

Dreaming of a Nuclear Weapons-Free World

Can the Impossible Become Possible?

There are some in our community who call nuclear weapons opponents “hopeless idealists” or “dreamers.” “Sure”, they say, “we’d all love to live in peace, but it’s a crazy world out there and we need nuclear weapons to be safe.”

But does the US status as a nuclear superpower really make us safer? Or does it make us all more vulnerable to being destroyed in a conflict that could spiral out of control into all-out nuclear war?

As the world watches, the US is spending \$1 trillion to create a new generation of nuclear armaments. In turn, we now see ramped-up nuclear proliferation and the ratcheting-up of political and military tensions from Moscow to Pyongyang to Beijing. How does this race towards doomsday keep the American people safe?

By accepting the so-called inevitability of nuclear weapons, avoiding the ugly consequences of the nuclear arms race and the grave threat it poses to civilian populations around the globe, it is easy to assume an “ostrich-in-the sand” position and simply get on with our busy lives.

But by ignoring the issue, are we not undermining our own power and potential to envision a nuclear-weapons-free sustainable world? After all, imagining something is the first step toward challenging the status quo and making a change. Of course, such a transformation may not happen overnight, but the first step is to dream the impossible as possible.

For example, on July 7, 2017 the United Nations adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Under Article 6 of the Treaty, states are prohibited from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, acquiring, possessing, stockpiling, transferring, deploying, stationing, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons under any circumstances. Although the US, Russia and other nuclear states boycotted this Treaty, it was adopted by 122 states and passed overwhelmingly.

Even in the face of the US-led boycott, this UN Treaty signals the clear resolve of civil society to embark on a path leading to a nuclear weapons-free world. Someday in the future, when survivors of a nuclear war ask the United States and other nuclear-armed states, “What did you do to keep our planet safe when it was under attack?” -- what will be our response be?

We invite you to join us in taking a stand for a peaceful, nuclear-free world for the sake of our future generations. Join us at our August event commemorating the 72nd anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Dare to Dream!

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