Nuclear weapons are now banned under international law.

In 2020, we made history in this campaign. For the first time, nuclear weapons are subject to a comprehensive, globally applicable ban, and a legal framework now exists for eliminating nuclear weapon programmes and assisting victims of nuclear weapon use and testing. The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons will stand alongside other key pieces of international law that aim to improve global security and prevent harm to civilians in warfare, such as the Geneva Conventions, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the bans on landmines and cluster munitions.

Since 2017, ICAN and its partners around the world have been working to bring countries on board with the treaty by holding regional conferences, national workshops, and one-on-one meetings with officials and parliamentarians. Securing the 50th ratification of the treaty in October 2020 – triggering its entry into force – was a major victory for our campaign. This landmark treaty is now a permanent, enforceable part of international law, and will continue to grow stronger over time as more countries join it.
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^ Activists in the Marshall Islands call on their government to join the TPNW
Message from the Executive Director

Dear friends,

It is quite difficult to summarize 2020 without using the standard pandemic platitudes we’ve become all too familiar with lately: “unprecedented times”, “incredibly difficult circumstances”, and “uncertain world”.

Throughout the year, as the world has been hit by climate change disasters, a deadly virus, growing attention to racism and inequalities and of course a full blown economic crisis, sometimes it felt challenging to ask people to focus on solving the problem of nuclear weapons.

With so much ongoing pain, suffering, and urgent challenges to address right now, we asked ourselves, how do we make sense of this moment? For many of us in ICAN, we have taken time this year to reflect back on the purpose and founding of this campaign.

It was doctors and medical professionals that founded this campaign in 2007, motivated by the need to prevent what they cannot cure. Health professionals have continuously warned the public and governments about the threat of nuclear weapons, highlighting that no health system in any area of the world would be able to cope with the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. Whatever remains of medical services in an area where a nuclear bomb has been used would not be able to alleviate the disaster in any significant way. As we are watching health care systems around the world struggling to cope with a pandemic - something health experts have consistently warned about - we are reminded that disasters do happen, that the experts and scientists often are right in their warnings, and that we need to prevent a nuclear catastrophe.

This is a moment of realisation for many that human security, like nurses and doctors, is what protects people - not weapons of mass destruction. We see how the $73 billion spent on nuclear weapons last year could have been better allocated to address real security threats.

This is why, despite the ongoing pandemic, fighting to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons still matters, this is why it’s so important that our campaign keeps pushing forward.

And that is exactly what we did this past year. We grew stronger and more effective as a campaign. As a global campaign used to working with online tools and digital meetings, we were well placed to continue our work and adjust our operations to keep the incredible momentum of the campaign moving. We have remained fully staffed throughout the crisis, much thanks to the incredible work of our partner organisations and our generous donors. The number of partner organisations has continued to grow, and together we’ve convinced governments, cities, banks, politicians and many more that nuclear weapons must be eliminated before they eliminate us. We are so grateful to everyone who contributes to our work, from large donors to those that make a small monthly contribution.

Perhaps most importantly, as the world commemorated the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we secured the 50 ratifications needed for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to enter into force.

It is hard to really describe what a big deal this is. The TPNW is the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons. Now that it has officially become international law, it stands alongside other historic instruments such as the Geneva Conventions, the UN Charter, the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions, and the treaties banning landmines and cluster munitions. The entry into force of the TPNW kickstarts a new and exciting phase of the campaign. We will continue to work to get more countries to join while ensuring the treaty’s full implementation and campaigning against activities banned by the treaty around the world.

Slowly, through hard work and perseverance, we are making the world a little bit safer, one step at a time.

I would like to thank all of our supporters for your continued championing of humanitarian values and steps towards the elimination of nuclear weapons. The contributions and commitments from our supporters, donors, partner organisations and partners in governments and international organisations are critical to ensuring that ICAN can continue to pursue our world-saving work to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons.

Beatrice Fihn
LABRATS works on providing Education, Recognition and Awareness of the Nuclear Testing programs across the world to ensure that the survivors of the Tests are never forgotten. It is essential that the world remembers the suffering caused by the detonation of these weapons.

Joining ICAN was important to us because the world needs to be free of these weapons, our test survivor community has witnessed these weapons and seen the destruction that they cause. Never again should any Nuclear weapon be used or tested, the legacy of these weapons affects us all. ICAN provides a worldwide voice which we are proud to be a part of.”

