

Abolition 2000 Congratulates Nihon Hidankyo on its Nobel Peace Prize Award 10 December 2024, Human Rights Day

The [Abolition 2000 Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons](#) adds its voice to the international chorus of congratulations to Nihon Hidankyo for its well-deserved and long overdue award of the Nobel Peace Prize. As we approach the 80th anniversary year of the United States atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the dangers of another nuclear weapons use are as high as they've ever been and are growing every day. The Norwegian Nobel Committee has rightly chosen this moment to recognize the courageous *hibakusha* (A-bomb survivors) who constitute Nihon Hidankyo, for their tireless determination over decades to lead the world away from the nuclear abyss.

The *hibakusha* have served, and continue to serve, as the moral compass and source of inspiration for disarmament movements across the globe, including Abolition 2000, which was established during the 1995 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference. In its [Founding Statement](#), Abolition 2000 called for “*an unconditional pledge not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons*” and upon all States to “*Initiate immediately and conclude negotiations on a nuclear weapons abolition convention that requires the phased elimination of all nuclear weapons within a timebound framework, with provisions for effective verification and enforcement.*” These calls to prevent nuclear war and achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world are more urgent than ever.

This year's Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony falls on [Human Rights Day](#). As stated by the United Nations, “*By embracing and trusting the full power of human rights as the path to the world we want, we can become more peaceful, equal and sustainable. This Human Rights Day we focus on how human rights are a pathway to solutions, playing a critical role as a preventative, protective and transformative force for good.*”

Nuclear weapons are irreconcilable with human rights. The UN Human Rights Committee in its [2018 General Comment 36](#) determined that, “*The threat or use of nuclear weapons, which are indiscriminate in effect and are of a nature to cause destruction of human life on a catastrophic scale is incompatible with respect for the right to life and may amount to a crime under international law.*” It also concluded that “[*States parties*] must also respect their international obligations to pursue in good faith negotiations in order to achieve the aim of nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control.”

A Joint Statement on “[Right to life without Threat of Nuclear Weapons.](#)” submitted to the UN Human Rights Council on 20 September 2023 by Kazakhstan on behalf of a cross regional group of 39 States, declares, “*As the example of affected countries' history shows, the use and the test of nuclear weapons violates the right to life, the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment of not only living people, but also of future generations.*” The Statement concludes, “*Nuclear weapons are inhumane and immoral due to their catastrophic humanitarian consequences and their inherent risks. We need to restrengthen the nuclear taboo, foster dialogue and confidence-building measures and achieve nuclear disarmament with urgency and determination in line with the collective commitments outlined in the very first United Nations*

General Assembly resolution as well as obligations under Article 6 of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and other relevant treaties.”

As [UN Secretary-General António Guterres has said](#), “Human rights are the foundation for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.” According to the UN, “*This year’s [Human Rights Day] theme is a call to acknowledge the importance and relevance of human rights in our everyday lives.... **This is the time to mobilize action to reinvigorate a global movement for human rights.***” As so powerfully advocated by Nihon Hidankyo, this movement must include an urgent demand for the global abolition of nuclear weapons.