

Mobilising for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free Australia

A Toolkit for Raising Awareness in 2021



the
powerof
humanity



**“A nuclear-weapons-free world
is not a dream but a necessity
for human survival. We need
to stop waiting for things to
happen. We need to go ahead
and make things happen.”**

- Amit Ray, Author

The Power of People

On 22 January 2021, the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons comes into force, marking a historic turning point in the effort to eliminate nuclear weapons. Australian Red Cross is harnessing the power of people to take action for a nuclear-weapons-free world.

This toolkit is full of ideas on how to spark action around nuclear weapons in your communities. It was created by harnessing the power of people through a Design Jam, an online, collaborative design session, with Australians from all walks of life.

Who this toolkit is for

This toolkit is designed for anyone wanting to get involved in the work to eliminate nuclear weapons. Whether you're new to mobilising or an established leader, this toolkit provides ideas and resources to support you in making a difference.

Join us to celebrate this historic turning point and show your support for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

How to use this toolkit

This toolkit is both a learning tool and a guide to help you mobilise in your communities.

This toolkit includes:

- **Background information** on nuclear weapons
- A list of **mobilisation ideas** you can use to engage your immediate networks and local community
- A **toolkit of resources** to support you in your mobilisation journey

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The aftermath of the nuclear bomb detonation in Hiroshima in 1945 (United Nations photograph)

Nuclear Weapons and Red Cross

The threat of nuclear weapons

Seventy-five years ago, on 6 August 1945, the United States of America dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. Three days later, a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan in what was the last time nuclear weapons were used in war.

Today, there are close to 14,000 nuclear bombs in the world, thousands of which are ready to be launched in an instant. These weapons would unleash unimaginable and catastrophic destruction and as long as they exist there is a risk they could be detonated - intentionally, by accident, or by miscalculation.

The humanitarian and environmental destruction that would be caused by the use of just one nuclear weapon is so extreme that there is nothing we can do to prepare. Humankind would be left helpless. There is no humanitarian response that can be applied to a nuclear attack.

What we cannot prepare for, we must prevent.

A historic turning point

On 24 October 2020, Honduras became the 50th country to ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This triggered a 90-day countdown to 22 January 2021 when the treaty comes into force, signaling the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons.

The treaty is the first global agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons and makes illegal their use, development, production, testing, and stockpiling in all 51 countries who have currently ratified the treaty. The treaty also commits nations to clearing contaminated areas and helping victims. By providing pathways for the elimination of nuclear weapons, the treaty is an indispensable building block towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

Australia and the Treaty

The International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement has been calling for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons since the first nuclear bombs were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

Australian Red Cross has been one of the Movement's most active anti-nuclear weapons advocates, championing the need for an elimination treaty and playing a pivotal role on the issue internationally since 2011.

The Australian Government supports a range of disarmament and non-proliferation processes, but at this point, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is not one of them. The Red Cross Movement would like every nation, including Australia, to sign the United Nations treaty. The only way to eliminate the threat that nuclear weapons pose is to eliminate them.

Major Milestones

- **August 1945** - The first and only nuclear bombs used in war are dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement has been calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons since.
- **7 July 2017** - The United Nations passes the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
- **20 September 2017** - Thailand and Guyana become the first countries to ratify the treaty.
- **24 October 2020** - Honduras becomes the 50th country to ratify the treaty, starting a 90-day countdown to the treaty coming into force.
- **22 January 2021** - The treaty comes into force for all countries who have signed it. In those countries, it makes illegal the use, development, production, testing and stockpiling of nuclear weapons.



The aftermath of the nuclear bomb detonation in Hiroshima in 1945 (United Nations photograph)



Mobilising Against Nuclear Weapons

What do we mean by “mobilising”?

Mobilising is the sparking of an idea or action that will lead to broader change on a humanitarian issue. Mobilising can increase knowledge and awareness on an issue and engage others.

Mobilising doesn't require previous experience. Whether it's your first time working on humanitarian issues, or you're a subject matter expert or community leader, anyone can mobilise on issues that matter to them.

Mobilisation also doesn't look like one thing – there are varying levels of involvement and behaviours. While the ultimate goal of mobilisation is to harness the power of people to create change at scale, activities can range from individual and personal actions to community-wide events.