- Alan Owen, Founder

ICAN partners around the world

45 NEW PARTNERS IN 2020
icanw.org/partners

607 ORGANISATIONS IN 106 COUNTRIES

MESSAGE FROM ONE OF ICAN’S NEW PARTNERS:
Legacy of the Atomic Bomb. Recognition for Atomic Test Survivors (LABRATS), UK

“LABRATS works on providing Education, Recognition and Awareness of the Nuclear Testing programs across the world to ensure that the survivors of the Tests are never forgotten. It is essential that the world remembers the suffering caused by the detonation of these weapons.

Joining ICAN was important to us because the world needs to be free of these weapons, our test survivor community has witnessed these weapons and seen the destruction that they cause. Never again should any Nuclear weapon be used or tested, the legacy of these weapons affects us all. ICAN provides a worldwide voice which we are proud to be a part of.”
We did it: reaching 50 ratifications

Despite the hurdles raised by the global pandemic - from the cancelling of large international meetings, to parliaments shutting down, and the closing of the UN Office of Legal Affairs in New York - the urgency for governments to join the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons did not abate.

On 24 October, 2020 Honduras became the 50th country to ratify the treaty, enabling the treaty to enter into force on 22 January, 2021.

The United Nations General Assembly resolution supporting the TPNW also obtained the most-ever votes in favour (130) it has ever received on 7 December 2020.

17 NEW RATIFICATIONS IN 2020
Belize, Benin, Botswana, Fiji, Honduras, Ireland, Jamaica, Lesotho, Malaysia, Malta, Namibia, Nauru, Nigeria, Niue, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Tuvalu

6 NEW SIGNATURES
Belize, Malta, Mozambique, Niger, Sudan, Zimbabwe

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86 SIGNATORIES & 51 STATES PARTIES to the TPNW as of 31 December 2020

1.08 BILLION PEOPLE
Combined populations of the states that have joined the treaty
A single nuclear warhead could kill hundreds of thousands of people, with lasting and devastating humanitarian and environmental consequences. Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea, possess an estimated total of nearly 14,000 nuclear weapons, most of which are many times more powerful than the nuclear weapon dropped on Hiroshima.

Nations with nuclear weapons
- Russia
- United States
- France
- China
- India
- Pakistan
- Israel
- United Kingdom
- North Korea

Nations hosting nuclear weapons
- Afghanistan
- Brazil
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Taiwan

Nations endorsing nuclear weapons
- China
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Japan
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Montenegro
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- South Korea
- Spain

5 Nations hosting U.S. Nuclear Weapons
- Turkey
- Italy
- Belgium
- Germany
- Netherlands

In the countries that are complicit with nuclear weapons, so-called nuclear umbrella or nuclear weapon-endorsing states, public opinion consistently opposes the governments position and overwhelmingly supports the TPNW. ICAN campaigners leverage the treaty through tools like the Parliamentary Pledge, the ICAN Cities Appeal and the Don’t Bank on the Bomb report, working closely with stakeholders like labour unions, faith institutions, research institutes and business. The result: ICAN partners have made significant political gains in challenging their governments to change course on nuclear weapons.

Former leaders support TPNW
Fifty-six former presidents, prime ministers, foreign ministers and defence ministers from 20 NATO member states, as well as Japan and South Korea, joined an open letter coordinated by ICAN calling on current leaders to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The former UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon and two former NATO secretaries-general, Javier Solana and Willy Claes, were among the co-signers.

ICAN commissioned public opinion polls in late 2020 in six NATO countries - Belgium, Denmark, Iceland, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain - which showed very high levels of public support for their countries to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Support for NATO countries to join the TPNW remains high with 89% of Spanish, 87% of Italians, 86% of Icelanders, 78% of Dutch and Danish and 77% of Belgians supporting their country joining the treaty.

ICAN Cities Appeal
The ICAN Cities Appeal is a commitment by a city or other local authority to endorse the TPNW, call on its government to join the treaty and take other measures in support of its principles, including on divestment. 111 cities and towns joined the ICAN Cities Appeal in 2020, including Barcelona, Basel, Gothenburg, Hamburg, Lyon, and Stuttgart.
Belgium was the center of a lot of activity related to the TPNW in 2020. At the start of the year, ICAN campaigners worked with supportive political parties to initiate a parliamentary debate on removing nuclear weapons at the Kleine Brogel Airbase and -- for the first time -- on Belgium joining the TPNW. The vote was only narrowly lost, having provoked furor from NATO HQ and the Trump Administration who both actively pressured parliamentarians according to media reports.

