



The 81st Anniversary of the Bombings Of Hiroshima and Nagasaki August 9th, 2026

*"Today, more than ever, humanity cries out and calls for peace.
This is a cry that requires responsibility and reason, and it must not be
drowned out by the din of weapons or the rhetoric that incites conflict."
Pope Leo XIV*

Today we remember in sorrow the 81st anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima (August 6th) and Nagasaki (August 9th) and we mourn the loss of life and destruction of these cities. 210,000 people died as a result of the bombings, 90% of them civilians, and thousands more have continued to suffer for the rest of their lives.

In 2026 we are closer than ever to the possibility of a failure of deterrence and the use of nuclear weapons. More than 12,000 nuclear weapons remain in the global arsenal with over 85% held by the US and Russia. The last US-Russia arms control agreement, New START, expired Feb 5, 2026. No talks are underway. For the first time in 50 years, there are no limits on deployed nuclear weapons. The Doomsday clock is now at 85 seconds to midnight.

Nuclear weapons have devastating immediate and long-term effects which will not stop at national borders. Less than 0.1% of the explosive yield of the current global nuclear arsenal would cause catastrophic agricultural collapse and widespread famine. Healthcare systems would collapse. The cost would be devastation.

Just the production and testing of nuclear weapons have cost the world dearly. The President's proposed 2027 budget calls for a 42% increase in military spending to \$1.5 trillion, including a 12% increase in nuclear weapons funding to modernize the U.S. nuclear triad and develop new delivery. These are funds that could be provided for health care, education, disaster relief, fighting global climate change, world hunger.

The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force in January 2022. The treaty prohibits nations from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, transferring, possessing, stockpiling, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons, or allowing nuclear weapons to be stationed on their territory. As of July 2026, the total number of committed states to the TPNW (signed, ratified or acceded) is 100. Neither the US nor any of the nuclear nations have signed.



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Action Suggestions: Nationally

The U.S. did not participate in the negotiation of the TPNW. Rep. Eleanor Norton (D-DC) introduced HR 1888: Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Conversion Act of 2025. It would direct the U.S. to sign the TPNW and convert nuclear weapons industry resources and personnel to purposes relating to addressing the climate crisis, and for other purposes. It currently has nine co-sponsors. Contact your representative to cosponsor and support this bill.

President Trump, 202-456-1111, president@whitehouse.gov;

Your Senators, 202-224-3121, www.senate.gov; and

Your Representative, 202-224-3121, www.house.gov.

Locally:

Ask Mayor Mamdani (or the mayor of your city) to commit to join Mayors for Peace, a nonpartisan international network of municipalities, registered at the UN with ECOSOC. As of June 1st, 2026, there are 8,579 member cities in 166 countries and regions, including 230 U.S. member cities. In June 2026, the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted a Resolution "Urging the United States to Lead the World Back from the Brink of Nuclear War and Halt and Reverse the Nuclear Arms Race" and urging membership in Mayors for Peace which calls for the total abolition of nuclear weapons. www.mayorsforpeace.org

Educate yourselves and then others. Write Letters to the Editor and ask newspapers and other media to report on nuclear issues.

Visit these Websites or their Facebook & Twitter pages to learn more:

Abolition 2000, www.abolition2000.org

Back from the Brink www.preventnuclearwar.org

Don't Bank on the Bomb, www.dontbankonthebomb.org

Heiwa Peace & Reconciliation Foundation, www.heiwafoundation.org/

Hibakusha Stories, www.hibakushastories.org

Internat'l Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, www.icanw.org

Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, www.lcnp.org

Manhattan Project for a Nuclear-Free World, <http://mp-nuclear-free.com>

Nuclear Ban US nuclearban.us

Peace Action NYS, www.panys.org

Pax Christi International, www.paxchristi.net

PNND <https://pnnd.us>

Poor People's Campaign www.poorpeoplescampaign.org

Reaching Critical Will, www.reachingcriticalwill.org

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