

Proposal to Abolition 2000 for US Movement Building

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Introduction

This is a movement-building proposal aimed at the United States. However, it should be of interest to the global nuclear weapons abolition movement because unless the US cooperates in the abolition of nuclear weapons, abolition will not occur. Previous US anti-nuclear movements have shown that a robust grassroots movement is a precursor to US progress toward nuclear sanity.

Current Situation

The US abolition movement is currently quite small when compared to the task that confronts it. However, it is even small compared to previous US anti-nuclear movements of the 1950s and 1980s. It will require a much larger and more robust movement to move the US government and weapons contractors away from producing nuclear weaponry.

How Can We Create the Movement We Need?

The key to the strength of previous anti-nuclear movements was widespread local organizing in many areas, such as: education, recruiting (both of activists and of opinion leaders), resource creation, lobbying, citizen diplomacy, community-building, political campaigns, strategizing, linking up with other movements and undermining the industry's pillars of support. The movements also used a variety of tactics, including art, music, humor, shaming the industry, divestment, petition and pledge campaigns, and mobilizing faith communities, in addition to demonstrations and civil resistance.

We need to again build a powerful locally based nuclear abolition movement, using these methods (though, of course, the Internet and modern technologies change the way these are implemented). We must not put all our eggs in one or two baskets (like lobbying and demonstrations) while ignoring all the other methods that have contributed to success in the past.

Therefore, Abolition 2000 should focus on generating many local groups, each taking on the kind of organizing task it considers itself most suited to, and offer coordination (rather than direction) to these groups.

For more details, please refer to <http://oregonpeaceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Draft-Strategy-for-Building-a-Powerful-US-Anti-Nuclear-Movement-v6-18.pdf>.