

75th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

6th and 9th August 2020

Background

On 6th and 9th August 2020, the world will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

As the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) will be on its way to enter into force at this moment, this anniversary will constitute a unique chance to educate people about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and the TPNW, and build public support for our work to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons.

Given the decreasing number of Hibakusha, this could be one of the last major anniversaries where survivors can give a first hand testimony of the impact of nuclear weapons. It is therefore an important opportunity to ensure that these voices are heard.

Goals and objectives

- Events and actions by ICAN partner organisations commemorating the anniversary around the world;
- Increased pressure on governments to join the TPNW;
- Worldwide media coverage of the anniversaries with references to the stories of survivors, the TPNW's entry into force and ICAN's work;
- Increased awareness of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and increased public support for the work of ICAN partner organisations

Key messages

- As we commemorate the 75th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, survivors and civil society are asking governments to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons;

- The humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons must remain central to all efforts for nuclear disarmament;
- The risk of use of nuclear weapons is increasing and nuclear disarmament an urgent necessity for the security and safety of humanity.

Ideas and suggestions for partner organisations

The 75th anniversary is a key moment and could help build public pressure to get the Treaty on the Prohibition on Nuclear Weapons to enter into force and strong public mobilization in nuclear endorsing and nuclear armed states to oppose nuclear weapons.

We would love to see events, marches, demonstrations, actions all around the world. Here are some ideas for partner organisations to consider:

- Organise public events together with other ICAN partner organisations, such as demonstrations, commemorations, floating lanterns, exhibitions, concerts, panels, etc
- Connect and collaborate with all supportive audiences that you have worked with the last few years and work with them on an event, for example the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement, churches including catholic churches, trade unions, cities that have joined the ICAN Cities Appeal, parliamentarians that have joined the ICAN Parliamentary Pledge, history and other museums, Japanese culture societies, Japanese embassies, embassies of TPNW supporting countries.
- Reach out to national and local celebrities and ask them to share a commemorative message on the anniversary and the need for the government to join the TPNW.
- Ask the high-level representative of your government (or Royal family if you have one) to visit Hiroshima and/or Nagasaki during their visit to the Olympics in Tokyo.
- Encourage financial actors that have divested to acknowledge the anniversary and communicate their policy in a press release on 6th or 9th August.
- If your government has not yet signed and ratified the TPNW, reach out to your Foreign Ministry and/or Parliament to urge them to do so before or on the days.
- If you are in an umbrella country, urge your City to join the ICAN Cities Appeal and your Parliamentarian to sign the ICAN Parliamentary Pledge.

Planned activities from the ICAN staff team

- ICAN will prepare resources for partner organisations to organise events/Activities around the world, engage with their cities, engage with their parliamentarian;
- ICAN will prepare a public campaign kit for individuals to take action;
- ICAN will keep a list of planned events around the world;
- ICAN will work with Hiroshima and Nagasaki museums to organise printable exhibitions for worldwide use;
- ICAN will work with Hiroshima and Nagasaki museums to share stories and testimonies;
- ICAN will share a series of content on survivor and victim stories from June-August;
- ICAN will encourage people to follow ICAN to learn more about the 75th anniversary, and create specific posts for increasing following numbers;
- ICAN will reach out to a list of celebrities and ask them to share a specific social media post, ranging from political message to focused on anniversary only;
- ICAN will develop a media strategy, including a media package with images, quotes, and interview possibilities for survivors, and send out to campaigners;
- ICAN will develop template op-eds for campaigners, city council members and mayors of ICAN Cities Appeal cities, parliamentarians and other key supporters of our work.

On 6th and 9th August

- ICAN will be present and participate in commemoration events in Hiroshima and Nagasaki;
- ICAN is working to encourage governments to sign and ratify the TPNW in New York;
- ICAN will promote and disseminate information, photos and video from partner organisations events all over the world.