Later in the year, and after long negotiations, seven political parties finally reached an agreement to establish a coalition government — 500 days after the elections took place. According to sources familiar with the negotiations, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was one of the most fiercely debated issues, especially during the later stages. The resulting government declaration contained a positive reference to the TPNW.

This is the first time that a NATO member state has gone as far as acknowledging the potential positive effects of the TPNW. It was a hard-fought battle and won as a result of the work by Belgian ICAN partner organisations and their cooperation with political parties.

Campaign Spotlight

Belgium

Belgium was the center of a lot of activity related to the TPNW in 2020. At the start of the year, ICAN campaigners worked with supportive political parties to initiate a parliamentary debate on removing nuclear weapons at the Kleine Brogel Airbase and -- for the first time -- on Belgium joining the TPNW. The vote was only narrowly lost, having provoked furor from NATO HQ and the Trump Administration who both actively pressured parliamentarians according to media reports.

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This is the first time that a NATO member state has gone as far as acknowledging the potential positive effects of the TPNW. It was a hard-fought battle and won as a result of the work by Belgian ICAN partner organisations and their cooperation with political parties.
We lived through the fire of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 75 years ago. We dedicated our lives to making sure that our generation would be the last hibakusha — the survivors of the atomic bombs. We learned to be brave, hopeful and bold. We learned that it is up to people like you and me to stand up against nuclear weapons and the leaders who threaten the world with them.

The last great challenge we face is to ban and eliminate these weapons. Face it with us. We’re nearly there.

On 6 and 9 August 2020, we commemorated the 75th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It was a moment to remember and honour those who suffered and perished all those years ago and to celebrate the activism of the survivors, the hibakusha, who have been at the forefront of the nuclear disarmament movement ever since.
75th anniversary: Hiroshima and Nagasaki

ICAN worked closely with hibakusha and used a variety of media and outputs to lift up their stories - not only of survival but also of their activism and success in achieving a ban on nuclear weapons. The goal was to break through the framing of these events as simply a historical matter with a stronger message: "for 75 years, the hibakusha have been working towards a world free of nuclear weapons, it is time for world leaders to act on their promises to achieve nuclear disarmament by joining the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons".

Thanks to these efforts, we noticed a significant change in media narrative around this anniversary, with a strong focus on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and with the TPNW as the solution and way forward.

Setsuko Thurlow, the tireless advocate for the TPNW who accepted the Nobel Peace Prize, was featured in a profile in the New York Times. An article in the Guardian, commissioned by ICAN in partnership with Narratively, told the story of Koko Kondo and offered a personal reflection on the intertwined evils of nuclear weapons and racism, while a powerful NowThis video took her back to the site of the bombing 75 years ago. Japanese and international media alike picked up the calls by Terumi Tanaka, co-chair of Nihon Hidankyo, the Japanese Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organization and leader of the efforts to garner signatures for the Hibakusha Appeal, for all nations - and Japan in particular - to join the treaty.

ICAN also partnered with the Hiroshima Peace Museum and the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum to offer unique Instagram live tours of the exhibits, launched a new multimedia webpage showing the journeys of the hibakusha from survivors to activists, and shared new videos and photos on social media to highlight new aspects of these stories in the months leading up to the anniversaries and on the days.

All around the world, ICAN partner organisations shared these stories, participated in online commemorations, or organised events of their own.

On 6 August, the governments of Ireland, Nigeria and Niue heeded the hibakusha's call by ratifying the TPNW in a high-level online ceremony convened by ICAN. St Kitts and Nevis followed on 9 August, demonstrating what real leadership on nuclear disarmament looks like.

75 Champions

We are enormously grateful to all the committed people that commemorated the 75th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and pledged to join the hibakusha in the fight to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons. We are particularly grateful to the group of 75 Champions that set up regular financial contributions to support our work alongside the hibakusha to end nuclear weapons.

