

PAX CHRISTI AUSTRALIA
SUBMISSION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW OF ALL
TREATIES RELATING TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

Pax Christi Australia is a branch of Pax Christi International, the International Christian Peace Movement. Pax Christi Australia has branches in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland and individual members throughout Australia. Members are involved in peace efforts in the fields of demilitarisation and security, human rights, ecology, development, economic justice and reconciliation. We are an ecumenical body whose members are drawn from many Christian Churches. We are in dialogue with Jewish Muslim and other faith communities.

Pax Christi International is a global Christian peace movement that works to help establish peace, respect for human rights, justice and reconciliation in areas of the world that are torn by conflict. It is grounded in the belief that peace is possible and that vicious cycles of violence and injustice can be broken.

As a faith-based network, Pax Christi International seeks to transform a world shaken by violence, terrorism, deepening inequalities and global insecurity. Pax Christi International works to create a culture of peace and believes that religion should be an unequivocal force for peace and social justice. Pax Christi International is committed to non-violence and to demilitarization and disarmament, human security, human rights and the rule of law as the basis of peaceful societies. As a movement and a global network, Pax Christi International brings together people from many different backgrounds and cultures as they shape and act upon their shared vision of peace, reconciliation and justice for all.

For more than 25 years, Pax Christi has held consultative status with the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna, as well as with the U.N. Human Rights Commission and, more recently, UNESCO and UNICEF. It is also officially represented at the Council of Europe and enjoys, along with its member organizations, access to the European Parliament and the European Commission.

Pax Christi Australia participates in a network which focuses on peacebuilding, education and training in the Asia-Pacific region.

We have attached two documents from Pax Christi International to our submission:

- **Take Strong Leadership toward Achieving the Complete and Irreversible Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (July 2008)**
- **Position Statement: Missile Defence, Arms Race & Global Security (August 2007)**

In our submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament we wish to make the following points.

1. We believe in the sacredness of all human life and of the planet itself.
2. We therefore submit that it is immoral to threaten any human community with nuclear destruction and that any peace based on such a threat is no peace.
3. We believe that conflict between nations and people is not inevitable. We believe that reconciliation and justice is achievable. International politics based on the just distribution of and fair use of the earth's resources and international mutual support will remove the perceived need of such weapons.

4. We note that by far the largest nuclear arsenals are in the hands of the four powers who exercise the greatest control and consumption of the earth's resources. We believe the unjust distribution of the earth's resources to be at the root of many conflicts in the world to-day. The quest for disarmament can not be separated from the quest for justice.
5. We are concerned that other nations are acquiring or seeking to acquire nuclear weapons thus creating a greater probability of nuclear conflict.
6. We therefore encourage the Australian Government to move away from basing its politics on the inevitability of conflict and focus instead on building up regional and worldwide relationships that address with justice the issues behind such conflicts.
7. We encourage the Australian government to work for the strengthening of Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty.
8. We also encourage the Australian government to support the proposed Nuclear Weapons convention, to make the banning of all nuclear weapons and the establishment of an international treaty to achieve this, its long term policy and goal. Such a treaty would prohibit the development, testing, production, stockpiling, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as the production of fissile material suitable for making them (either highly enriched uranium or separated plutonium). It would require all nuclear-armed countries to destroy their nuclear weapons in stages the last stage being to place all fissile material under international control to prevent nuclear weapons ever being made again.
9. We believe that nuclear disarmament must begin with the four nations with the largest nuclear arsenals: France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.
10. Australia has the world's largest reserves of Uranium which is the raw material for nuclear weapons. We can only encourage others to disarm if we are willing *as a matter of urgency* to phase out the mining and export of uranium for all purposes. Once Uranium leaves our shores we have no guarantee that it not be used for the manufacture of weapons. We believe that the use of Uranium for the production of nuclear electricity leads to the ongoing possibility of nuclear weapons being secretly produced as well as being potentially harmful to humanity and to the planet. The possession of uranium by any nation even if for so called "peaceful purposes" creates threat and conflict in the perception of other nations.
11. We encourage the Australian government to take a lead with other concerned nations in promoting a Nuclear Weapons Conventions as the only way in removing the treat of the annihilation of the human race and of the planet.

On behalf of Pax Christi Australia

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