

WILPF, Women International League for Peace & Freedom

NEW AND ALERTS

UN adopts treaty banning nuclear weapons!

On 7 July 2017, 122 states at the United Nations [voted](#) in favour of a [legally binding instrument banning nuclear weapons](#).

"This treaty is an incredible new piece of international law, achieved despite the opposition of the most militarised and powerful countries in the world," said Ray Acheson, director of WILPF's disarmament programme Reaching Critical Will. "It marks a turning point in the struggle against these genocidal weapons, in which the vast majority of governments and civil society have united to create law that can change policies and practices of nuclear deterrence and help facilitate nuclear disarmament."

What does it include?

The treaty makes it illegal to use, threaten to use, acquire, stockpile, or test nuclear weapons, among other activities. It includes strong provisions to assist the victims of nuclear weapons use and testing, as well to repair affected environments. [It sets out a basic and flexible framework](#) for the future accession of nuclear-armed or umbrella states.

Only one country voted against the treaty: the Netherlands, which hosts US nuclear weapons on its soil. The Netherlands was the only nuclear-alliance country to participate in the negotiations. Singapore abstained

What have we done?

This is the result of decades of campaigning for the abolition of nuclear weapons by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and other civil society organisations. Since 2007, WILPF has been part of the [International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons \(ICAN\)](#), which has worked with governments, international organisations, academics, and activists to bring this ban to fruition.

Reaching Critical Will, the disarmament programme of WILPF, has provided [daily analysis](#) from the negotiations and has posted all relevant [documents](#) online. This follows on from the successful public mobilisation we organised at the outset of the conference, the Women's March to Ban the Bomb. Several WILPF members and sections have offered their support to the ban treaty negotiations including through advocacy with their own national governments.

Looking ahead

The ban treaty will open for signature in New York this September, and requires 50 states to ratify it in order to enter into force and become binding as law. More information about these exciting milestones and further analysis of the treaty's provisions are to come.