



Women leading for Peace and Disarmament

Statement for International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament, May 24, 2017

On the occasion of **International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament**, we members of the World Future Council and laureates of the Right Livelihood Award (listed below) express our horror at terrorist acts - such as the recent ones in Manchester UK, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and Egypt - and to all forms of indiscriminate violence.

We highlight the importance of fully engaging women in peace and disarmament processes and initiatives, and in embracing feminine as well as masculine approaches to peace and security.

We highlight the success of peace and disarmament initiatives in which women have played an important role, including in Bougainville, Colombia, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Philippines, Sierra Leone, and other regions around the world.

We express concern over the existential threats to humanity and the planet from climate change and the increased threat of nuclear war – a situation which has moved the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists to [move the Doomsday Clock to 2½ minutes to midnight](#).

The threats to our planet – of climate change, environmental degradation, poverty, terrorism and war – can only be overcome by nations and the global community working in cooperation – something not possible while nations maintain large and expensive militaries and threaten to destroy each other, including with nuclear weapons.

We therefore support the [United Nations negotiations in New York this June/July](#) on an agreement to prohibit nuclear weapons, the [Women's March to Ban the Bomb](#) being held on the eve of these negotiations, and the [UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament](#) to take place in 2018.

The world is overspending on military – at \$1.7 trillion globally – and underspending on peace and development. We call on governments to support the [Kazakhstan proposal to reduce national military budgets and to reallocate these resources to meet the Sustainable Development Goals](#).

And we call on all nations to resolve their conflicts and ensure their security through cooperative security and international law rather than through the threat or use of force.

Globalization in the 21st Century has made comprehensive disarmament, the abolition of war and the achievement of cooperative security, realistic goals. We now have international mechanisms – such as the United Nations and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe - that can address security concerns, resolve international conflicts and respond to potential aggression in non-violent ways. And we have a growing global awareness and sense of responsibility to each other that is enhanced by the involvement of women at all levels of conflict resolution and peacemaking, as promoted by [UN Security Council Resolution 1325](#).

We reach across our national borders to recognize our common human identity and to collaborate on building a peaceful, secure and just world. We invite you to join us.

Endorsers overleaf

Statement endorsed by:

Members of the World Future Council:

- Hafsat Abiola (Nigeria)
- Ibrahim Abouleish (Egypt)
(also a Right Livelihood Laureate)
- Dipal Barua (Bangladesh)
- Ana María Cetto (Mexico)
- Scilla Elworthy (UK)
- María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés (Ecuador)
- Ashok Khosla (India)
- Rolf Kreibich (Germany)
- David Krieger (USA)
- Prof. Manfred Max-Neef (Chile-Germany)
- Jan McAlpine (USA)
- Frances Moore-Lappe (USA)
(also a Right Livelihood Laureate)
- Dr Vandana Shiva (India)
(also a Right Livelihood Laureate)
- Alyn Ware (Aotearoa-New Zealand)
(also a Right Livelihood Laureate)
- Chico Whitaker (Brazil)
(also a Right Livelihood Laureate)
- Anders Wijkman (Sweden)

Right Livelihood Laureates:

- Swami Agnivesh (Indian)
- Martin Almada (Paraguay)
- Maude Barlow (Canada)
- Nnimmo Bassey (Nigeria)
- Andras Biro (Hungary)
- Anwar Fazal (Malaysia)
- Juan E. Garcés (Spain)
- Ruchama Marton (Israel)
- Bill McKibben (USA)
- Raul Montenegro (Argentina)
- Jacqueline Moudeina (Chad)
- Helena Norberg-Hodge (India)
- Juan Pablo Orrego S. (Chile)
- Sima Samar (Afghanistan)
- David Suzuki (Canada)
- Shrikrishna Upadhyay (Nepal)
- János Vargha (Hungary)
- Paul Walker (USA)
- Alla Yaroshinskaya (Russia)
- Angie Zelter (UK)