Mobilising for global action

While global action, such as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, is key to prevent a nuclear attack, the smaller, more local opportunities to spark change can create a groundswell of support. Both *movements*, the larger cause or issue at hand, and *moments*, the individual and diverse actions that take place over time, are needed to lead to social change.

The *movement* to eliminate nuclear weapons is supported by a variety of diverse *moments*, such as the actions included in this toolkit. It often takes multiple, diverse, and self-organising moments over time to reach a tipping point in the broader movement. This means that each action, however small, is important to growing the broader movement.



Mobilising on an Individual Level

Learn more about the issue

Educate yourself on the current issues surrounding nuclear weapons by watching films, listening to podcasts, or reading books and articles. The [Learning Resources](#) provide a good starting point for self-education.

Write to your local community leaders to sign the ICAN Cities Appeal

Want to see your town or city become a leader in the disarmament of nuclear weapons? Use the ICAN Australia [action tool](#) to write to your local council. Encourage your council to sign the [ICAN Cities Appeal](#) in support of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Connect with organisations working on the issue

Get involved with organisations already working on this issue across Australia. Connect with organisations like [ICAN Australia](#) or sign up to receive Australian Red Cross' International Humanitarian Law [e-newsletter](#) to keep up to date on information.

Divest your super and bank account

Make sure your money isn't supporting the nuclear weapons industry. Use resources from [Don't Bank on the Bomb](#) to see if your bank is investing in nuclear weapons and how you can urge them to divest.



Mobilising in Your Immediate Networks

Share content on your social media channels

Share information about the harmful impacts of nuclear weapons on your social media channels and join the countdown to the treaty coming into force on 22 January 2021. Use the [Social Media Guide](#) included in the toolkit to show your support over social media.

Talk to others about your learning journey

Talk to your family and friends about your interest in eliminating nuclear weapons and why it's important to you. Use the [Storytelling Guide](#) in the toolkit to create your story around this issue to strike up a conversation.

Organise a book club or film screening

Gather a small group of family and friends to watch a film or read a book together about the dangers of nuclear weapons. Create space for an after-film discussion or make a monthly book club. The [Learning Resources](#) list in the toolkit has a list of books and films for inspiration.

Host a dinner discussion

Have your friends over for a nuclear weapons themed dinner and discussion. Use our [Discussion Cards](#) to start a conversation around nuclear weapons and learn to build paper cranes, the symbol of peace, together using this [video](#).



Mobilising in Your Local Community

Partner with your local cinema or pub to host an event

Reach out to your local cinema or pub to host a movie night and discussion or a No Nukes Trivia night. The toolkit includes a slide deck with ten questions for a [No Nukes Trivia](#) round.

Rally your school or workplace around a single issue

Start a micro-campaign in your school or workplace around one single action, such as getting the local bank to divest or getting your council to sign the [ICAN Cities Appeal](#). The toolkit includes a step-by-step guide on [Starting a Micro-Campaign](#).

Run a training or bootcamp to rapidly upskill others to become champions of the cause

Use the resources available in this document, and your learnings on the issue, to rapidly upskill those in your community. Host a lunch and learn at work and create communities designed around impact.

Start a meetup group for people interested in the issue

Connect with other people in your area who are interested in this issue and start a regular meet up group to create a community. Use a platform like [meetup.com](#) or Facebook Groups to create a community around the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mobilisation Toolkit

The resources below are designed to support you in mobilising against nuclear weapons. Click on each box to access the resource.

Learning Resources

Want to improve your knowledge on the issues, history, and stories surrounding nuclear weapons? Here's what to read, watch, and listen to.

Social Media Guide

Share information about the harmful impacts of nuclear weapons on your social media channels and join the countdown to the treaty coming into force on 22 January 2021.

Storytelling Guide

Use this guide to help develop your personal story about why a nuclear-weapons-free world is important.

Discussion Cards

Use these cards with your family and friends to start a conversation around the importance of eliminating nuclear weapons.

No Nukes Trivia

A slide deck of ten questions to test your knowledge on nuclear weapons with friends or at your local trivia night.

Starting a Micro-Campaign

A step-by-step guide on how to create a micro-campaign around one action in your community.