

*The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki*

## **TPNW entry into force**

On 7 July 2017, 122 countries voted to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) – a landmark global agreement to outlaw nuclear weapons and establish a framework for their total elimination. It now has three-quarters of the number of ratifications needed for it to enter into force. Securing the remaining ratifications this year would be a most fitting tribute to the victims and survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 75 years ago.

Ratification of the TPNW is important step that every country can – and should – take to help bring the era of nuclear weapons to a permanent end. Given the unique existential threat that nuclear weapons pose to humanity and the lack of recent progress towards the elimination of such weapons, achieving the entry into force of this treaty is an urgent humanitarian imperative.

Check what your country has said about the TPNW here:

[https://www.icanw.org/how\\_is\\_your\\_country\\_doing](https://www.icanw.org/how_is_your_country_doing)

### **Suggested actions**

*Meet with your government:*

Meeting with government officials (whether virtually or face to face) can be an effective way to make the TPNW a higher priority and speed up your country's ratification process. The officials most likely to be in a position to influence the process include the foreign minister, the head of the disarmament section at the foreign ministry, and the chair of your parliament's committee on foreign affairs.

Meeting with these and other officials will allow you to find out more about the current status of your country's ratification process and to demonstrate to your government that civil society organisations support the treaty and want to see it ratified and implemented as a matter of urgency.

*Send a letter/email to your government:*

Sending a letter or email to your government officials can encourage them to take action to ratify the TPNW at the earliest opportunity. Your letter could be addressed to the foreign minister, president, prime minister, or members of the foreign affairs committee of the national legislature.

Sample letter: [https://jointheban.icanw.org/write\\_government](https://jointheban.icanw.org/write_government)

*Urge action on social media:*



Most political leaders have social media accounts, as do many ministries of foreign affairs. These accounts can provide a useful platform for urging your government to ratify the TPNW, or for asking questions about your country's progress towards ratification.

*Share resources with your government:*

The United Nations' disarmament office and the International Committee of the Red Cross have each prepared kits to help countries join the TPNW. By sharing these resources with decision makers in your government, you can prompt them to take action. The kits include useful summaries of the legal obligations under the treaty, as well as information on the technical steps required to sign and ratify the treaty.

Ratification kits: [https://jointheban.icanw.org/ratification\\_kit](https://jointheban.icanw.org/ratification_kit)