



### **ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE TODAY**

#### **TAKE ACTION: Sign the Joint Interfaith Statement Marking 80 Years Since the First Use of Nuclear Weapons**

The 80th anniversary of the first use of nuclear weapons is a moment to reject violence and reimagine our future—investing in life, not weapons, and building a world rooted in solidarity and hope. The [Soka Gakkai International](#) organization has coordinated a joint [interfaith statement](#) as we mark this important milestone. Faith groups and religious communities at every level are encouraged to support the statement, which will remain open for endorsements through the end of August 2025. [TAKE ACTION](#)

#### **TAKE ACTION: Sign Petition to Apologize to the People of Japan on the 80th Anniversary of the U.S. Atomic Bombings**

As we observe the 80th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (August 6 and 9), we are called to sign a petition of apology to the people of Japan and stand for justice, healing, and nonviolence. Pax Christi USA invites people of faith and conscience to join in expressing sorrow, accountability, and a renewed dedication to a world free of nuclear weapons. [TAKE ACTION](#)

#### **TAKE ACTION: Tell Your Representative to Co-sponsor H. Res. 317**

Rep. Jim McGovern (MA-02) has introduced H. Res. 317, which lays out how we can fundamentally reform U.S. nuclear weapons policy and achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. Rep. McGovern introduced a similar resolution last congressional session, which accumulated 44 co-sponsors. This resolution is a huge step forward in increasing public awareness and supporting this growing movement. Back From the Brink urges us to tell our members of Congress to co-sponsor this critical legislation. [TAKE ACTION](#)

#### **TAKE ACTION: Divest from Nuclear Weapons**

Help cut off the financial flow to the companies building nuclear weapons. The Don't Bank on the Bomb initiative from the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) helps individuals and groups remove their investments from nuclear weapons and compel banks, pension funds, and financial institutions to stop funding nuclear weapon production. [LEARN MORE](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### [Movies That Matter: “Pictures from a Hiroshima Schoolyard”](#)

A collection of surprisingly joyful drawings created by school children living among the ruins of Hiroshima in 1947 becomes the heart and soul of this true and inspiring story about an exchange of gifts between Americans and Japanese after a devastating war. This powerful documentary introduces the children artists (now in their late 70s) who reflect on their early lives amidst the rubble of their destroyed city and the hope they shared through their art. The Franciscan Peace Center's August Movies That Matter offering, "Pictures from a Hiroshima Schoolyard," highlights the art created by these children, how the art made its way to the United States, and the journey this profound art took, more than 50 years later, to be reunited with its creators. Click on the link above to register to watch the film online and participate in an online discussion to be held on August 21 at 5:00 pm CDT.

## ADDITIONAL READING

[“The Risk of the Cross: Living Gospel Nonviolence in the Nuclear Age”](#) by Art Laffin, Catholic Worker, Washington DC

### ["Living in the Light of Christ's Peace: A Conversation Toward Nuclear Disarmament"](#)

Archbishop Wester of the Diocese of Santa Fe released this Pastoral Letter in 2022 urging the local community and the world to join "a renewed commitment to the cause of peace" with the goal of eliminating all global nuclear weapons arsenals.

### [Action Alert Digest](#)

This timely email publication from the Franciscan Peace Center includes news and actionable items related to nuclear disarmament, nonviolence and other human rights issues every week.

### [Let's Be Realists](#)

Eleven answers to common comments and questions about nuclear weapons. A free downloadable booklet published by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

### [80 Years After Hiroshima, Anti-Nuclear Activists Are Still Working for Progress](#)

For those active in nuclear disarmament work, the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Aug. 6 and 9, 1945, respectively) is a reminder of how much work is left to be done before the world is free of the nuclear menace. Catholic sisters involved in such advocacy work — many of them now in their 70s and 80s, and with many of their peers who were active in anti-nuclear movements 40 or more years ago now gone — note that the continued threat of nuclear war has not penetrated public consciousness, yet they remain hopeful for the future.

[\*\*“Banning Sadako Won’t Keep Kids Safe from Nuclear War”\*\*](#) by Rivera Sun for Campaign Nonviolence

The children’s book, *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*, tells the true story of Sadako Sasaki, a 12-year-old girl who survived the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima as a toddler, but later died of leukemia, or as it was called at the time “atom bomb disease.” Drawing from a traditional belief in Japan, she starts to fold 1,000 origami cranes in hopes that her wish for survival will be granted. The book was recently banned in the state of Florida.

[\*\*“The Hiroshima and Nagasaki Bombings and the Nuclear Danger Today,”\*\*](#) by Daryl G. Kimball, on how the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings have shaped the global debate about nuclear weapons and the ongoing pursuit of nuclear disarmament.

## **RECENT VIDEOS AND WEBINAR RECORDINGS**

### [\*\*Honoring the Past, Advancing Disarmament, and Building a Peaceful Future\*\*](#)

On June 24th, Pax Christi International hosted a webinar marking 80 years since the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The webinar brought together voices from across the Pax Christi movement as well as partners in the wider peace and disarmament community. Through testimonies, reflections, and shared witness, they explored the enduring impact of nuclear weapons and the urgent call to disarmament grounded in nonviolence and human dignity.

### [\*\*Santa Fe Archbishop Wester on RECA, Nuclear Weapons\*\*](#)

Santa Fe Archbishop John C. Wester prayed at an event for peace and the elimination of nuclear weapons. Wester was recently interviewed on New Mexico PBS about the New Mexico Downwinders finally getting access to compensation, and how he sees the federal government still falling short.

