

Tuesday, August 7, 2018

Los Angeles City Council
200 N Spring St,
Los Angeles, CA 90012

To the Los Angeles City Council,

On behalf of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), I am writing to express our appreciation for your consideration of Resolution 18-0002-S94 and to request its approval.

ICAN is a campaign coalition of 513 partner organizations in 103 countries, including the United States. We were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 for our efforts “to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons” and our efforts to achieve the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Nuclear weapons threaten every nation’s security and would cause catastrophic humanitarian consequences if used. The impact on civilians and the environment would be devastating. These weapons are designed to flatten cities and indiscriminately raze and slaughter everything and everyone in their path. The ongoing nuclear modernization programmes of nuclear-armed states and the inflammatory rhetoric of certain leaders increases the likelihood of the use of nuclear weapons, either by accident or intent.

The TPNW offers the best hope of ending decades of deadlock in disarmament and moving the world towards the elimination of nuclear weapons. The voices of fire and fury should not be met with silence.

As the representative authorities for people at the local level, city governments have a key role and special responsibility in the fight for nuclear disarmament. Earlier this year, the US Conference of Mayors voted unanimously to support a similar resolution, and cities throughout the United States and Europe are doing the same. The support of an international city like Los Angeles would further galvanize this movement and contribute to an international norm which stigmatizes these unacceptable weapons of mass destruction.

We deeply appreciate the City Council of Los Angeles addressing this issue and we request the approval of the Resolution.

Yours sincerely,



Beatrice Fihn
Executive Director, ICAN



VETERANS FOR PEACE

To the Honorable Los Angeles City Council,

Veterans For Peace, a national organization of over 3,000 members, joins our Los Angeles Chapter 007, to fully support Resolution (Koretz - Bonin) 18-0002-S94, and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We believe that Resolution (Koretz - Bonin) 18-0002-S94 is an urgent and timely resolution.

We, as military veterans, do hereby affirm our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace. To this end we will work, with others both nationally and internationally to increase public awareness of the causes and costs of war, to restrain our governments from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations, to end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons, to seek justice for veterans and victims of war, and to abolish war as an instrument of national policy. To achieve these goals, members of Veterans For Peace pledge to use non-violent means and to maintain an organization that is both democratic and open with the understanding that all members are trusted to act in the best interests of the group for the larger purpose of world peace.

Therefore we fully support, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2017-2018 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for the United States to enter into the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and making nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of its national security policy.

We do fully join in the call for the core policy positions of the Back from the Brink campaign - supporting the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and key measures: ending the President's sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack, taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert, and canceling U.S. plans to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons.

Veterans For Peace continues to applaud the adoption of a Nuclear Ban Treaty and has [called on](#) U.S. to sign immediately and is gratified that so many U.S. cities are working to pass their own support for the Treaty.

On July 7th, 2017, the United Nations approved a legally binding Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. At last, the world now has the first-ever treaty to ban all nuclear weapons. The day the treaty was signed, the U.S. issued a statement that said "We do not intend to sign, ratify or ever become party to it." The U.S., the sole remaining superpower, is developing new, more accurate and more lethal nuclear weapons, while deploying "missile defenses" that make a nuclear first strike more possible and more likely.

Veterans For Peace is dismayed that the U.S. refuses to sign the monumental treaty that will make the world a safer place. The Treaty is a victory for humanity and the shared natural world. It brings Veterans For Peace closer than ever to achieving our mission to abolish war by forwarding our goal of ending the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons.

Veterans For Peace remains committed to fulfilling our mission, redoubling our efforts to ensure that the United States ratifies the treaty and eliminate nuclear weapons entirely. Let this be the generation that will finally ban nuclear weapons.

It's not just about peace and justice; it's about the survival of all life on earth.

Sincerely,

Gerry Condon
President, Veterans For Peace

Michael Lindley
Veterans For Peace John Day, Chapter 007, Los Angeles

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August 7, 2018

Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mayor Garcetti, Council President Wesson, and LA City Councilmembers:

Peace Action would like to express our enthusiastic support for resolution 18-0002-S94, which urges federal leaders to adopt urgently needed policies to safeguard the public from the risks of nuclear weapons production and use.

Founded in 1957, Peace Action (formerly SANE/Freeze) is the United States' largest peace and disarmament organization. We represent over 10,000 Angelenos, over 100,000 members nationwide and nearly 100 chapters in 36 states. We work to abolish nuclear weapons, promote government spending priorities that support human needs, encourage real security through international cooperation and human rights and support nonmilitary solutions to international conflicts.

