



6 August 2024

Dear Prime Minister Anthony Albanese

We cannot wait another year to ban the bombs that decimated Hiroshima and Nagasaki!

Quakers Australia write to you on the 79th anniversary of the dropping of a nuclear weapon on Hiroshima, that killed up to 140,000 people.

At our recent national gathering Quakers Australia called on the Australian Government to show its commitment to nuclear disarmament by signing and ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW); and changing our defence policy to explicitly distance Australia from US extended nuclear deterrence.

We ask you to act now, so that by the 80th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima, Australia will have taken the basic step of distancing ourselves from these weapons of mass destruction and signed the nuclear ban treaty.

Prime Minister, we know that you support Australia signing the Treaty. At the 2018 Labor conference you stated “Nuclear weapons are the most destructive, inhumane and indiscriminate weapons ever created” and that we must work towards disarmament. In opposition you signed the Australian Federal parliamentary pledge to abolish nuclear weapons, one of now 108 Federal parliamentarians to do so. The Labor platform calls on the Treaty to be signed, and the vast majority of Australian citizens believe nuclear weapons have no place in our world.

As the Prime Minister you have the power to implement the policy that you clearly believe is the right thing to do.

Each of the 12,500 nuclear weapons in our world poses a fundamental threat to life on this planet. It is [estimated](#) that a limited regional nuclear war using 2% of global stockpiles could kill 120,000 million people and trigger a global nuclear famine, putting 2 billion lives at risk.

As long as our military policy seeks to rely on the flimsy notion of nuclear deterrence, then we are signalling that we believe there is a role for nuclear weapons in our world. Given the abhorrence of nuclear weapons, this cannot be the case.

We look forward to celebrating with you Australia’s signing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, thus taking our world one step closer to nuclear disarmament.

Yours in hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Henry".

Bruce Henry
Presiding Clerk
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia

cc: *federal parliamentarians*