



IPPNW Launches International Campaign to  
Abolish Nuclear Weapons  
April 23, 2007

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**Dear Colleagues,**

ICAN -- the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear weapons -- was launched in Australia and around the world today. <http://www.icanw.org>

ICAN will be launched in a rolling series of events around the world. Through initiating ICAN, doctors and medical professionals working in 60 countries are joining with mayors and prominent persons to encourage governments to deliver the disarmament they promise through a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

ICAN was launched today, Monday 23 April, in Australia and many other countries because it marks the 50th anniversary of the radio broadcasts of Nobel Laureate Dr. Albert Schweitzer's. His "Declaration of Conscience" was the first medically motivated call to action against nuclear weapons, and provided many reasons for wanting to prevent the terrible health and environmental impact of nuclear war. Dr. Schweitzer provided a prescription for securing our survival: the complete abolition of nuclear weapons. Many events are planned around the world; see here for listing of events celebrating Dr. Schweitzer in each region: [www.reverenceforlife.org](http://www.reverenceforlife.org)

Citizens and governments have worked towards abolishing nuclear weapons for 61 years, and numbers of nuclear weapons have gone down from 65,000 in 1968 to the roughly 27,000 we live with today. Nuclear weapons have not been used in war since the bombings of civilians in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, largely because of an organized and visible anti-nuclear peace movement which included scientists that had worked on the bomb, doctors, politicians, authors, activists and thousands of people who protested in imaginative and effective ways ever since nuclear weapons were invented, but especially during the height of the Cold War in the 1960's, 70's and 80's.

The ICAN effort is the next stage of doctors, mayors and citizens joining with governments to work for a Nuclear Weapons Convention - a treaty that would finally establish the process, define terms and set the conditions for progress towards getting the number of nuclear weapons to zero.

**Find out more about ICAN and the solution to the nuclear dangers we face at [www.icanw.org](http://www.icanw.org)**

Contact the IPPNW affiliate in your country or region for more information.  
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