

# ICAN



# PARLIAMENTARY (Legislative) PLEDGE

## FOR THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

### ABOUT THE PLEDGE

This Pledge is a commitment by legislators around the world to work to promote the signature and ratification of the Treaty by their respective countries.

### WHO CAN SIGN

Any current member of a national, state/provincial or regional parliament or congress may sign the Pledge. It is open to legislators from all countries.

### HOW TO SIGN

To add your name to the Pledge, please email [info@icanw.org](mailto:info@icanw.org) or sign below and send as a scan.

NAME

SIGNATURE

COUNTRY

EMAIL

DATE

## We, the undersigned legislators,

warmly welcome the adoption of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 7 July 2017 as a significant step towards the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

We share the deep concern expressed in the preamble about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from any use of nuclear weapons and we recognize the consequent need to eliminate these inhumane and abhorrent weapons.

As legislators, we pledge to work for the signature and ratification of this landmark treaty by our respective countries, as we consider the abolition of nuclear weapons to be a global public good of the highest order and an essential step to promote the security and well-being of all peoples.

# Why should Members of Congress sign this pledge?

- The ICAN Parliamentary/Legislative Pledge is a commitment to work for the total elimination of nuclear weapons by all countries, through the universal adoption of the 2017 UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
- The United States made a legally-binding commitment to eliminate its nuclear weapons more than 50 years ago, when it signed and ratified the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), along with Britain, France, Russia and China.
- In 2000, the United States, together with those same countries, gave to the rest of the world an “unequivocal undertaking” that they would fulfill this commitment to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals.
- Despite these commitments, the US continues to develop and ‘modernize’ its nuclear arsenal, with the clear intention of holding onto these weapons indefinitely. This is setting the stage for a much more dangerous world in which every other nation can also decide to claim the same right to develop its own nuclear weapons.
- Unless we get rid of all nuclear weapons, sooner or later, they are going to be used, whether on purpose or by accident. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons provides a clear pathway to the verifiable and irreversible elimination of all nuclear weapons by all nations. We must seize this opportunity before it is too late.
- Fifty nations have now ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, 34 nations are currently in the process of ratifying, and another 51 nations have so far committed to signing and ratifying it. It enters into force on January 22, 2021.
- This treaty makes it illegal under international law to develop, test, produce, possess, stockpile, transfer, use, or threaten to use nuclear weapons. It also makes it illegal to assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited by this Treaty.
- More and more countries will continue to sign and ratify this Treaty, including key allies of the United States. Even if the US does not sign the Treaty, it will become increasingly difficult to develop, manufacture, deploy or justify its continued dependence on nuclear weapons.
- Some countries will be interpreting the ‘no assistance’ clause to mean that American companies engaged in the manufacture and development of nuclear weapons will be prohibited from doing business in those countries. Congress should be protecting American jobs by promoting conversion to more globally acceptable activities.
- More than 1,000 parliamentarians in countries not yet on board with the Treaty have signed the ICAN Parliamentary Pledge, including 140 in the UK, 130 in Germany, over 200 in Australia, and nearly 250 in Italy. So far 9 in the US congress have signed it.