

Talking About Nukes

Tips for talking about nuclear weapons with elected officials, writing letters to the editor or posting on social media

- You don't have to be eloquent or an expert on nuclear weapons
- Talk about your opinions, feelings and hopes for a better future
- Talk about your personal story, impact on your family and community
- Describe your personal concern: “eliminating nuclear weapons is important to me, to my family and our community because...”
- We are not asking elected officials to debate national defense policy. We are asking them to *add our voice* to national and international efforts to abolish nukes.

National policy has local consequences. Local resolutions make our voices heard!

Talking Points

- The money wasted on nuclear weapons is needed for vital, local human needs.
- Real security is health care, housing, jobs, education, clean water, air and food.
- Nukes are pure waste. They *cannot be used!* The U.S. wastes \$60 billion per year on nukes.
- Our government plans to spend \$1.7 trillion over the next 30 years to rebuild the entire nuclear arsenal, delivery systems and manufacturing capacity.
- Nuclear weapons are not just bigger bombs. They are far more destructive than conventional weapons with disastrous, long lasting consequences.
- Nukes are an environmental disaster. Mining the uranium and making the bombs produces huge amounts of highly toxic, long-lasting substances and waste bi-products.
- Everyone in the world *will be impacted* by even a limited nuclear exchange. Fallout, ash and dust put into the atmosphere will create a “nuclear winter” severely reducing or destroying food production and millions or billions will starve.

A full scale nuclear war would end all human life on earth.

About “Deterrence”

- Just because we didn't blow up the world during the cold war doesn't mean “deterrence” is good policy for the future and a nuclear war can't happen.
- The dangers of nuclear accidents are more likely than the threat of a war. There have been numerous mistakes, human errors, communication failures & near launches of nukes.
- No nation or its people are “secure” as long as nukes exist.
- Nuclear weapons are the **ONLY** weapons that can actually destroy our country.
- The U.N. Treaty is about ALL nuclear armed nations eliminating nuclear weapons. No one nation is expected to act alone.

Negotiations & Treaties Work. Past arms control agreements successfully reduced the number of nukes from over 80,000 to 13,500. *Abolishing nukes completely is realistic and possible.*

No political, military, economic, ideological or foreign policy goal is worth the costs of a nuclear war.

Abolishing all nuclear weapons is the only way ensure nuclear weapons will never be used or cause a catastrophic accident.

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