

Why should cities care about nuclear disarmament?

“If you don’t think nuclear weapons are a local issue, ask the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki”. Mayor Frank Cownie, Des Moines, Iowa*

“Nuclear weapons must never be used. Abolition is the only way for humanity to avoid the dangers of nuclear weapons.” Tomihisa Taue, Mayor of Nagasaki Japan and Vice President of Mayors for Peace

- **Cities are primary targets of nuclear weapons.** Nuclear war is “total” war. Nuclear weapons make no distinction between civilian and military targets, deaths or casualties.
- **Nuclear Weapons are the only weapons that can reach and destroy American cities.** Foreign conventional military forces are no threat to most U.S. cities.
- **Protecting local citizens is a primary duty of city government.** So cities have a responsibility to speak up for nuclear disarmament.
- **Cities have the right and duty to petition and advise our national government.** Local city resolutions addressing national policies are commonly enacted and are an essential part of democratic governance.
- **Cities are “laboratories” of democracy.** Cities often lead in creating, testing and promoting solutions to political and social problems.
- **Cities suffer from our poor national spending priorities.** Money wasted on unusable, immoral, illegal nuclear weapons can't be used for pressing local needs.
- **Local, grassroots pressure is essential.** Local cities speaking up offer the best hope for building a nuclear weapons free world. The U.S has consistently opposed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and is the major obstacle to its full implementation.
- **It is the right thing to do.** No political, ideological or national “security” objective would be worth the destruction, or loss of life, from even a limited nuclear exchange.
- **No one will win a nuclear war.** If only 1% of the world's nukes were used, worldwide agricultural production would plummet for decades and millions would starve. A full scale nuclear war would likely destroy all mammalian life on earth.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors has for 17 years passed resolutions supporting nuclear disarmament, reduced military spending especially on nuclear weapons, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and supporting Mayors for Peace international efforts to abolish nuclear weapons.**

*Source: Mayors for “Peace Campaign Tool Kit” for promoting TPNW

**Source: Internet resources on U.S. Conference of Mayors and Mayors for Peace

Twin Ports Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

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