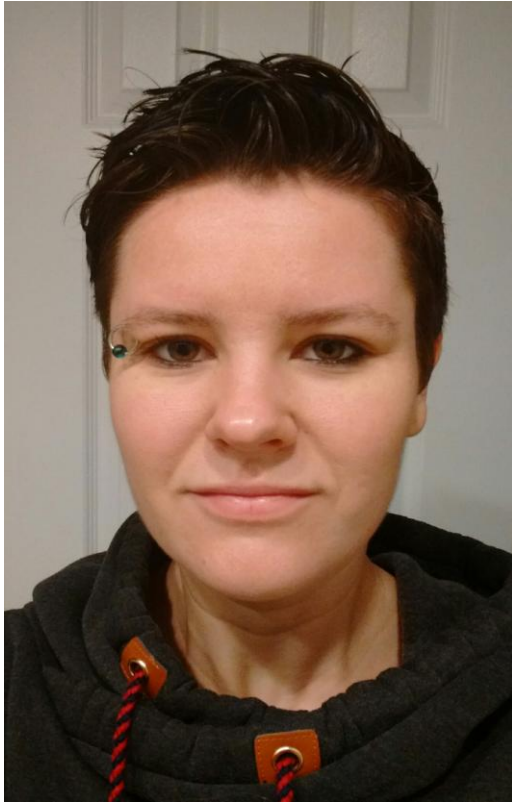
What can you do?

- Today? Encourage your government to support a ban at the OEWG: www.goodbyenuk.es
- Tomorrow? Spread the word that a ban is coming. Play to your strengths.
- Join ICAN! Information about actions and opportunities at www.icanw.org



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Ray Acheson



Director
Reaching Critical Will
WILPF's Disarmament
Programme
(New York)



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Nuclear disarmament amidst a world of war and violence

Ray Acheson

Director of Reaching Critical Will
WILPF's disarmament programme



Nuclear weapons and the world

How do nuclear weapons fit into the broader context of militarism, war, and violence?

- Power
- Politics
- Money
- Inequalities: class, race, and gender



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Sex, gender, and nuclear weapons

Gender issues intersect with nuclear weapon issues in at least three ways:

- Gendered patterns of harm
- Gendered discourse and approach
- Gender diversity in disarmament and arms control



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We Can Do It!

**BAN
NUCLEAR
WEAPONS
NOW!**



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What can you do?

- Join WILPF (www.wilpf.org)
- Subscribe to Reaching Critical Will's newsletters (www.reachingcriticalwill.org)



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Discussion Q&A



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Your action

- An action
- A takeaway or final comment
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