



Network of Christian Peace Organisations
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The Rt Hon James Cleverly MP

Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street
London
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18 January 2023

Dear Foreign Secretary

The 22nd of January 2023 will mark the 2nd Anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). This Treaty represents the global majority who live without nuclear weapons and wish to see them eradicated. We are writing to you to urge the FCDO to attend future TPNW review meetings with a view to signing the TPNW.

We write as representatives of a broad range of Christian Organisations, diverse in our theology but united in our vision for a world in which everyone has the chance to live in peace. We have members around England, Scotland and Wales and connections with like-minded movements in nations around the globe.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine reminds us all of the fragility of peace and the importance of investing time, money and diplomatic energy in creating and building peace. The strong statements from President Putin, hinting at the potential use of Nuclear Weapons highlighted to us all the continued threat that the presence of these weapons in any nation pose to the whole world.

One way the threat of these weapons was historically managed was through the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which Britain signed decades ago. The failure of the recent Review Conference for that Treaty to make progress on disarmament is in stark contrast to the global energy and commitment to the TPNW. This agreement currently has 92 signatories and 68 states parties. The first Meeting of States Parties resulted in a clear Roadmap for the future.

Central to the TPNW's success has been its participatory approach and its inclusion of a holistic view of the lifecycle of nuclear weapons and the recognition of the suffering of survivors of nuclear weapons. With churches and wider society showing increased concern about the environment, and the historic legacies of racism, there is rightly a focus on

reparations for past wrongs. The TPNW broadens this focus to include remediation of the harm caused in areas impacted by the testing of nuclear weapons. As a nation that tested weapons in Australia and over Pacific Islands, we are sure the Government would not want to ignore the ongoing health and environmental legacy of these actions.

The TPNW process shows the ability of many nations to come together and work for peace. We cannot let this global collaboration be ignored. Therefore, on the 2nd anniversary of the TPNW coming into force, we ask you to:

- Engage with the governments affected by Britain's global legacy of nuclear testing as they seek to find out and assess the human and environmental impact and legacy of the testing.
- Attend future TPNW review conferences with a view to signing the TPNW in due course.

Yours Sincerely

Simon Barrow, Director, Ekklesia

Sue Claydon, Chair, Anglican Pacifist Fellowship

Ann Farr, Chair, Pax Christi England and Wales

Andrew Fox, British Isles Mission Centre President, Community of Christ

Rev Dr Barbara Glasson, President, Methodist Peace Fellowship

Oliver Robertson, Head of Witness and Worship, Quakers in Britain.

Peter Speirs, Clerk to Trustees, Northern Friends Peace Board

Bridget Tiller, Co-Chair, Christian CND

Revd Dr Mark Wakelin, Chair of the Fellowship of Reconciliation

