

NuclearBan.US



Annual Report 2018

The Treaty

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), or Nuclear Ban Treaty, was adopted by 122 countries at the United Nations in New York on 7/7/17. It outlaws everything to do with nuclear weapons and will enter into force once 50 countries have ratified it. Even without signing it, the TPNW will have an impact on the US, and especially on the companies involved in the development, production and maintenance of nuclear weapons. Cities, counties, states and other institutions can align themselves with the Treaty by divesting from, boycotting and otherwise disconnecting from the nuclear weapons companies. This will help build pressure within the US - and encourage countries outside the US - to sign, ratify and implement the TPNW, eliminating the existential threat of nuclear annihilation once and for all.

History

NuclearBan.US was set up as an unincorporated association in September 2017, in response to the adoption of the Nuclear Ban Treaty. It was officially launched as a project of The Resistance Center for Peace and Justice (TRC) in Northampton, MA, in November 2017. In June 2018, NuclearBan.US was registered as a 501c4 non-profit with the IRS and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, focused on lobbying cities and states to align themselves with the Treaty and on electing members of Congress and a President in 2020 who will sign, ratify and implement the TPNW.

The Treaty Awareness Campaign (TAC) was created in August 2018 to undertake the educational work of NuclearBan.US, leaving NuclearBan.US to focus on the more political aspects of the campaign. TAC works to educate the general public about the Treaty and to get individuals, faith communities, businesses, colleges and other organizations to align themselves with it. TAC accepts tax-deductible donations through the fiscal sponsorship of Peace Development Fund.

Mission of NuclearBan.US

The mission of NuclearBan.US is to work for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, by getting the US and other nuclear nations to sign, ratify and implement the Nuclear Ban Treaty. In order to achieve this, we are working to get cities, states, institutions and individuals to disconnect from the nuclear weapons industry – as far as they are able – and ‘align’ themselves with the Nuclear Ban Treaty. This will put moral, financial and public relations pressure on the companies involved in the nuclear weapons industry so that they themselves become our principal allies in lobbying the US government to sign the Nuclear Ban Treaty.

Activities

In order to accomplish our mission, NuclearBan.US is focused on three areas of work: ‘Treaty Alignment,’ political work, and research. Treaty Alignment at the city, county and state levels is about working with, and supporting, individual activists, partner organizations and supporters from within these governmental institutions to initiate and follow through on a process of disconnecting those governmental structures from the nuclear weapons industry.

Our political work is focused initially on gaining support within the US Congress for the ICAN Parliamentary Pledge. This will later be directed towards both presidential and congressional candidates running for office in 2020.

We are also conducting research to back up these efforts, particularly on US public opinion as it relates to nuclear abolition and on the conversion of nuclear weapons industries to green and socially acceptable alternatives.

We will achieve our aims by working in partnership with existing peace organizations and by building our own chapters in areas where we have no partners. We have started the campaign in Western Massachusetts, where we are based, and have so far built connections in California, Washington State, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Vermont, New York, Wisconsin and Indiana.

Local partnerships – Western Mass:

The Resistance Center for Peace and Justice (TRC)
New England Peace Pagoda (Nipponzan Mihoji)
Traprock Peace Center
Northampton Friends Meeting (Quakers)

National partnerships so far:

Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) USA
CodePink
World Beyond War
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

Treaty Alignment:

Towns, Counties, Cities and States

Our starting points for City Alignment are the Nuclear Free Zones from the 1980s and 90s with particularly strong legislation already in place. To meet our requirements for alignment with the Treaty, a town or city must have a legally-binding commitment to divest public funds from the nuclear weapons companies, to refuse contracts with those companies, and to prohibit nuclear weapons activities from within their jurisdiction or control. There must be a transparent process for overriding these commitments or allowing exceptions to them.

So far, the cities of Takoma Park, MD, and Berkeley, CA, have met our criteria and passed city resolutions declaring themselves in alignment with the TPNW. We have duly issued certificates of ‘Treaty Alignment’ to the mayors of both cities. We have been working to get other cities on board, and hope to certify Oakland, CA, Oneonta, NY and Northampton, MA, in early 2019, along with the Marin County, CA.