### [\*\*Trinity Anniversary: Dawn of the Nuclear Age and its Enduring Global Implications\*\*](#)

On July 23, 2025, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF) and its youth initiative, Reverse The Trend (RTT), co-hosted a virtual event titled *“The Trinity Test: Dawn of the Nuclear Age and its Enduring Global Implications.”* The event brought together survivors, community advocates, and youth to reflect on the legacy of the first nuclear explosion and its continuing humanitarian and environmental consequences.

### [\*\*The Future at Stake: AI and Nuclear Weapons\*\*](#)

On April 28, 2025, Physicians for Social Responsibility hosted a webinar exploring how artificial intelligence impacts nuclear weapons systems, security, and dialogues. The event was co-sponsored by Encode, Federation of American Scientists (FAS), and Future of Life Institute (FLI).

### [\*\*If Not Now, When? An International Forum to Prevent Nuclear War & Secure Our Future\*\*](#)

The 3rd Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) took place at a time when the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists has advanced the hands of its Doomsday Clock to 89 seconds to midnight, we face nuclear threats over

Ukraine and Taiwan, and the nuclear weapons states are all upgrading the nuclear arsenals. This also comes amidst tectonic geopolitical transformations and shortly after the Nobel Committee sent an urgent message to the world by awarding its Peace Prize to Nihon Hidankyo, the Japan Confederation of A- & H- Bomb Sufferers Organizations. To build our movements and to advance their coordination, the International Peace Bureau, the Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security, and Peace Action New York State have organized an international forum with an extraordinary array of speakers.

## **OTHER RESOURCES**

### **[Nuclear Weapons Quiz](#)**

How much do you know about nuclear weapons? Take this fact-filled quiz and find out.

### **[Franciscan Peace Center's Nuclear Disarmament Resource page](#)**

Discover important facts about the current global arsenal of nuclear weapons, learn about actions the United States can take to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons, and read summaries of existing international treaties regarding nuclear weapons.

### **[Nuclear Weapons Survey](#)**

Pax Christi New England's Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons has released the results of its 2025 Nuclear Weapons Survey, and the findings are significant. Over 900 people responded, with 40% already engaged in the global movement to abolish nuclear weapons. This important initiative, hosted by Pax Christi Massachusetts (local chapter of Pax Christi USA), illustrates a shared commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons.

## **ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**

### **[Arms Control Association](#)**

The Arms Control Association, founded in 1971, is a national nonpartisan membership organization dedicated to promoting public understanding of and support for effective arms control policies.

### **[Back from the Brink](#)**

Back from the Brink is a national grassroots campaign that brings local communities together to build the public support and political will needed to fundamentally change U.S. nuclear weapons policy and prevent nuclear war.

### **[Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists](#)**

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists is a media organization, publishing a free-access website and a bi-monthly magazine. The Bulletin's website, iconic Doomsday Clock, and regular events help advance actionable ideas at a time when technology is outpacing our ability to control it.

### **International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)**

ICAN is a broad, inclusive campaign, focused on mobilizing civil society around the world to support the specific objective of prohibiting and eliminating nuclear weapons. The organization was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017.

### **Nuclear Threat Initiative**

Founded in 2001 by former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn and philanthropist Ted Turner, NTI is guided by a prestigious, international board of directors and a high-level advisory board. NTI designs innovative threat-reduction projects that show governments the way and build momentum and support for action.

### **Pax Christi USA**

Pax Christi USA is a national section of the international Catholic peace movement. Working for peace since 1973, Pax Christi USA has pledged to raise awareness of the imminent threat of nuclear weapons in our world today and offer resources for prayer, study, and action to support efforts toward the abolition of nuclear war.

### **Reaching Critical Will**

Reaching Critical Will works for disarmament and arms control of many different weapon systems, the reduction of global military spending and militarism, and the investigation of gendered aspects of the impact of weapons and of disarmament processes.

## **STORIES OF THE HIBAKUSHA**

“**Eighty Years After the Atomic Bomb Attacks My Mother’s Stories Still Haunt Me,**” by Masako Wada, a survivor of the Nagasaki atomic bombing and the assistant secretary-general of Nihon Hidankyo, the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations, recipient of the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize.

“**Setsuko Thurlow Remembers the Hiroshima Bombing,**” by Setsuko Thurlow, a survivor and leading advocate for nuclear abolition.

### **Atomic Bomb Experiences of Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur**

After WWII, the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur went to Hiroshima from Okayama in response to the call for reconstruction through the education of children. There, they opened a school for girls. Among the students who survived the atomic bombing were some who became Sisters of Notre Dame, including Sister Agnes Hirota, Sister Anna Cecilia Sakimura, Sister Lucia Joseph Aratani, Sister Estelle Takabayashi, and Sister Bernadette Sakimura. Watch the recordings of [The Atomic Bomb Experience of Sister Agnes Hirota, SNDdeN](#) and [Atomic Bomb Experience of Sister Lucia Joseph Aratani Akie, SNDdeN](#).



Franciscan Peace Center  
Sisters of St. Francis  
843 Thirteenth Avenue North  
Clinton, Iowa 52732  
563-242-7611  
[www.ClintonFranciscans.com](http://www.ClintonFranciscans.com)



Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration  
912 Market Street  
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601  
608-782-5610  
[www.fspa.org](http://www.fspa.org)