

We live in a time of hope and of sadness

Hope - expressed in the support for the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty which many countries have begun to endorse. (see over)

Hope - in the powerful words of Pope Francis calling for total nuclear abolition.

Sadness - that the nuclear weapon states, including the UK, the USA, Russia, France and China, refuse to participate in or sign the Treaty.

Sadness - that many responses to the threats arising from conflict over Korea **increase** the possibility of military intervention and the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons.

“The ultimate goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons becomes both a challenge and a moral and humanitarian imperative.”

Pope Francis, message to UN, March 2017

Prayer

Creator God,

We ask your Holy Spirit to guide those meeting in Rome including the Pax Christi delegation.

Your world is precious but human folly threatens its very existence. We pray for those whose lives have been destroyed by nuclear weapons and nuclear testing.

We pray for those denied the essentials of life when money is squandered on nuclear weapons production.

We pray that our Church will speak to the world with clarity and wisdom and work with world leaders to ban the development, possession and use of nuclear weapons.

With Pope Francis, we commit ourselves to work for a world without nuclear weapons.

We pray in hope for a world built on just relations and cooperation between people who wish to live in peaceful co-existence. **Amen**

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Background to the Nuclear Ban Treaty

In July 2017, 122 governments adopted a [treaty to ban nuclear weapons](#). This treaty outlaws the manufacture, possession and use of nuclear weapons. It is grounded in international humanitarian law and sets out steps for states that rely on nuclear arms to get rid of their arsenals.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons opened for signature at United Nations headquarters in New York on 20 September 2017 and will remain open indefinitely. Once 50 nations have ratified or acceded to it, it will enter into force. Up to date, 53 states have signed the treaty and 3 have ratified. The Holy See has been one of the first states to sign and ratify the treaty on 20 September 2017.



What you can do

- **Join** with us on 10 and 11 November, alone or in your community or parish, in times of prayer and fasting in support and encouragement of this Vatican Conference.
- **Pray** that the gathering will affirm for all time a total ban on nuclear weapons and challenge any support for nuclear deterrence.
- **Keep up the pressure** on your government to sign and ratify the new nuclear weapons ban treaty as soon as possible. Write to your government and members of parliament. If they refuse to sign, ask them for their reasons and how they can justify their position.

Resources

Vote for the Ban is a vote for the earth's future

www.paxchristi.net/news/un-vote-ban-nuclear-weapons-vote-earths-future/6733#sthash.xNsuuSVM.dpbs

Holy See signs the Ban Treaty

www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/vatican-at-un-nukes-wont-save-us-lets-look-a-better-path-36870/

Message of Pope Francis to opening meeting of the UN Ban Treaty negotiations.

www.wagingpeace.org/message-un-conference-negotiating-nuclear-ban-treaty/

Full details of UN Process and Ban Treaty from International Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons

www.icanw.org/

Global Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

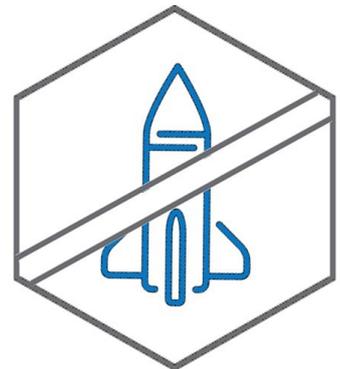
www.cnduk.org/campaigns/global-abolition

Pax Christi International FAQ sheet on Ban Treaty

www.paxchristi.net/sites/default/files/qa_nukes_treaty.pdf

"We hope that the Vatican conference will result in church leaders taking up the same leading role nationally as Pope Francis has done globally so that many more states join the UN treaty banning nuclear weapons soon."

*Marie Dennis, Co-President,
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