

Dear

On 22 January this year the new **UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)** entered into force, meaning that **nuclear weapons are now banned under international law**, bringing them into line with the already-banned chemical and biological weapons.

The treaty resulted from a decade of lobbying by many civil society groups and non-nuclear weapon states concerned about the humanitarian consequences of any use, whether by accident or design, of these weapons. **The campaign was led by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) www.icanw.org which was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for its work.** ICAN is now calling on civic leaders and local authorities throughout the world to endorse this treaty.

I therefore urge [... name of Council ...] to join hundreds of cities, towns and local authorities worldwide, from Amsterdam to Vancouver, which have passed resolutions in support of the TPNW. Manchester was the first to do so in the UK and has since been followed by Brighton and Hove, Edinburgh, Fife, Lancaster, Leeds, Hastings, Norwich, Oxford and Renfrewshire as well as local councils in Yorkshire and West Dumbartonshire, and the London Boroughs of Newham and Tower Hamlets.

It is deeply regrettable that the UK is refusing to sign the new treaty so will not be bound by its obligations. However, the international ban sends a clear message to nuclear-armed states that inaction is no longer acceptable: nation after nation is asserting its right to live in a world free of the threat of nuclear annihilation.

This is an issue that may not immediately be considered 'local'. However, there are important local implications. Local communities are suffering from depleted finances at the same time as £6 million a day is spent in the UK on maintaining our existing nuclear weapons (not to mention the £200 billion development costs of new ones). At a time of climate emergency, too, local communities need to be aware of the huge carbon footprint of the manufacture, maintenance and use of these weapons. And sooner or later local communities somewhere in the world (and that could be here) are going to suffer the supreme humanitarian and environmental catastrophe of what may be accidental use.

******[Our local MP, (... name of MP ...), has signed Parliament's EDM 1072 thereby signalling support for the TPNW and urging the government to sign the treaty and bring forward a credible and timetabled plan for the disarmament of the UK's nuclear weapons.] *Delete this paragraph if not appropriate. Check whether your MP has signed at [Entry into force of Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons - Early Day Motions - UK Parliament](#)*

Here is suggested wording for the resolution. I hope it will find favour with the Council.

[... Name of Council ...] is deeply concerned about the grave humanitarian and environmental threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world. We firmly believe that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this threat. Any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching and long-lasting consequences.

Therefore, we support the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, a landmark treaty which prohibits its signatories from developing, testing and using or threatening to use nuclear weapons and from assisting other countries to do so, and we call on the UK Government to sign the Treaty and bring forward a credible and timetabled plan for the disarmament of the UK's nuclear weapons.