MOVE THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS MONEY

(Abolition 2000 Working Group on Economic Aspects of Nuclearism)

One trillion dollars is being spent to modernize the nuclear arsenals of nine countries over the next 10 years.

This money could instead be used to help address the coronavirus pandemic, end poverty, protect the climate, build global peace and achieve the sustainable development goals.

Move the Nuclear Weapons Money is an international campaign to:
- cut nuclear weapons budgets
- encourage divestment from companies manufacturing nuclear weapons and their delivery systems
- reallocate these budgets and investments to meet economic, social and environmental need – such as ending poverty, protecting the climate, supporting renewable energy, creating jobs, and providing adequate healthcare, housing and education for all

Launched in 2016, Move the Nuclear Weapons Money campaign has been growing ever since. About two years ago, the "meme" campaign ran predominantly on social media (Facebook, now also Instagram) was introduced. Since then, the campaign has collected over a hundred of endorsers: politicians, religious leaders, activists, musicians, youth or sports people... In October 2019 the Count the Nuclear Weapons Money global action creatively expressed the amounts of money being globally spent on nuclear weapons with events in USA, the UK, New Zealand...

In 2020, while the Covid-19 pandemic has clearly affected our work, it has not slowed the campaign or its outreach down. The “meme” campaign is running strongly on our social media. Some endorsers are even pointing out the connection between coronavirus (and the lack of governmental funds for a fast and effective response) and Move the Nuclear Weapons Money, expressing the need to shift all “nuclear money” into health care systems, research or prevention. The coronavirus-related challenges have highlighted the need for a focus shift from military security to human security, which the Move the Nuclear Weapons Money campaign supports.

In attempts to make this report brief, let us highlight some key past and ongoing events/programs that Move the Nuclear Weapons Money campaign has been working on:

**Our past events:**

- **International conference: Move the Nuclear Weapons Money**
  - April 12-13, 2019, Basel, Switzerland.
  - An international conference on divestment and other actions by cities, universities, parliaments and religious institutions to reverse the nuclear arms race and protect the climate.
  - For more information, visit this [link](#).

- **Count the Nuclear Weapons Money Action 2019**
  - October 24-30, 2020, New York City (USA) & satellite countings in New Mexico (USA), Philadelphia (USA), London (UK) and Wellington (NZ)
  - An interactive art installation showcasing the enormous amount of money being spent on nuclear weapons over the next decade.
  - We have created million mock notes, each of a million USD value. Visitors were counting the money by hand and symbolically re-allocating these to the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. Counting took 7 days and nights.
- Move the Nuclear Weapons (and Fossil Fuels) Money webinar 2020
  - April 21, 2020, online Zoom platform
  - International webinar highlighting public campaigns and legislative efforts to cut nuclear weapons budgets, along with examples of nuclear weapons and fossil fuel divestment by cities, universities, governments, religious organizations, pension funds, banks and private investors…
  - Almost three hundred attendees tuned in for the webinar, while another tens of people have watched it on Facebook (both live and after).
  - For more information visit this link.

Our on-going activities:

- Youth Voices webinars
  - May 14 and May 19, 2020
  - These two webinars will include voices of civil society and youth from climate, peace, disarmament and sustainable development campaigns. The aim is to inspire more young people become more active in their communities and to encourage intergenerational dialogue.
  - Our youth coordinators will participate in both sessions to present the campaign, and invite more young people to join and endorse.
  - More information on Session 1 are here, for information on Session 2 visit this link.

- Global “meme” campaign on social media
  - A “meme” is a picture that contains the endorser’s quote and a photograph. They are easily shareable on social media. When possible, the endorser is tagged in the post, so that it is easy for them to re-share it as well. This way, the outreach of the campaign grows substantially.
  - One meme worth mentioning is from our endorser Rev. Emma Jordan-Simpson who has decided to give a second quote reacting to the current pandemic. Within two months, this post alone (on Facebook) has reached over 7,000 people and was re-shared 60 times.
  - To see all “memes” published, visit our Facebook page.
  - Lastly, we invite you to join the Move the Nuclear Weapons Money campaign yourself! To do so, submit a quote, a photograph and a title you want us to use by sending these to info@movethenuclearweaponsmoney.org.
  - Examples of some recently published “memes”:

![Meme Example 1](image1)

“Our country still has a long list of urgent domestic needs that have been put on the back-burner. As the only nation that has used nuclear weapons in war, I urge support for my bill to help the United States reestablish its moral leadership in the world by redirecting funds that would otherwise go to nuclear weapons, to instead meet these urgent domestic needs.”

- Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (USA), Author of the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act of 2019

![Meme Example 2](image2)

“At sleepovers, Kazakhstan children tell each other one spooky story after which none of them can close their eyes for a second. That is the story of Semipalatinsk, a primary nuclear weapons testing venue of Soviet Union. Although it has been decades since last testing, Kazakhstani people still suffer from the irradiation. Acknowledging the trauma nuclear weapons brought to humanity, we cannot support it neither financially nor - in any way - spiritually. The only right thing to do is to redirect global investments to secure the future of our youth: Invest in education, eliminate poverty, build a healthcare system.”

- Nurya Azamatova, Youth Peace Week Ambassador for Kazakhstan, CTBTO Youth Group Member, Civic Activist
- **Nuclear Weapons Divestment: Steps Towards a Sustainable Future**
  - Handbook on nuclear weapons divestment which is to be released later this year.
  - A Handbook on the ins and outs of divestment and nuclear divestment to inform and empower civil society and legislators for their own divestment initiatives. With examples of actions on different levels (see subtitle) to illustrate the processes and outcomes involved. The guide contains information on divestment for every step of the process, including answers to frequent reservations, as well as further reading and sources to ensure that investments are made into our sustainable future.
  - For more information, please contact us at info@movethenuclearweaponsmoney.org.

Lastly, let us share some key contacts and links where you can find more information about the campaign, current events and projects as well as the campaign’s endorsers and much more!

**Key contacts and links:**
- campaign’s website: www.nuclearweaponsmoney.org
- campaign’s Facebook page: http://facebook.com/GTNWM/
- campaign’s Instagram page: https://www.instagram.com/movethenukemoney/
- email: info@nuclearweaponsmoney.org