David Hartsough
Marcel Zumstein
Helen Winefield
Carolyn Perry
Peter Metz
Amy Zucker Morgenstern
Keith Malley
Valerie Griffiths
Lars Knudsen
Edward Kirstein
Jane Lee
Uyen Nguyen
Robert Aubin
Hilda J Richey
Thomas Schmidt
Doris McCann
Ute Meyer-König
Joshua Wilkinson
Steven Smith
Penny Furgerson
Lynn Barnett
Janet Kossey
Jane Mills
Patricia Socia
Samuel Brander
Gordon Bosch
Pedro Jose Jimenez Sarasa
Vanessa Loy
Giorgia Pulazza
Cynthia "Kiki" Jewell
John Glynn
Alex Darling
Alison Bailey
Amane Kodama
Ayumi Mizumoto
Benjamin Patterson
Daniela Monaldi
David Spence
Dirk-M. Härmsen
Eric Svensson
Guy Johnson
Jon Sakata
Luise Brandt
Marie Krahn
Matt Heaven
Morag Carmichael
Walter Enloe
Don Kondo
Richard daCosta
Takayuki Kodera
Eve Turner-Lee
JD Mittmann
Karim Morrison
Louise Gore
Marcus Friberg
Walter Enloe
Don Kondo
Richard daCosta
Takayuki Kodera
Eve Turner-Lee
JD Mittmann
Karim Morrison
Louise Gore
Marcus Friberg
Walter Enloe
Don Kondo
Richard daCosta
Takayuki Kodera
Eve Turner-Lee
JD Mittmann
Karim Morrison
Louise Gore
Marcus Friberg
Meetings & events

We know we’re not alone in this, but 2020 cancelled many of our major plans. Luckily, we got in a few inspiring in person events – like the ICAN Paris Forum (see page 22-23) and the expert meeting on the humanitarian consequences and the growing risks of nuclear weapons, organised by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Geneva – before moving entirely online.

* TPNW ratification celebrations via Zoom: On 20 March, Namibia became the 36th nation to ratify the TPNW, and the first to do so remotely during the pandemic. An in-person celebration at the UN Office of Legal Affairs was impossible, so the occasion called for a Zoom call with the permanent representative of Namibia to the United Nations, Ambassador Neville Gertze, as well as diplomats in Namibia and Geneva, and ICAN campaigners.

* ICAN Instagram Law School: When the TPNW reached the 50 ratifications we asked some of the experts in our network to join us on Instagram to break down how the treaty works and tackle some frequently asked questions, live.

* Online Storytelling: Using a special multi-media feature on our new website and a collaboration with New York-based photographer Haruka Sakaguchi, we dove into the Hibakusha’s 75 Year Journey to Ban Nuclear Weapons.

icanw.org/hibakusha

* LIVE from Hiroshima and Nagasaki: As the world couldn’t travel to Japan, we hosted a series of live activities and webinars to bring the message from Hiroshima and Nagasaki directly to everyone’s devices. Together with the Hiroshima Prefecture, we organised the 2020 edition of the Hiroshima-ICAN Academy virtually, with 31 participants and very high-level speakers. We were also proud to host a series of live events, like the museum tours, coverage of the official ceremonies and conversations with hibakusha across our social media. We would like to thank our Japanese partners – particularly Peace Boat and ANT Hiroshima – for all their help on the ground.

Digital campaigning

With hundreds of active partners spread out around the world, ICAN was already used to working remotely by the time the world locked down in March. But this was not a year to work quietly behind the scenes; the 75th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the 50th ratification could not go by unnoticed. So our challenge was to use all the digital tools at our disposal, not just to compensate for the lack of in-person events, but rather to empower our movement to make the most out of these and other significant moments throughout the year, whether online or on the streets where possible.

So we did. From Zoom ratification ceremonies, to all-hands campaign calls to prepare for entry into force, from in-depth webinars with parliamentarians and entire online courses, to live museum tours from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And of course, we leveraged our fresh website and branding to create powerful content that shows what’s at stake and tells the stories of the people affected by nuclear weapons and those fighting to end them.

icanw.org
On 14-15 February, ICAN and ICAN France brought together 300 students, creatives, scientists and activists for a fully-packed two day forum to talk and learn about movement building, political change and what it takes to change the world from some of the leading voices in activism.

paris.icanw.org
The Best Art is Political. To inspire the attendees to see art and culture as drivers of change, we brought together a panel of talented artists to discuss how art can be used as a social justice tool.

While in Paris, Setsuko Thurlow and Beatrice Fihn used the opportunity to lobby parliamentarians at the French Assemblée Nationale to support the TPNW.

A forum is a place to exchange, not just listen, and our break out sessions and Q&As provided the opportunity for participants to share their experiences and ask their burning questions.
Policy & Research

How do nuclear weapons connect to our everyday lives? How can we make the conversation about nuclear weapons more clear and understandable? In 2020, ICAN continued to illustrate and explain the humanitarian and economic costs of nuclear weapons and to challenge nuclear myths through new research that was widely circulated through the media and in academic journals and to campaigners and policy makers.

