



About the campaign

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a global coalition of non-government organisations with a simple mission: to convince every nation in the world to join and fully implement the landmark Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Founded in Melbourne, Australia, in 2007, the campaign was inspired by the successful movement to outlaw anti-personnel mines a decade earlier on humanitarian grounds. Today, ICAN is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Since its inception, ICAN has focused on building a powerful groundswell of public opposition to nuclear weapons, including by amplifying the voices of nuclear bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki and people harmed by nuclear testing.

Working alongside the International Committee of the Red Cross, the UN secretariat and like-minded governments, ICAN has held awareness-raising events, published pioneering research, organised global days of action and made the case for abolition directly to senior decision-makers.

Nobel Peace Prize

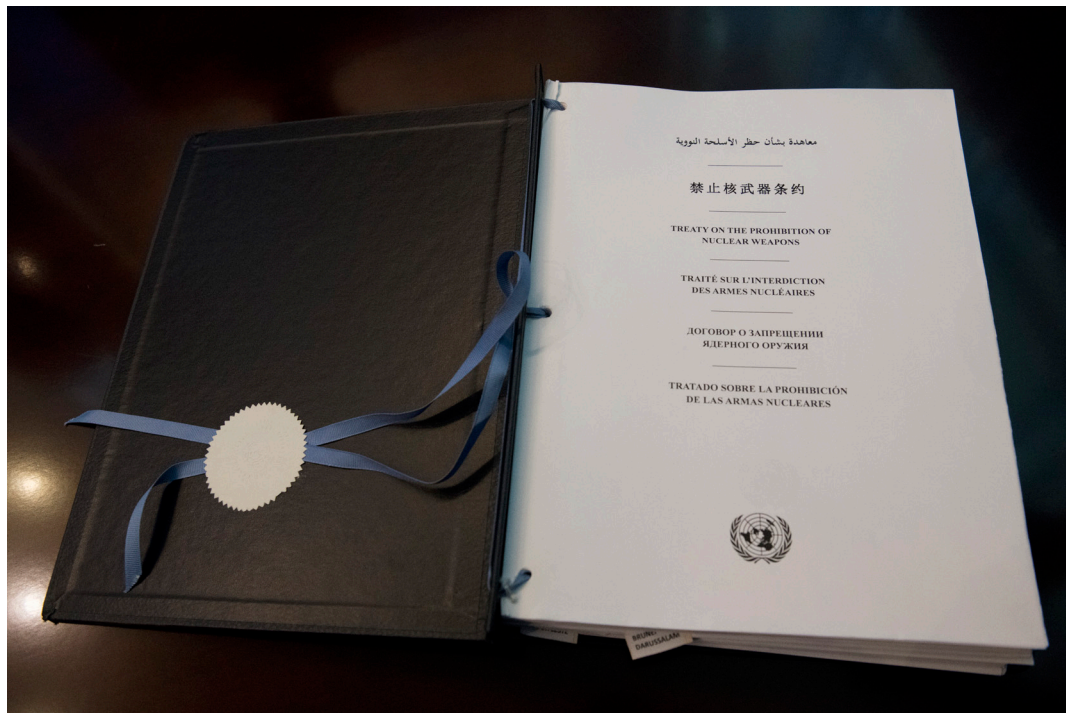
In 2017, ICAN was honoured with the Nobel Peace Prize “for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons”.

The prize is a tribute to the tireless efforts of the countless campaigners and concerned citizens worldwide who, ever since the dawn of the nuclear age, have loudly protested against nuclear weapons, insisting that they be abolished forever.

This is not a distant dream, but an urgent necessity. Future generations must grow up free from this terrible scourge.

“It is our firm conviction that ICAN, more than anyone else, has in the past year given the efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons a new direction and new vigour.”

– Norwegian Nobel Committee, 2017



The original copy of the TPNW. Credit: ICAN

Setsuko Thurlow

As a 13-year-old girl, Setsuko Thurlow was knocked unconscious by the blast from the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima. She became trapped in the rubble of a collapsed building, but eventually managed to crawl free.

“Most of my classmates in that building were burned to death alive,” she recalled. “I saw all around me utter, unimaginable devastation ... The foul stench of burnt human flesh filled the air.”

A living witness to the horrors of nuclear war, Setsuko jointly accepted the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to ICAN in 2017. “Every second of every day, nuclear weapons endanger everyone we love and everything we hold dear,” she warned.

“We must not tolerate this insanity any longer.”

She urged world leaders to sign the recently adopted Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. “Let this be the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons,” she said. “Join this treaty; forever eradicate the threat of nuclear annihilation.”



Setsuko Thurlow at the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Norway in 2017. Credit: Jo Straube

“We need a determined worldwide movement to outlaw and abolish nukes. To get there in this generation, we need to build the wave of public opinion into a mighty crescendo: a massive, surging, irresistible force which carries us all the way to absolutely zero nukes. Without it, even the most inspirational of leaders will falter on the way.”

– Bill Williams, co-founder of ICAN, 2006

An ICAN action in Geneva. Credit: Aude Catimel

