



**Public Statement**  
**Call for Australian Government to sign the Treaty on the**  
**Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**  
**Australian Yearly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)**  
**National Gathering July 2021**

1. **The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia calls upon the Australian Government to demonstrate leadership as a sovereign state, which chooses peace over war, and humanity over greed, by signing with intent to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.**
2. **The nuclear weapon ban treaty entered into force on 22 January 2021, making nuclear weapons, their use, production, storage, trade and movement illegal under international law.**
3. **This Treaty reinforces, complements and builds on the Non-Proliferation Treaty, of which Australia is a signatory, while not jeopardizing our security obligations under the ANZUS Treaty.**
4. **Of the 17 states designated by the United States as its major non-NATO allies, 11 – more than half, including Aotearoa/New Zealand - have already adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. None of these nations has experienced a negative impact on their alliance relationship with the United States.**
5. **Quakers believe that nuclear weapons pose one of the greatest threats to peace in the world. We deplore the suffering and destruction of innocent people and creatures created by the use of nuclear weapons, as well as the diverting of investment away from where it is most needed: health, education and the environment.**
6. **We are concerned that the Australian Government continues to take a position of opposition to the Treaty, and that it remains convinced of the need to stay under the US nuclear umbrella for security.**
7. **In taking this position, the Government is ignoring 78.9% of Australians who have voiced support for joining the Treaty (2018 Ipsos poll).**
8. **With the Treaty becoming international law, Australia will have to make a choice: either committing to a rules-based order where international law, humanitarianism and respect for the UN prevail, or remaining subservient to an archaic system which threatens massive nuclear destruction.**
9. **The potential use of nuclear weapons has never been moral, now it is also illegal. It's time for the Australian Government to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons for a safe, secure and peaceful future.**

**Australia Yearly Meeting**

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