

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

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

It should be with pride that Australia now sees at the United Nations the imminent ratification of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), otherwise known as the 'Ban Treaty'. The role of ICAN (the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons) that was born here in Australia can be credited with much of the work involved to bring this wonderful achievement about. Their efforts have already been signaled by the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017; but here in Australia their work has had limited publicity in the mainstream media or support from our government.

The reasons given by successive Australian governments for opposing the TPNW treaty have been that such a treaty would be divisive, undermine the NPT (Nuclear Proliferation Treaty), and undermine its verification. But the opposite is true. The TPNW treaty does not undermine the NPT but strengthens efforts to contain and indeed eventually abolish nuclear weapons altogether. These weapons endanger all Australians, especially given various bases in our country such as Pine Gap making us targets for the nuclear weapons of others.

Instead of aligning with the existing nuclear states, in particular those that are our allies, Australia should sign, ratify, and vigorously lobby others including especially nuclear weapon states to sign and ratify the TPNW.

We as the Australian section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom urge you to back this achievement that has been so much an Australian achievement in the making, and sign and ratify the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Yours sincerely

Christine Henderson
President
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Australia)
29 October 2020