

Good People Doing Great Things in 2019 for a Nuclear-Free Future

The [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#) (TPNW) was adopted at the United Nations on July 7, 2017

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (or [ICAN](#)), of which [WILPF](#) is a founding member, won the [Nobel Peace Prize](#) for its work in bringing about the Treaty. [Beatrice Fihn](#), Executive Director of ICAN since 2014, and former Director of [Reaching Critical Will](#) at the U.N., and [Susi Snyder](#), former Secretary General of WILPF Int'l and current Coordinator of "[Don't Bank on the Bomb](#)," deserve great credit for their work with [International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War](#) and other NGO's in convincing the United Nations to examine the [humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons](#), which directly led to the treaty.

As of July 4, 2019, officials of 70 countries have signed the Treaty, and 24 countries have ratified it. Once 50 countries have [signed and ratified](#), the Treaty will enter into force.

There's good news: a [resolution](#) was unanimously adopted by the [U.S. Conference of Mayors](#) on July 1, 2019, at its 87th Annual Meeting in Honolulu, supporting the Treaty, and asking all U.S. mayors to [join Mayors for Peace](#), an international group created by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which now has 7,764 member cities in 163 countries and regions as of June 1, 2019.

Other Active Supporters of the TPNW:

Since the adoption of the TPNW in 2017, members of [WILPF US](#) and of a new, and very effective, organization, [NuclearBan.US](#), have been promoting legislation **and pledges to** support the Treaty.

In May, 2018, DC's Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton was the first to sign the [ICAN Parliamentary Pledge](#). In December, 2018, California [Congresswoman Barbara Lee](#) also signed the Pledge.

In August, 2018, the [California Senate approved a resolution](#) calling for support for the TPNW, making nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of national security policy, and spearheading a global effort to prevent nuclear war.

On April 11, 2019, Rep. Jim McGovern of Worcester, Massachusetts, introduced [H. RES. 302](#), "*Embracing the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.*" This resolution has been referred to the [House Committee on Foreign Affairs](#) and to the [House Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces](#).

On April 30, 2019, DC's Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton introduced [H.R.2419](#), a new, improved version of her "Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act" which she has been introducing every two years since 1994, with evolving language and commitment. It has once again been referred to the [House Committee on Foreign Affairs Committee](#) and to the [House Armed Services Committee](#), where so far it has remained, stuck, and never brought to the floor for a vote.

What makes HR-2419 better than the previous versions is that it specifically names the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, removes unnecessary time limitations, and deletes the clause "enter into a good-faith effort to end war and all military operations," which was language in the 1992 voter initiative that Norton faithfully included until Disarm Co-Chairs met with her in 2018 during the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability DC Days and suggested that it should be removed, as it had proven to be keeping other legislators from co-sponsoring the bill when they might otherwise support it.

Representative Jim McGovern immediately co-sponsored this version of Ms. Norton's bill the day she introduced it. **Hopefully we will all be able to convince our Representatives to co-sponsor HR-2419, too!**

What can we do, as a branch, as individuals?

In the Senate:

Visit your Senators and ask them to actively support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and to ratify it if the new President signs it.

Ask them to introduce into the Senate legislation similar to Eleanor Holmes Norton's HR-2419, the "***Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act of 2019***," or at the very least to introduce a resolution similar to Representative Jim McGovern's House Resolution 302, "***Embracing the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.***"



Encourage everyone to sign the [online version](#) of the WILPF US petition supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. There's a "QR Code" at the bottom of the petition people can use to sign it while you watch, no matter where you are!

Circulate the [paper version](#) of the petition whenever you get the opportunity. This is an organizing tool, so be sure to encourage people to sign legibly and at the very least to include their zip code and email address. Make a copy for yourself so you can follow up, and send the original to the address at the bottom of the petition.

In the House:

Visit your Representative to ask for co-sponsorship of Eleanor Holmes Norton's "Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act" – HR-2419 - and Jim McGovern's HRes 302.

Encourage everyone to sign the [online petition to your Representative](#) asking for co-sponsorship of HR-2419 in 2019. **She has introduced the bill each session in different forms since 1994, under different numbers, and will continue to do so as long as she is in Congress, so in 2021, learn what the bill number is from us and keep asking for co-sponsorship!**

Download and [circulate the paper petition](#) supporting the Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act. **Again, encourage people to sign legibly and to include their zip code and email address. Again, make a copy for yourself so you can follow up, and send the original to the address at the bottom of the petition.**

During Election Year:

If you get the opportunity to meet a candidate, either personally or in a public forum, it would be great if you would ask these questions:

- Will you support Eleanor Holmes Norton's "Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act" ([HR-2419](#))? This would provide the funding and direction for the [Green New Deal!](#) (See <http://bit.ly/prop1petition> to send a letter to your Representative online.)

- If you become President, will you sign the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons? (See <http://icanw.org> for information and <http://bit.ly/wilpfus-bantreatypetition> to petition your Senators.)

- As a Congressional leader, will you sign the Congressional Pledge supporting this Treaty? See <http://www.nuclearban.us/candidates-pledge/>

Other Legislation

No first use without declaration of war by Congress

In mid-January, 2019, Representative Ted Lieu introduced [HR-669](#) into the House, and Senator Ed Markey introduced [S-200](#) into the Senate, “*To prohibit the conduct of a first-use nuclear strike absent a declaration of war by Congress,*” with explanations.

