



THE HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI ACCORD – August 6 & 9, 2020

Introduction:

This historic occasion – the 75th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki - marks the first time that four of the world's prominent international interfaith/intercultural organizations have joined together to make a common statement on any subject. Leaders of the [Charter for Compassion](#), the [Parliament of the World's Religions](#), [Religions for Peace](#) and the [United Religions Initiative](#), together, now feel compelled to speak out, as one, for nuclear abolition. Today, we focus on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in order to remember, in sorrow, what happened on August 6, and 9, in 1945 and, to rage against the vastly greater sorrow if our present-day weapons are unleashed in fury on this planet, and to present a challenge to the human family, especially the young, to take action now to bring hope and sanity in the midst of our mutually-assured destruction.

August 6, 1945, was the first day in human history when one country targeted an atomic bomb on the people of another country. On August 6, 2020, we now live in a world where nine countries have over 14,000 such bombs, and many of these weapons are aimed at specific peoples around the world. Ready to launch! We now live at a time when we can reasonably imagine the entire world, in the 21st century, looking like Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. The Hibakusha in these cities whisper over the years to tell us what these bombs are built to achieve, i.e. unimaginable suffering and extermination. So, it is indeed critical for the world to pause and look backwards 75 years. And to look forward to a time when the threat of nuclear weapons will have been, not only contained but, eliminated.

What was at stake, with the bombs in 1945, was the fate of two cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the outcome of a world war. What is at stake with today's nuclear arsenal – 75 years later – is the fate of all plants, animals, and human beings on planet Earth. The whole world has become the enemy and the target in a silent war of nuclear proliferation by nine countries.

In 1945, those two bombs were officially judged, by one nation, to be morally legitimate in the service of a higher purpose, i.e. ending a war. Once that moral threshold was crossed, eight other nations created their own rationale for such weapons possession and began building their own nuclear weapons. Now, among the most powerful nations, the prevailing morality is dominated by nuclear weapons manufacturers and politicians with nuclear arsenals. So strong is their hold on modern thinking that in

countries with nuclear weapons, generations of young people exist who believe that they are safe and have no need to make choices or raise their voices concerning matters of nuclear weapons.

Yet, if today's nuclear weapons actually hit their intended targets, no one will be around to judge us for what we allowed to happen. No one, except the Author of Life, or a cloud of moral remorse hovering over the scarred and sacred cinders of Earth's former communities. We must judge for ourselves now, today, if there is going to be a tomorrow. We have to declare that the possession of nuclear weapons is morally illegitimate. We must move from proliferation to abolition for the sake of a sustainable Earth.

In 1945, the issues were seen in terms of war and peace. Today, there is only one nuclear weapons issue, i.e. the life of this Earth's environment. We can keep it alive, or we can destroy it with the weapons of nine nations. We have maximized our capacity for self-delusion and self-destruction, and all life is at risk. Therefore, we must now move beyond the 1945 thinking that weds nuclear weapons to national security. Today, our bombs do not bring national security for one moment in time; they bring international insecurity for all time.

In 2020, how are we to “judge for ourselves” and reverse our dash toward nuclear annihilation?

- If you are young, demand urgent governmental action before these weapons rob you and your children of a future;
- If you are a diplomat, keep pounding away on the fulfillment of legal commitments, already contained in Treaties in force, that call for the reduction and elimination of the threat posed by these weapons;
- If you are a religious leader: pray, preach, prophesy to stop the nuclear end of the world;
- If you are not informed on these matters, become educated, subscribe to a nuclear newsletter and wake up;
- If you are a politician, join parliamentarians and leaders world-wide who are working to stop the modernization and expansion of the capacity of nuclear weapons in quality and quantity. And advance policies and legislation that reduces the threat of the use of the weapons, stops their spread and leads to their elimination;
- If you are a citizen, join a nuclear weapons abolition group, march in the streets, write letters, pray fervently, and demand that institutions stop investing in the nuclear weapon industry.
- If you are a scientist, don't be used by politicians who champion nuclear stockpiles, find solidarity in your ranks and reach across national boundaries to scientists in other countries.
- If you are an environmentalist, recognize that nuclear weapons are the immediate and ultimate climate change for all time.
- If you are a nation armed with nuclear weapons, join with other nuclear nations to establish a joint enterprise committed to working for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

We need to give birth to children who are not the targets of nuclear weapons. Let us prove the resiliency of the human spirit. Let us learn from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and arise, now, from our nuclear darkness.

