

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Consultative Status with United Nations ECOSOC, UNCTAD and UNESCO
Consultative Relations with FAO, ILO, and UNICEF



Australian Section

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Australia, are very disappointed that the Labor Party policy in its draft form does not commit to signing and ratifying the humanitarian Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) launched in July 2017.

We welcome the draft policy's congratulations to ICAN for its outstanding work in this area 27/191 which WILPF International has supported in Australia and in New York with our disarmament project Reaching Critical Will; the recognition of the relative normative value of the TPNW 29/192; and its disapproval of the current government's role in previous negotiations in 2017 28/192.

However we cannot see any value in substituting efforts to strengthen the existing NPT treaty. Over the years there has been limited progress to implement this treaty, while the number of nuclear powers has increased. As well, the major nuclear powers are currently upgrading their existing arsenals.

The real issue here is not about the military security of Australia in the usual sense of defence planning, but that an outbreak of nuclear war threatens everyone with dire consequences for the world population. We need to remember that much of the existing weaponry is more lethal than what was used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Experts warn of a possible nuclear winter that would likely see an end to our world as we know it.

It is instructive that most of our neighbours in the Asia-Pacific region have signed the TPNW. Labor needs to join in with this movement to create a world more secure than before without nuclear weapons.

Yours sincerely

Christine Henderson
President