Immediate co-sponsors of S-200 included Presidential candidates Elizabeth Warren, Kirsten Gillibrand, and Bernie Sanders, as well as Senator Dianne Feinstein, whose office we will be visiting on this tour, as well as John Garamendi, Anna Eshoo, Ro Khanna, Jackie Speier, and Zoe Lofgren, co-sponsors of HR-669.

On January 30, 2019, Senator Elizabeth Warren introduced a simplified bill, [S-272](#), and Representative Adam Smith introduced [HR-921](#), which read simply, “*It is the policy of the United States to not use nuclear weapons first.*” Presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard is a co-sponsor of HR-921, as are John Garamendi, Anna Eshoo, Ro Khanna, and Zoe Lofgren, whose offices we will be visiting. Bernie Sanders, Kirsten Gillibrand, and Dianne Feinstein are co-sponsoring S-272.

**** It has been the policy of WILPF US not to promote these bills as there can be NO use of nuclear weapons, EVER, no matter the circumstances. This legislation simply doesn't go far enough. ****

Prevention of Unconstitutional War with Iran Act

In April, Senator Tom Udall introduced [S-1039](#) and Representative Anna Eshoo introduced [HR-2354](#), “*To limit the use of funds for kinetic military operations in or against Iran,*” with Presidential candidates Gillibrand, Harris, Klobuchar, Sanders, and Warren co-sponsoring. During the Nuclear-Free-Future tour we will be visiting the offices of several co-sponsors – Representatives Doris Matsui, Ro Khanna, Jackie Speier, and Zoe Lofgren - and of Senator Dianne Feinstein and Presidential Candidate and Senator Kamala Harris.

Hold the LYNE Act

In February, 2019, Representative Ted Lieu introduced [HR-1086](#) and Senator Ed Markey introduced [S-401](#) – the, “*To prohibit the research and development, production, and deployment of the Trident D5 low-yield nuclear warhead....*” Senators Feinstein, Warren, Gillibrand, and Sanders, and Representatives Garamendi, Gabbard and Speier, among others, are co-sponsors.

INF Treaty Compliance Act

In February 2019 Representative Tulsi Gabbard introduced [HR-1249](#), “*to prohibit the Secretary of Defense from obligating or expending funds for missiles banned by the INF Treaty.*”

SAVE Act

In May, 2019, Senator Ed Markey introduced [S-1285](#), “*to require certifications and reporting in an unclassified form related to the national security implications of the New START Treaty, to provide for arms limitations in the event of the treaty's non-renewal....*” Senators Feinstein, Gillibrand, Warren and others are co-sponsors.

Other Campaigns WILPF US Disarm/End Wars Committee Supports

[NuclearBan.US](#) has produced an impressive document, "[Warheads to Windmills: How to Pay for a Green New Deal](#)," which analyzes how we cannot solve climate change without the money, the brainpower, and the international goodwill we're squandering on nuclear weapons. Here are other important campaigns:

[Alliance for Nuclear Accountability](#), which keeps an eye on nuclear waste and weapons issues and sponsors "[ANA DC Days](#)" every spring in Washington, DC, an experience everyone should have at least once!

[Keep Space for Peace](#), opposing the militarization of space, saying "No to NATO," and supporting the closure of U.S. military bases in other countries. WILPF US supports this with dues every year.

[Veterans for Peace](#) and especially the [Golden Rule Project](#).

Divestment, including:

- [Don't Bank on the Bomb](#) – ([major nuclear weapon producers](#) and [financial institutions](#) profiled)
- [World Beyond War "Divest Campaign"](#)
- [Code Pink "Divest From the War Machine"](#)

Back from the Brink

This campaign, organized in the U.S. by [Physicians for Social Responsibility](#), calls on the U.S. "to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by: 1. Renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first, 2. Ending the sole, unchecked authority of any U.S. president to launch a nuclear attack, 3. Taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert, 4. Cancelling the plan to replace its entire nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons, and 5. Actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals."

On July 6, 2019, CNN published an [opinion by Ira Helfand of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War](#) that "A campaign to focus national attention on [nuclear weapons abolition] has begun to take shape around the [Back from the Brink platform](#), a Green New Deal for the nuclear threat. Supported by more than 200 professional associations, faith communities, peace and environmental groups, it has been endorsed unanimously by the US Conference of Mayors, and by the municipalities of Baltimore, Los Angeles and DC, as well as being approved overwhelmingly by the California and Oregon legislatures and the [New Jersey General Assembly](#)."

So far WILPF US has not added its name to this campaign because several members of the Disarm/End Wars Committee believe it doesn't go far enough. This might be something we want to think about further.

Educate Yourself and Others via Social Media

Since 1999, Ellen Thomas has been sharing information daily about all things nuclear with the online resource, "[NucNews](#)," on [Yahoo](#) and on [Facebook](#).

Also, years ago, when WILPF US had an office on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, volunteers began a service called "[Eye on Congress](#)," which is now maintained on [Facebook](#) and [Yahoo](#).

Inspired by this year's Nuclear-Free Future tour, WILPF US set up the "**WILPF Social Media Action Response Team**" Facebook group for any and all WILPF members to use -- "[WILPF SMART](#)" -- and we encourage all WILPF members to join the page. If non-WILPFers want to share information on this site - and it doesn't have to be nuclear information, this site is for organizing on all issues - we encourage you to [join WILPF](#), and help educate us all!

There is also a [WILPF US Facebook](#) page where everyone can comment, but only a few people have authorization to post to it, so **we encourage you join the [WILPF SMART](#) family!**