We have also been working at the state level to introduce legislation that would set up Citizens Commissions to look into how particular states could align themselves with the TPNW. In California, we have been urging Assembly member Monique Limon to take this next step, after the Statehouse passed a resolution in August 2018 calling on the federal government to ‘embrace’ the TPNW. We have also been

working with peace groups and state legislators in Massachusetts, Vermont and Minnesota to introduce similar legislation, and we are hopeful these four states (including CA) will have these Bills officially presented in January 2019.

Political work:

ICAN Parliamentary Pledge and Candidates Pledge

We have lobbied members of Congress in Washington and, together with local partners, at their local constituency offices to urge them to sign the ICAN Parliamentary Pledge in support of the TPNW. Thanks to pressure also coming from other peace groups, and from ICAN internationally, we now have five members of Congress on board (see below).

For the mid-term elections in Nov. 2018, we piloted a 'candidates pledge' modelling on the Parliamentary Pledge, but also targeting candidates for municipal and state level positions. We managed to get more than 30 candidates in MA and VT to sign the pledge. Six of these were subsequently elected, and we have been working with them to introduce and/or support our state legislation in those two states.

Research:

Public Opinion

It is critical to our lobbying efforts that we can demonstrate that we have the public behind us. We have been researching existing opinion polls on this topic over recent years, in preparation for perhaps funding a poll of our own in 2019.

We have also been conducting extensive research into the nuclear weapons companies, their non-military products and services, and alternatives sources for those other products and services.

Core work:

Website

We have spent a good part of 2018 developing and implementing an interactive website at www.nuclearban.us. The website enables visitors to sign up to the campaign, to test their knowledge with a nuclear weapons 'quiz,' to learn about the issues, to link up with existing groups and campaigns, and to go through the process of 'treaty alignment' directly online.

We have also been producing weekly blogs and other news and campaign updates on the website.

Core work:

Print materials

We have produced numerous one-page leaflets and flyers for different audiences and events, as well as a set of informational booklets about Treaty Alignment for different entities. We have also written articles, blogs, op-ed pieces and many emails describing our goals, our strategies and our approach to campaigning. Our first newsletter went out in October 2018.

Core work:

Social Media

We have set up a social media presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. These have been going well and we are steadily building up a following on each.

Core work:

Fundraising

Our major fundraising event so far has been the wedding of our co-founders in August 2018. Wedding guests donated more than \$6,000 to NuclearBan.US in lieu of wedding gifts. We also sent out an appeal to over 1,000 potential donors on a (20-year old) mailing list belonging to Nuclear Free America. We have so far put together and submitted a grant application for 2019 to the Ploughshares Fund. And we have been getting advice and support for setting up a Founders Circle and other approaches to receiving larger individual gifts to support the campaign.

Core work:

Office and admin

NuclearBan.US is staffed with one half-time Campaign Coordinator, Lydia Wood. Lydia is supported by two half-time volunteers: Timmon Wallis, who serves as (volunteer) Executive Director, and Vicki Elson, who serves as (volunteer) Creative Director and. Other part-time office volunteers are Andrew Larkin and Jeff Korff, with occasional support from Avery Johnson, Doug Renick, Anne Moore, Maureen Flannery, Peter Kakos and Angeline Leavitt.

Core work:

Governance

The incorporators met in June 2018 to establish the corporation, agree to the By-laws and Articles of Organization, and to appoint the directors. The directors took part in an informal half-day planning session, facilitated by Julia Riseman, in November 2018. The Board will have its first Annual Meeting in January 2019 to approve accounts for 2018 and a budget for 2019.

Accomplishments

SIGNED THE ICAN PARLIAMENTARY PLEDGE IN 2018

- Eleanor Holmes Norton, Washington DC
- Jim McGovern, Massachusetts
- Keith Ellison, Minnesota (finished his term in Congress on 12/31/18)
- Betty McCollum, Minnesota
- Barbara Lee, California

CITIES and COUNTIES TREATY ALIGNED OR IN PROCESS

- Takoma Park, Maryland
- Berkeley, California
- Northampton, Massachusetts
- Marin County, California
- Oakland, California
- Oneonta, New York

