



# HIROSHIMA

and



6 AUGUST 1945 will be remembered as the day when human beings executed an unprecedented mass method of killing other humans and destroying their habitat. Over Hiroshima on this day, and three days later in Nagasaki, two types of bombs were dropped from specialised B-29 bombers: a 'Little Boy' Uranium gun-type bomb on Hiroshima, and a 'Fat Man' plutonium implosion-type bomb over Nagasaki.

The scale of destruction of the cities was horrendous, immediate and long-lasting. Over the next few months, there were 90,000 – 146, 000 deaths in Hiroshima, and 39,000 - 80,000 in Nagasaki, mostly civilians. Roughly half of them in each city were killed on the first day. Many continued to die over later months from burns, radiation, and other injuries, compounded by illness and malnutrition.

Thankfully, Hiroshima and Nagasaki are the only times nuclear weapons have been used in war. However, there are still almost 15,000 nuclear weapons in existence and they are now considerably more powerful than the 1945 bombs. Then there was one nuclear state, now there are nine. The world has come perilously close to nuclear war, via technical glitches and human error, on at least seven occasions in the last few decades. This luck will not last. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists puts the Atomic Doomsday Clock at '2 minutes to midnight', the closest it has ever been.

**It is an urgent humanitarian imperative to abolish nuclear weapons.**

## DID YOU KNOW:

- ICAN was established in 2007 in Melbourne by the Medical Association for Prevention of War.
- Dr Tilman Ruff, one of the speakers tonight, co-founded ICAN, along with Dimity Hawkins, Dr Bill Williams and others.
- From very small beginnings, ICAN has become a global network work of over 500 organisations in 102 countries.
- In 2017, ICAN was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.
- ICAN's current focus is bringing the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) into effect. The Treaty comes into force when 50 countries have **signed** and **ratified** it. As of August 1 2018, there were 59 signatories, and 14 ratifications, the process will probably take a couple more years.
- The Treaty puts nuclear weapons on the same footing as chemical and biological weapons.
- Over 70% of federal ALP MPs have signed a pledge supporting Australia ratifying the treaty.

Australia's long term interests need us to sign and ratify the Treaty. Support ICAN by:

1. Urging all your federal and state members of parliament and senators to sign ICAN's *Parliamentary Pledge* to move Australia to join the Treaty: visit: [www.icanw.org/projects/pledge](http://www.icanw.org/projects/pledge)
2. Becoming a **BANefactor**- donate to ICAN Australia or become a monthly contributor.
3. Supporting the **Nobel Peace Ride** from Melbourne to Canberra this September. There are many ways you can support this initiative visit: [www.icanw.org/au/nobelpeace ride](http://www.icanw.org/au/nobelpeace ride).
4. Talk to friends, family, workmates, neighbours, and to others to spread the word!
5. Signing the Change.org petition asking the ALP to commit to Australia signing and ratifying the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty. <https://tinyurl.com/y7nfo94y>

**Pick up a brochure at this meeting or visit <http://www.icanw.org/au/>**