

To: Twin Ports faith based groups and congregations
From: Twin Ports Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (www.ban-nukes-twin-ports.com)
Subject: **Statement of Support for Abolishing Nuclear Weapons**

A broad coalition of individuals and organizations in the Twin Ports area is working to get local municipalities to pass advisory resolutions supporting the the abolition of nuclear weapons. This is part of a national (and international) effort to publicize the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and get more countries to sign and ratify the treaty.

This treaty went into effect in 2021 and ***nuclear weapons are illegal under international law. But none of the nine nuclear powers have signed the treaty.*** Our government opposes this sensible treaty and is a major obstacle to ridding the world of the horror of nuclear weapons.

Local citizen action is the best path to changing our government's dangerous, expensive, and short sighted policies on nuclear weapons.

We are writing to ask your congregation to support our efforts to pass local resolutions supporting the United Nation Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the eventual abolition of these awful weapons of mass destruction.

We are asking Twin Ports residents to sign a “Statement of Support” for abolishing nuclear weapons.

Our coalition took this issue to the Duluth City Council but were unsuccessful in passing a resolution. The vote was a 4 to 4 tie. Councilors voted against primarily because they were unsure of public support. This online (and on paper) survey is intended to show local support.

Nuclear weapons are a moral issue. Nuclear weapons deliberately and *unavoidably* target innocent civilians – women, children and the elderly. As weapons of mass destruction, they cannot be confined to military targets. Millions of innocent people would be killed and maimed by any use of nuclear weapons. Their use would be a war crime.

It is immoral that our government plans to spend \$1.7 trillion to completely rebuild our nuclear arsenal while children are homeless, suffer food insecurity, lack healthcare and often attend inadequately funded schools. Nuclear weapons are the most wasteful of all military spending. We can never use them, they do not “deter” war, and everyone in the world is *less secure* simply because they exist.

It is the responsibility of congregations of all faiths to advocate for moral behavior in individuals and collectively as a nation. Many faiths and Christian denominations officially support the abolition of nuclear weapons.

People can sign the “Statement of Support” online at www.ban-nukes-twin-ports.com. This website has information about the treaty and why local people need to take action. A paper “petition” style version also available on the website. PLEASE NOTE: People can “opt out” of future contact with this online tool. If they do, they will not be contacted or added to any email lists.

Please inform your congregation of this opportunity to take action for peace and a world safe from the threat of nuclear weapons.

Thank you.

Twin Ports Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
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