A briefing paper on gender on nuclear weapons early in the year highlighted the disproportionate impact of nuclear weapons on women and girls. A journal article in Global Policy showed the inadequacy of existing victim assistance programmes to help survivors of nuclear use and testing.

As COVID-19 made health supplies scarce and exhausted doctors and nurses around the world, ICAN research showing how nuclear-armed states could better spend annual budgets to build weapons of mass destruction made headlines and was published in a journal article for Medicine, Conflict and Survival.

Later in the spring, ICAN released the first report in a decade estimating annual nuclear weapons spending - nearly $73 billion - which triggered widespread media interest, including articles in CNN and the Guardian.

As COVID-19 made health supplies scarce and exhausted doctors and nurses around the world, ICAN research showing how nuclear-armed states could better spend annual budgets to build weapons of mass destruction made headlines and was published in a journal article for Medicine, Conflict and Survival.

ICAN research pushed back on common misperceptions about nuclear weapons and the TPNW in a booklet for campaigners titled "Let’s Be Realists," a briefing paper about NATO and the treaty and an article in War on the Rocks. Research on the impact of past weapons prohibition treaties, laid out in a briefing paper and a feature article for Arms Control Today, helped explain the impact of the treaty’s entry into force to skeptics.

To inform broader audiences, we transformed our gender and nuclear weapons briefing paper and the health care costs research into more publicly accessible formats like videos and infographics.
In memory of Sister Ardeth Platte

ICAN mourns the loss and celebrates the life of Sister Ardeth Platte, one of our movement’s most courageous champions. Sister Ardeth spent years imprisoned for numerous acts of civil disobedience, including using her own blood to deliver messages of protest. Throughout a lifetime of activism, Sister Ardeth empowered countless nuclear weapon abolitionists, inspiring also creators of documentaries, myriad profiles, and even a character for a major television show. She was a constant presence in our campaign, including during the TPNW negotiations.

She taught us to be humble about our accomplishments, steadfast in our objectives, and grateful for each other. She was fierce, she was funny, and we will miss her. We offer our condolences to all who mourn her, particularly her longtime collaborator, Sister Carol Gilbert. Sister Ardeth passed away in her home on 30 September 2020, mere weeks before the TPNW garnered its 50th ratification. We are grateful that she brought us this far, and we vow to continue her work.
Structure & Finance

ICAN is a broad, inclusive campaign, focused on mobilising civil society around the world to support the specific objective of prohibiting and eliminating nuclear weapons.


The funds ICAN receives in terms of donations and grants are used to support the organisations mission and are used in line with ICAN’s ethical investment policy and ICAN’s risk management policy. In addition, ICAN has developed a series of policies and codes of conduct to govern our work, such as ICAN’s Code of Conduct, ICAN’s Privacy Policy, ICAN’s Child Protection Policy, and ICAN’s Safeguarding Policy. We are grateful for the continued support of our generous partners and donors.

Grants and donations

Swiss Philanthropy Foundation
Private Swiss foundation
Ploughshares Fund
Canton de Genève
Ville de Genève
Soka Gakkai International
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
Government of New Zealand
Government of Ireland
Gould Family Foundation

Supporters that provided gifts above 1000CHF to our work in 2020

Peter Metz
Roger Sawkins & Gary Yong Gee
Cynda Collins Arsenault
Hessel Haker
Alan Robock
Stein Villumstad
Dirk Giseburt & Marilyn Stahl
Allan Myers
Andreas Nidecker
Sandra A Ferguson
Lisa Honig
Anonymous (7)

Financial Report

Below is the report of our 2020 vs 2019 revenues and expenses. Our auditors examine the financial statements (balance sheet, statement of receipts and expenses and notes) annually to ensure that the accounts conform to the legal and statutory requirements.

Our current auditors are RSM Audit Switzerland SA and they successfully audited and certified ICAN’s 2020 Financial Statements.

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<th>(in swiss francs)</th>
<th>2020 Audited</th>
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<td>Total operating income</td>
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<td>Total Operating Expenses</td>
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<td>Financial expenses</td>
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<td>FINANCING RESULT</td>
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<td>Depreciation &amp; Amortisation</td>
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<td>Variation of Equity sourced by grants</td>
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<td>PROFIT / (LOSS)</td>
<td>-</td>
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PHOTO CREDITS

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p 17: Setsuko Thurlow - Thea Meljstad
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