

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

## **Financial Institutions and Divestment**

On August 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, the world will commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bombings by the US which totally destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing or wounding hundreds of thousands of people. The average age of surviving Hibakusha is now 80 years; this year may well be the last major commemoration for many Hibakusha -- especially those with personal memories of the attacks.

ICAN's message for the 75th anniversary will be: *to honor the Hibakusha we must not simply **Remember** them, we must **Act**.*

The financial sector is ripe for engagement when it comes to divestment and nuclear weapons. Over several years there has been a clear shift in what is considered responsible investing. The anniversary is a moment to make the role of the private sector in nuclear weapons clear and target the producers and financiers. There is scope to both reward and embolden companies that may be supportive and want to declare so on this important anniversary.

Excluding nuclear weapon producers from investments will soon become the new normal. Taking action in advance of or on August 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> is a great opportunity for financial institutions to get ahead of the curve on this issue and set a new standard for their peers to follow.

### **Suggested actions**

- Reach out to financial institutions in your country that don't invest in nuclear weapons, congratulate them for their policies and encourage them to publish statements, press releases, and/or social media posts which express solidarity with Hibakusha and explain why divestment is important;
- 
- Target key financial institutions who *do not* have a policy on nuclear weapons to encourage them to develop a comprehensive policy against investing in nuclear weapon producers and to announce it on August 6 and 9;

### **See which are which here!**

- <https://nukedivestmentscotland.org/>