NuclearBan.US				
2018 Financial Statement				
ACCOUNT NO	ACCOUNTS	Jan 01, 2018 to Dec 31, 2018		
		Actual	Budget	Variance
	Income			
4010	major donors	\$10,280.00	\$15,000.00	-\$4,720.00
4020	every donor	\$4,018.92	\$5,000.00	-\$981.08
4030	general donations			
4100	grants			
4200	fundraising events			
5400	Other income			\$0.00
	Total Income	\$14,298.92	\$20,000.00	-\$5,701.08
	Operating Expenses			
7800	Staff training	\$120.00		\$120.00
7530	Legal Fees	\$29.40		\$29.40
8110	Office Supplies	\$340.78	\$1,000.00	-\$659.22
8130	phone		\$90.00	-\$90.00
8140	postage and shipping	\$556.03	\$1,000.00	-\$443.97
8170	printing and copying	\$398.51	\$1,000.00	-\$601.49
8400	web hosting		\$24.00	-\$24.00
8300	Travel expenses	\$1,810.57	\$4,500.00	-\$2,689.43
8630	Licenses and registrations	\$250.00		\$250.00
8610	Administrative Fees			\$0.00
7300	Payroll Employer Taxes & Deductions	\$1,335.85	\$1,500.00	-\$164.15
7200	Payroll Salary & Wages	\$4,720.32	\$5,000.00	-\$279.68
	Total Operating Expenses	\$9,561.46	\$14,114.00	-\$4,552.54
	Income/expenses	\$4,737.46	\$5,886.00	\$1,148.54
Balance Sheet at Dec 31, 2018				
Assets				
	GSB Checking Account	\$5,352.22		
	Accounts receivable			
	Total Current Assets	\$5,352.22		
Liabilities				
	Current Liabilities	\$614.74		
	Total Current Liabilities	\$614.74		
Equity				
	Balance at Jan 1, 2018	\$0.00		
	Income/expenses 2018	\$4,737.46		
	Total Equity	\$4,737.46		
Notes				

Board of Directors

Trudy Knowles, President
Maureen Flannery, Treasurer
Macci Schmidt, Clerk

Board of Advisors

Alice Slater
Randy Kehler
Lois Barber
Frances Crowe

Legal

NuclearBan.US is a 501(c)4 non-profit, registered with the IRS and the state of MA
IRS EIN no 83-1027531
MA corporation no 001334495
Date of establishment 06-27-2018

A big thank you to everyone who made a financial contribution in 2018!

Adi Bemak	Frances Crowe	Nancy Agan
Alice Swift	Garrick Martel	Nick Horton
Aliya and Phil McCully	Geoffrey Kuter	Paki Wieland
Amy Hart	Ground Zero Center	Paul Niquette
Amy Warner and Michael Haney	Heidi Nortonsmith	Peg Arney
Ann Orleman	Jaime Babson	Peter Kakos
Ann Warner	Jeff Korff	Phyllis Jeswald
Anne Moore	Jim Mayer	Reed Schimmelfing
April Merleaux	Joel Weisberg and Janet Watchman	Mr & Mrs Robert K Johnson
Ariel Spira-Cohen	Judith Loughlin	Robin Lloyd
Art Donahue	Karen and Benigno Sanchez-Eppler	Rudi Weeks
Audrey Morse	Kelly and Allan Pfeifer	Sabine Merz
Brigitte Niquette	Kim Lund	Sally Stites-Robertson
Bruce Hawkins	Lisa Hall	Sally Zorn
Carey Mayer	Lois Barber	Seth Wilpan
Carolyn Oppenheim	Marcia Wolff	Sid & Miriam Moss
Charlie Hutchinson	Marina Goldman	Susan Lantz
Chia Collins	Maggie Spiegel and Thomas Lesser	Susan Vargo
Chuck Johnson	Marlene Znoy	Suzy Klein-Berndt
Cindy Loiselle	Mary Gleysteen	Swansea Bleicher
Corwin Greenberg	Mary Link	Therese Stokan
Dan Zukergood and Laurie Herrick	Mary Yelenick	Thor Wagstrom
David Atwood	Maureen Flannery	Tim Wallis
David Grant	Mel Duncan	Trudy Knowles
Diana Yankes	Merri Ansara	Vicki Elson
Doug Milholland	Eileen Spira	Winnie Romeril

Contact

59 Gleason Road, Northampton, MA 01060
(413) 727-3704 | info@nuclearban.us