



# Basel Peace Office

*Advancing international peace and security through  
the abolition of nuclear weapons*

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## Report to Abolition 2000 Annual Meeting

### INTRODUCTION:

*Basel Peace Office* (BPO) is a coalition of five Swiss and four international organizations, established to engage a range of key constituencies in nuclear weapons abolition issues. These include academics, legislators (mayors and parliamentarians), religious communities, lawyers, medical professionals, governments/diplomats, the United Nations, youth and civil society organizations.

As an active member of Abolition 2000, BPO places a priority on advancing projects of Abolition 2000 working groups, supporting the Abolition 2000 secretariat and assisting to manage the network.

### KEY PROJECTS

BPO provides organizational and staffing support for a number of projects that will be covered by other reports, including from [Move the Nuclear Weapons Money](#), [Youth Fusion](#), [Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament](#), Mayors for Peace (Europe) and [UNFOLD ZERO/#WeThePeoples2020](#). [Nuclear Games](#), one of our new projects which is organized in cooperation with Youth Fusion and Docmine, will be introduced as a proposal to the Abolition 2000 AGM.

In addition to the above, BPO is a co-founder of [NoFirstUse Global](#), a new platform to advance the adoption of no-first-use policies by nuclear-armed States, support for such policies from nuclear allied countries, and implementation of such policies to help achieve broader nuclear risk-reduction, non-proliferation and disarmament measures.

### BASEL PEACE FORUM AND THE PACEY AWARD

BPO in cooperation with the Basel Canton has established the PACEY Youth Awards, a global prize supporting youth-led initiatives for peace, nuclear abolition and climate action. Finalists for the awards present their projects - which are then voted upon - at an annual inter-generational event which is organized by BPO in conjunction with the [Basel Peace Forum](#).

The [winners for 2021](#) were [World Youth for Climate Action](#), a youth-led initiative to have the International Court of Justice consider the responsibilities of states to protect the climate for future generations, and the [Platform for Peace and Humanity](#) project to establish a *Global Coalition of Youth Ambassadors for the Right to Peace*, to then advocate in countries of the ambassadors as well as at the UN to strengthen the Right to Peace as a human and legal right.

## **NUCLEAR WEAPONS, NUCLEAR ENERGY AND HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING RIGHTS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

BPO brings together lawyers, affected communities and civil society campaigners in the movements against nuclear weapons and nuclear energy, in order to build cooperation and enhance the campaigns. This included a major four-day international conference in 2017 of doctors, lawyers, scientists and nuclear experts from 27 countries, which concluded with the release of the [Basel Declaration on human rights and trans-generational crimes resulting from nuclear weapons and nuclear energy](#).

In follow-up to the Basel Declaration, BPO has organized events at the UN in Geneva, made submissions to the UN Human Rights Committee (see below) and developed Nuclear Games, which uses interactive web-based animation and documentary video to tell five human-centered stories from the nuclear age.



*Basel International Conference on Human Rights, Future Generations and Crimes in the Nuclear Age*

## **UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THE RIGHT TO LIFE**

In 2018, the UN Human Rights Committee [affirmed](#) that the threat or use of nuclear weapons ‘*is incompatible with respect for the right to life and may amount to a crime under international law*’, and that States parties to the ICCPR must ‘*refrain from developing, producing, testing, acquiring, stockpiling, selling, transferring and using them.*’

BPO has followed up by making submissions to the UN Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) challenging the policies and practices of nuclear armed and allied states, when these states have come up for their periodic review. This has included submissions on [Canada](#), [France](#), [North Korea](#) and [Iceland](#). In addition, BPO has made a submission to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) with regard to [Denmark’s nuclear policies](#) and the nuclear weapons accident of 1968. BPO brings together legal experts with youth, civil society campaigners, and (when possible) impacted communities from the countries in question, to make joint submissions, there-by increasing their relevance and impact on the UNHRC and CEDAW.

## **RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES**

BPO was commissioned by Religions for Peace to produce a [Nuclear Disarmament Resource Guide for Religious Communities](#). The Resource Guide is available in [Arabic](#), English, [French](#), [German](#), [Japanese](#) and [Spanish](#). The German edition was produced and published in cooperation with the Reformed Church in Basel and launched in conjunction with an OSCE meeting in Basel. BPO continues to engage religious communities in nuclear disarmament through this very useful resource guide.

For more information on our activities, please visit [www.baselpeaceoffice.org](http://www.baselpeaceoffice.org) or read our [2020 Annual Report](#).

