

# Draft Strategy for Building a Powerful U.S. Nuclear Abolition Movement

## Goals

1. Build a powerful movement to force U.S. ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).
2. Tie this movement into the existing climate change movement and the movement to equalize the distribution of wealth.
3. Position advocacy for nuclear abolition, mitigating climate change and equalizing wealth as “cool,” smart and patriotic. Brand nuclear weapons and fossil fuel infrastructure as traitorous, unthinking or wrong-thinking and domineering.

## Elements of the Strategy

1. This is a movement-building strategy that seeks **to promote citizen action**, not protest nor primarily action by politicians, though such action will be necessary.
2. This strategy is based on creating many small autonomous **task-oriented groups** across the country. These groups will choose and execute projects suggested by one of the menu ideas below, or by other ideas that the groups generate themselves.
3. Menu of possible **action options**:
  - a. **Assemble good arguments.**
    - i. Assemble short, punchy summaries of the most persuasive anti-nuclear arguments.
    - ii. Give special attention to those that undermine the pillars of the nuclear weapons complex (see j. below).
    - iii. Make them readily available in all formats, including placing them on websites, printing them, emailing them sequentially to every email address we have over the course of a year (e.g. 1 every few days), tweeting them, and finding other ways to distribute them.
    - iv. **Use fear education sparingly.** Develop ways to make nuclear abolition support fun and exciting.
  - b. **Use humor.**
    - i. Poke fun at nuclear weapons and those who advocate for them.
    - ii. Use lots of funny, compelling memes.
    - iii. Utilize all forms of satire.
  - c. **Don't underestimate the impact of popular music and popular art.** Find ways to use them to build a culture of opposition to nuclear weapons.

- d. **Combine support** for nuclear abolition with support for addressing climate change (Green New Deal) and support for addressing income inequality. Nuclear abolition could help fund a Green New Deal and provide the scientific and engineering power needed to solve the remaining technical problems of converting to a net-zero carbon economy. “Warheads to Windmills” is an excellent resource for understanding the connections.
  - i. Circulate a pledge to read “Warheads to Windmills.”
  - ii. Form a “Warheads to Windmills” study group.
  - iii. After reading and studying “Warheads to Windmills,” pick a project (perhaps from this list) for your study group to do that will help build the nuclear abolition movement.
  
- e. **Recruit** experts, celebrities, political figures, faith community leaders, artists, musicians, movie stars, and pundits to advocate for all 3 goals (nuclear abolition, climate change, equality) in simple, emotionally compelling language.
  - i. Ask them to speak and write about all 3 goals.
  - ii. Ask them to create short videos addressing the goals from their own viewpoints. (Locate one or more videographers who can help with this.)
  
- f. **Find ways to shame those who profit from nuclear weapons.**
  - i. Point up moral issues.
  - ii. Point up safety issues.
  - iii. Point up environmental issues.
  - iv. Point up economic issues.
  
- g. **Undermine the profitability** of nuclear weapons manufacturing and fossil fuel production.
  - i. Boycott any commercial products these companies offer.
  - ii. Divest these companies from stock portfolios (individual and groups).
  - iii. Expose and lobby against subsidies that are propping up these companies.
  
- h. **Build an activated, broad-based pro-abolition community**, using an identifiable symbol/brand. The currency for inclusion in this community is some form of action.
  
- i. **Support nuclear weapons abolition, wealth equalization and climate mitigation bills** at the local, state and national levels. However, time any national bills carefully and strategically so that they are not introduced into Congress before the movements i prepared and equipped to use them fully. Local and state bills should not only demand nuclear weapons abolition, but should also set up commissions to determine how the community or state will bring themselves into compliance with the TPNW. Currently, here are two federal bills to support:

- i. H.Res.302 - Embracing the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.  
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/302/text>
- ii. H.R.2419 - Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act of 2019  
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2419?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22H.R.+2419%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=1>
- j. **Identify the pillars that support nuclear weapons** and devise ways to weaken and remove them. Such as:
  - i. Belief in deterrence.
  - ii. Fear of other countries' military intentions and arsenals.
  - iii. Acquiescence to authority, i.e. "They must know what they're doing."
  - iv. Competitiveness, i.e. "The US is #1."
  - v. Greed.
  - vi. Nuclear weapons lobbyists and government subsidies.
- k. **Break US people's identification of themselves as part of the nuclear weapons "haves."** Point out that we have no control over the parts of our government that build and wield nuclear weapons. We – the American people – are actually nuclear "have nots" and should make common cause with other "have nots."
- l. **Expose the "political pork"** nature of both nuclear weapons and fossil fuel projects and undermine the practice of competing to bring these projects into congressional districts, states or communities in order to provide economic stimulus.
- m. **Isolate nuclear weapons and fossil fuel businesses.**
  - i. Brand them as traitors to humanity.
  - ii. Expose their greed, corruption and willingness to endanger all of us.
  - iii. Harass and embarrass their boards of directors and staffs.
  - iv. Advocate disinvestment in both nuclear weapons and fossil fuels.
- n. **Create one or more videos** - aimed at general audiences - that explore the cross connections between nuclear weapons and climate change and then celebrate local organizing successes.
- o. **Become familiar with other groups' plans.** (Example: Global Zero Action Plan For Governmental Action.)
- p. **Create a timeline** placing all these undertakings in chronological order and estimating beginning and completion dates. The timeline will tell us in what order to proceed and how quickly we can expect to move.

- q. **Promote a pledge**, or pledges, to support abolition. Examples include:
  - i. ICAN's pledge
  - ii. WILPF's petition
  - iii. The Hibakusha Appeal
- r. **Recruit well-known members of all faith communities** to formulate and disseminate the moral arguments against nuclear weapons.
- s. **Predict** what our opposition will say and do and plan to pre-empt it.
- t. **Work to improve relations with Russia and China** so we can solve these problems jointly.
- u. **Support** local, state and national **candidates** who care about survival.

END