

WHAT DO NUKES HAVE TO DO WITH CLIMATE CHANGE?

LET'S TALK ABOUT: CONFLICT



Week One: August 8-14

Nuclear weapons and climate change are two of the greatest threats facing the world. With nearly 14,000 nuclear weapons, nine nuclear-armed states possess the capacity to destroy humanity and devastate the environment through war. Climate change threatens all life and responding to it involves shifting priorities and resources away from militaries and war, toward just and sustainable peace.

In the Clinton Franciscans' Laudato Si' Action Plan for 2022, a commitment was made to "Research harmful environmental effects of the production of nuclear weapons and make Information available to the public in 2022." This is in keeping with the Corporate Public Stands taken by the Clinton Franciscans on Care for Creation and Nuclear Disarmament.

From August 8 – September 5, the Franciscan Peace Center will be sharing a weekly series of infographics created by Pax Christi International which highlight the relationship between the threat of nuclear weapons and the threat of climate change.

CONFLICT MULTIPLIER

Climate catastrophes contribute to instability around the world. Droughts can cause local or regional shortages of food and water. Severe droughts can lead to mass migrations of people as well as conflicts over land. Hurricanes and tornadoes can destroy entire communities and displace large groups of people. Events like these increase the risk of violent conflict and the potential use of nuclear weapons.

CASE IN POINT

India and Pakistan, two nuclear-armed rivals, have a history of conflict and war. Both now face the dual challenge of providing for growing populations while coping with the impacts of climate change. Water is an especially contentious issue. The disputed Kashmir region is home to rivers from both India and Pakistan. Indian hydroelectric dam projects threaten ecosystems, agriculture, and the lives of people who live downstream.

IN NUMBERS

Research suggests that for every degree Celsius increase in average global temperature conflict between groups (including riots and civil war) increases by as much as 11.3%.

HARD TRUTH

Even a "small" nuclear war between India and Pakistan could cause a global nuclear famine. Soot from bombed cities could spread around the world, shortening growing seasons for up to a decade. As many as two billion people could starve and there would be long-term damage to the earth's ozone layer.

WHAT NOW?

Encourage your network, policy makers, and civil society partners to make links between climate change and nuclear weapons. This is especially critical as states come together at the United Nations Climate Conference, the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and at the Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Sources
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