

IT'S TIME FOR JUSTICE

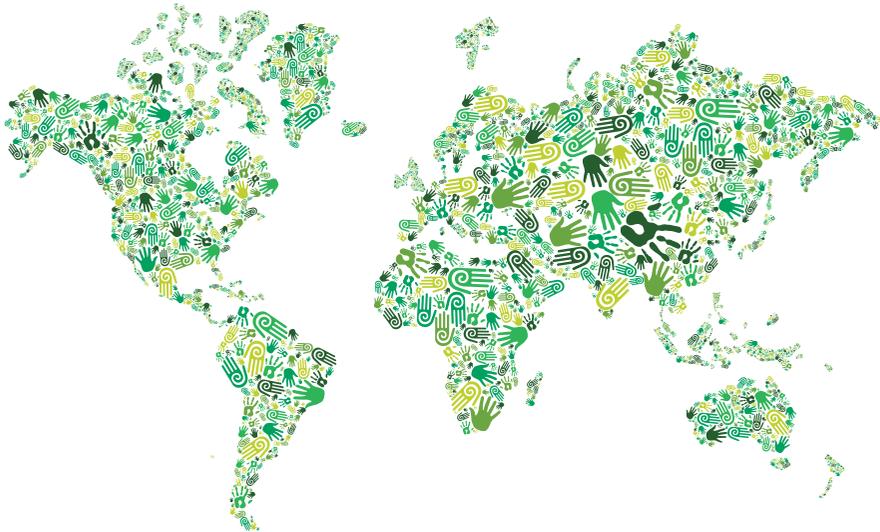
International Affairs Committee

God yearns for the world to be at peace. Recall Paul's advice to the Romans: "Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all" (Romans 12:17–18).

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

The threat of nuclear war is corrosive to any vision of a world at peace. Today, there are over 17,000 nuclear weapons in the world. Roughly 90% are held by Russia and the United States. China, France, the United Kingdom, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea all have some form of nuclear capabilities.

In July 2017, 122 countries adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (the Ban Treaty) that prohibits the development, testing, production, manufacturing and possession of nuclear weapons.



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The Ban Treaty marks a shift away from considering nuclear weapons in terms of deterrence and security. It recognizes the catastrophic consequences nuclear weapons pose to humanity and all of creation. Humanity and nuclear weapons cannot coexist.



Countries with nuclear capabilities and non-nuclear members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) did not participate in the Ban Treaty negotiations, including Canada. Nuclear weapons are part of NATO's strategy.

The Ban Treaty can only be effective if all countries stop nuclear proliferation and dispose of nuclear weapons.

The Church Responds

The Moderator of the PCC wrote to the Government of Canada urging that it adopt and ratify the Treaty on the prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.



The Moderator also wrote to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and church partner Project Ploughshares in recognition of their support of the Ban Treaty. ICAN was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for its Ban Treaty work.

Prayer

God of Peace, we live in a world where fear has led nations to create weapons with the potential for terrible destruction.

Grant us the courage to abolish nuclear weapons forever. May we one day know the unity, light and peace that you desire.

Amen.

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