Ambassador Nikki Haley

Email: <https://usun.state.gov/contact>

March 9, 2017

Dear Ambassador Haley,

Greetings to you from Pax Christi USA,a member of Pax Christi International. We are writing with concern and hope about the stance our government is taking as negotiations to ban nuclear weapons begin at the United Nations.

We welcome the forthcoming negotiations. We see a legally binding prohibition of nuclear weapons as an exercise in the moral values and global responsibilities required to build a more secure world, better equipped to pursue peace. We take heart from the fact that the process is open to all states and includes civil society. The prospective treaty is a rare opportunity for all states to pursue what states pledge to do in the Non-Proliferation Treaty, namely, negotiate in good faith on effective measures related to nuclear disarmament.

To free the world of nuclear weapons is a global public good of the highest order. A humanitarian imperative is guiding these negotiations to prohibit the most destructive weapon ever made.

We and Pax Christi members in various countries are asking our respective governments to consider the following [human-centered parameters for the negotiation of the new treaty](http://www.paxchristi.net/news/statement-nuclear-weapons-ban-negotiations-four-calls-governments-human-centered-treaty/6582#sthash.SjUJfRhc.dpbs):

* Develop a robust new legal instrument;
* Take responsibility as a majority of states;
* Build from core human values and legally binding obligations;
* Ban nuclear weapons for a sustainable future.

Pax Christi’s worldwide membership shapes our conviction that all states and all peoples have a stake in these negotiations. It is fitting, therefore, that the movement towards a ban treaty is being led by a solid majority of states. These are states which have renounced nuclear weapons and established Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in many regions of the world.

That majority is now assuming responsibility for a universal prohibition of nuclear weapons as well. International organizations and civil society networks actively share the goal. Public opinion polls support it. Governments that rely on nuclear weapons are having difficulty in joining, but the worldwide risks posed by their reliance on nuclear weapons make them accountable to the many states which have rejected nuclear arms. The negotiations are and must remain open to all—as a matter of principle, perseverance and also belief.

For these reasons and more, we are among the many voices calling *all* governments to uphold their responsibilities by taking part in the nuclear weapons ban treaty negotiations in March and, if not then, in June/July 2017.

Therefore, and with due respect, we ask our own government to re-consider its current stance towards the forthcoming negotiations. The majority of states are shouldering multilateral obligations which apply to our government as well. We urge you to honor the purpose at hand and engage with the substance of these negotiations, in good faith.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to a reply and value every opportunity to be in contact with our country’s representatives on this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

***[INSERT SENDER’S NAME & POSITION]***

cc: Alice Kooij, Senior Advisor, Pax Christi International

Jonathan Frerichs, UN Representative for Disarmament, Geneva, Pax Christi International

Rachel Schmidt, Communications Coordinator, Pax Christi USA