Changes to the command and control structure of our nuclear arsenal are long overdue, but President Trump's professed unpredictability, his dearth of understanding of nuclear weapons policy and the extreme risks associated with the use of nuclear weapons make intervention by leaders at all levels even more urgent.

Reassuring the world that the U.S. will not launch a nuclear first strike on the whim of one individual would necessarily and dramatically reduce the risks of nuclear proliferation and nuclear war.

Putting the U.S. on a course to work diplomatically with world community, by adopting the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear weapons, would go a long way to both increase global security, as well as eventually free up resources which would be better spent improving our communities, our schools, our infrastructure and much more.

Peace Action urges the LA City Council to adopt resolution 18-0002-S94 for these reasons.

We appreciate your consideration,

Jon Rainwater
Executive Director
Peace Action



Tuesday August 7, 2018

Los Angeles City Council
200 N Spring St,
Los Angeles, CA 90012

To the Los Angeles City Council,

I am writing in support of resolution 18-0002-S94 concerning presidential authority over the use of nuclear weapons on behalf of Women's Action for New Directions (WAND). WAND works to promote diplomacy and demilitarize U.S. foreign policy, elevate women's voices in conversations about national security policy, and educate and engage women legislators and Members of Congress on peace and security issues. This resolution will urge the United States Congress to "to prevent nuclear war by renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first" and re-assert its constitutional responsibility to declare war in a nuclear first-strike scenario.

Establishing checks and balances over the President's sole nuclear authority will unequivocally make our communities and our nation safer. Demonstrating a commitment to prevent a reckless first strike will promote diplomacy and reduce nuclear proliferation by other countries as well.

Any strike initiated by the United States against another nuclear power would be followed by immediate retaliation. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of Americans would be killed, our economy would be devastated, and our environment destroyed.

Cities and towns around the country like San Francisco, California and Santa Fe, New Mexico are passing resolutions urging Congress to intervene and rein in the President's sole nuclear authority and protect the safety of their communities. By passing resolution 18-0002-S94, Los Angeles would demonstrate critical leadership as the largest city to pass such a resolution. The decision to launch a first-strike nuclear attack has catastrophic consequences and should not rest in the hands of any one individual.

Should you have any questions on the issue, please don't hesitate to ask me questions at nparrish@wand.org.

Sincerely,
Nancy Parrish
Executive Director



A WORLD WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS

#YouthAgainstNukes

August 7, 2018

Dear Councilmember Koretz and Councilmember Bonin,

On behalf of the Angeleno youth, families, and educators, we write in support of Resolution (Koretz) 18-0002-S94, which concerns the City of Los Angeles establishing its position in SUPPORT of the United States entry into the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and pursue ways to eliminate its nuclear stockpile. We are so grateful that the city council is demonstrating the influence and leadership of Los Angeles as a beacon of hope and progress in this increasingly important global issue.

As the founding members of the NuclearFreeSchools movement at Alliance Dr. Olga Mohan High School here in Downtown Los Angeles, we are committed to promoting nuclear disarmament education across the Los Angeles region, and sharing our efforts and expertise with youth around the world. We welcome the city council in joining our efforts to educate the public in the dangers and waste of nuclear weapons.

Over the past ten years, our high school students have been invited to present their efforts for a world without nuclear weapons in Vienna, Austria at the invitation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization; in Nagasaki and Hiroshima, Japan at the invitation of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues and Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs; in Gyeongju, South Korea at the invitation of the International Atomic Energy Agency; and in Monterey, California at the invitation of the Center for Nonproliferation Studies - Critical Issues Forum. We also held the Youth Disarmament Conference here in Los Angeles last November wherein we educated high school and college students from across Los Angeles about the importance of youth disarmament advocacy.

Despite our continued efforts, the current administration and global trends suggest that the world is more at risk of a nuclear incident than during the Cold War. While we continue to fear the real possibility of a nuclear conflict and/or nuclear accident, we are firm in our belief that, with your support, this generation of young people will finally achieve a world without nuclear weapons.

We encourage all city councilmembers to support this resolution. We look forward to future opportunities for the city council and our students to collaborate on nuclear disarmament issues and to make Los Angeles the leader in nuclear disarmament advocacy.

Sincerely,

NuclearFreeSchools Members

Yeslie Barrios, ADOMHS '19

Edgar Lopez, ADOMHS '19

Cristopher Cruz, ADOMHS '18 (California State University, Northridge)

Lesly Tobon, ADOMHS '18 (Pitzer College)

Kimberly Nunez, ADOMHS '17 (Georgetown University)

Andrew King, Faculty Advisor & Assistant Principal (Alliance Dr. Olga Mohan High School)

Learn more about our movement at: www.nuclearfreeschools.org.