Parliamentary Action Plan

What can elected officials do to advance the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons?

Background

- Parliamentarians will play a crucial role in the success of the TPNW in forging a new path towards nuclear disarmament, rooted in humanitarian principles and international law, rather than in the outdated and dangerous logic of nuclear deterrence.
- In most states, parliamentarians are central to the passage of legislation to advance and confirm the ratification of an international treaty such as the TPNW. Each signature and ratification of the TPNW advances its norm and is a concrete step towards the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons.
- Parliamentarians are also in a key position to promote the TPNW in every country, but particularly in countries that have not yet joined, or are actively opposing the treaty.
- This Action Plan contains suggested initiatives for parliamentarians to take to advance the TPNW in their national or regional contexts.
- The Action Plan shall be open to further suggested proposals and circulated among the Parliamentarians for the TPNW Group and the ICAN Parliamentary Pledge list.
- ICAN shall be responsible for facilitating engagement with the Action Plan, including circulating updates. Interested parliamentarians can signal their interest and offer suggestions and proposals to mp-tpnw@icanw.org.

Specific Action Points

1. Join and promote the Parliamentary Pledge. More than 1000 parliamentarians around the world have joined the Pledge. Elected representatives can play a key role in fulfilling the potential of the 2017 UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), especially in countries where the government currently opposes the Treaty. → pledge.icanw.org

2. Create a “Group of Friends of the TPNW” in the parliament. Parliamentarians in the Parliament of Australia and the German Bundestag have each created cross-party coordination groups to share information and strategies regarding the TPNW.

3. Resolutions. In many parliaments, members are able to propose resolutions or motions to be adopted. In the past such resolutions or motions have established inquiries into the implications of joining the TPNW, sought to overturn a government’s position on the treaty and even compelled a country to join the negotiations of the treaty.

4. Questions. Members of parliament are typically able to ask questions of government ministers or departmental officials. These can be used to clarify the position on the TPNW, call out weak statements or obstructive behaviour at multilateral diplomatic forums like the United Nations and challenge or debunk arguments made against joining the treaty.
5. **Speeches.** A member of parliament could deliver a speech in parliament supporting the TPNW. This could also be published in the parliamentarian’s newsletter to constituents or a local newspaper.

6. **Alert constituents.** Include an article about the government’s stance on the resolutions in a newsletter or e-bulletin.

7. **Speak to the media.** Brief media at key opportunities about the catastrophic humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, the risks of intentional or accidental use, the problems inherent in the practice of nuclear deterrence, and the value and relevance of the TPNW in forging a new path forward.

8. **Engage with Articles 6 and 7 of the TPNW: Victim Assistance and Environmental Remediation.** The so-called “positive obligations” of the treaty are some of the most practical and potentially impactful components and central to its relevance in addressing past, ongoing and future harm from the testing and use of nuclear weapons. As with other weapons treaties, most prominently, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, there exists substantial precedent for engagement even among states that have not yet joined in these provisions.


9. **Promote a renewed focus on the gendered and racialized impacts of nuclear weapons activities.** Parliamentarians can play a key role in raising awareness about how nuclear weapons, particularly through their development, testing and use, have impacted already vulnerable populations.

   → [https://www.icanw.org/racism_and_nuclear_weapons](https://www.icanw.org/racism_and_nuclear_weapons)

   → [https://www.icanw.org/gender_and_nuclear_weapons](https://www.icanw.org/gender_and_nuclear_weapons)

10. **Convene cross-border meetings of interested parliamentarians.** The 20 June 2022 *Parliamentarians for the TPNW Conference* in Vienna can be a starting point for future international collaboration among elected officials specifically focused on the TPNW.

11. **Engage and collaborate with other stakeholders** who are active in supporting the TPNW including, but not limited to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, national affiliates of the International Trade Union Confederation, academia,

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