

# International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War



## IPPNW Strategic Priorities and Plans 2024-2030

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This document describes IPPNW's core priorities and outlines existing streams of federation-wide work that advance these priorities over the next several years. It is an accessible overview rather than an exhaustive narrative. The purpose is to promote a shared understanding of IPPNW's focus and key opportunities for action and to aid discussion, planning and coordination at the international, regional and local levels.

See our Calendar of Events related to our priorities [here](#). Contact Molly McGinty at [mmcginty@ippnw.org](mailto:mmcginty@ippnw.org) to learn more and get involved.

### **Mission**

A more peaceful and secure world freed from the threat of nuclear annihilation.

### **Values**

- Prevention is the only cure to the health effects of nuclear war.
- Sound evidence-based education and advocacy.
- Public understanding of the catastrophic Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons (HINW) is the key to delegitimizing, stigmatizing and totally eliminating nuclear weapons.
- Nonpartisan cooperation among health professionals, regardless of politics, ideology or religion.
- Collaboration with diverse communities working to secure a healthy, sustainable, more peaceful world for all.
- Determination to sustain our movement for the long-term until nuclear weapons are no longer a threat to human and planetary health.

### **Strategic Priorities:**

1. Abolish nuclear weapons and prevent nuclear war.
2. Deepen awareness and understanding of the Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons.

3. Build links between the twin existential threats of nuclear war and the climate crisis.
4. Strengthen the movement of engaged medical students, young doctors and youth.
5. Strengthen external partnerships, particularly among the global health and medical community, and networking.
6. Continue organizational growth and renewal.

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

### **1. Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear War**

Globally, our main legislative focus is advancing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). We also support the interim arms-reduction and confidence-building measures that reduce the risk of nuclear war and help build the movement toward a nuclear weapon free world. This is done in a non-political and non-partisan manner, allowing participation from health professionals and concerned citizens from any country.

Program priorities and projects include, but are not limited to:

- Advancing the universalization and implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)
  - Supporting national and regional advocacy to promote universalization (signature and ratification) of the TPNW.
  - Participating in the Review Conferences and annual Meetings of States Parties to promote implementation of the TPNW.
  - Collaborating with IPPNW affiliates and partner organizations on educational events and publications to raise public awareness of the TPNW and HINW.
- Participating in Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conferences and annual Preparatory Committee Meetings
  - Hosting side events on the HINW and complementarity with the TPNW, engaging States on meaningful risk reduction measures, pressuring nuclear-armed states to adhere to their obligations to disarm, etc.
- Supporting national and regional strategies, including ICAN cities appeals, efforts to stop AUKUS, efforts to end nuclear sharing, and raise awareness about the impacts of nuclear testing alongside affected communities.
- Strengthening people to people dialogue between states in conflict who possess nuclear weapons, beginning with IPPNW's original foundation of US-Russian dialogue, and exploring opportunities to do the same with new and renewed affiliates and all other allies in nuclear hot spots.

### **2. Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons**

Our work is focused on dialogue and education with decision-makers, the general public, medical professionals, and the media about the catastrophic medical, environmental and humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons.

Program priorities and projects include, but are not limited to:

- Public education
  - Advancing the tenet contained in the 2MSP Final Statement that “evidence-based policymaking on the effects of nuclear weapons...must

be central to all decisions and actions regarding the elimination of nuclear weapons.”

- Making use of IPPNW research and medical expertise, IPPNW leadership and affiliate members publishing and speaking widely and extensively on the HINW and related topics. Includes op-eds, TV and radio appearances, speaking at a variety of conferences and forums.
  - Responding to conflicts involving nuclear-armed states with webinars, statements, and talking points regarding the threats to public health and the risk of nuclear escalation.
  - Using social media. IPPNW social media is active with nearly 11,000 followers on X (formerly Twitter), over 4400 on Facebook and over 1600 on Instagram. Many affiliates and individual members also actively use social media, greatly expanding our educational reach worldwide.
  - Promoting IPPNW’s Peace and Health Blog, which currently has over 3000 followers.
  - Further develop the Medical Peace Work model in approaching and enlisting the support of the greater health and medical community - advocating that peace and health are inseparable.
  - Use our access to medical and health journals to promote our health and peace message.
- Advocacy with other United Nations agencies
    - Find 2MSP passage that calls for more UN agency engagement
    - Advocating with WHO Secretariat staff, governments, and key partner organizations on the importance and need for WHO to produce an updated authoritative report on the effects of nuclear war on health and health services. WHO last reviewed the issue in 1987. A principal priority at the IPPNW Geneva Liaison Office is renewed leadership from the WHO and the global health community in establishing prevention of nuclear war as a fundamental health goal.
    - Supporting and publicizing the work of the TPNW Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) and our IPPNW representative in SAG, Dr. Jans Fromow.

### **3. Twin Existential Threats of Nuclear War and the Climate Crisis**

Among the many crises in the world, two human-made hazards threaten our very existence: the growing threat of nuclear war and the accelerating climate crisis. IPPNW aims to strengthen the public’s understanding of the intersections and connect with the climate movement.

Program priorities and projects include, but are not limited to:

- Building on existing resources to create and disseminate materials on the twin existential threats. Including, but not limited to, blog posts, pages on the website, op-eds, and infographics. Use materials to plan public events, including webinars and side events at relevant UN and regional meetings.
- Working alongside the Climate Working Group, a network of IPPNW members and staff around the world committed to strengthening our work on the intersections and coordinating our participation at COP and related climate meetings.

- Promoting advocacy and messaging related to the intersection of nuclear weapons and nuclear power, emphasizing that it is not a solution to the climate crisis and in fact significantly increases the risk of nuclear weapons proliferation.
- Growing partnerships with climate leaders and organizations to strengthen the stigmatization of nuclear weapons.

#### **4. Medical Students, Young Doctors and Youth**

As the next generation of health professionals, IPPNW medical students are already playing an active role in safeguarding the planet's health. While ensuring our medical student movement remains youth-led, IPPNW aims to work alongside young leaders to strengthen and grow our network and relationships with like-minded youth organizations.

Program priorities and projects include, but are not limited to:

- Supporting IPPNW's existing global medical student movement with various projects, publications, and efforts, including bike tours, blog posts, attendance at UN meetings, etc., and promoting their work.
- Building and strengthening partnerships with like-minded health, disarmament, and peace youth organizations and leaders, including Youth for TPNW, the International Federation of Medical Students' Association, BASIC's Emerging Voices Network, Young Professionals in Foreign Policy, and more.
- Encouraging and coordinating intergenerational dialogue between IPPNW's medical students, junior doctors, and senior leadership to ensure knowledge and tactics for change are shared amongst generations.