



Basel Peace Office

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

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Report to Abolition 2000 Annual Meeting Basel Peace Office activities July 2021 – June 2022

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) [UNFOLD ZERO](#).

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. The activities of NoFirstUse Global report will be included in the report of the [Abolition 2000 Working Group on Nuclear Risk Reduction](#).

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.

The [winners for 2022](#) are *Faith for Earth Bosna i Hercegovina*, a youth-led program building cooperation between Catholic and Muslim youth on environmental action, and *Keep it in the Ground for Peace*, a youth-led campaign to stop fossil fuel extraction in Africa, for being selected as the two winners of the PACEY Youth Award 2022.

CLIMATE - NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT NEXUS / ICJ CLIMATE CASE

BPO advances the [Climate – Nuclear Disarmament Nexus](#), which makes connections between nuclear threats and the climate crisis - both of which are existential threats to humanity - and which builds cooperation between climate action and nuclear abolition communities. In 2021-2022 this included a number of events such as the [Peace, Climate Change and Nuclear Abolition Inter-generational Forum](#) (see below), persuading the President of the UN General Assembly to select young climate activists to speak as [the two civil society voices for the UN High Level Meeting on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons](#), and co-organising with *Normandy Chair for Peace* and *World's Youth for Climate Justice* a [webinar series](#) on the campaign to take climate change to the International Court of Justice, inspired by the 1996 nuclear weapons case. Note that the ICJ climate campaign is on track to achieve later this year the UNGA resolution required to take the case to the court.



A few of the events on climate – nuclear disarmament nexus and the ICJ climate campaign

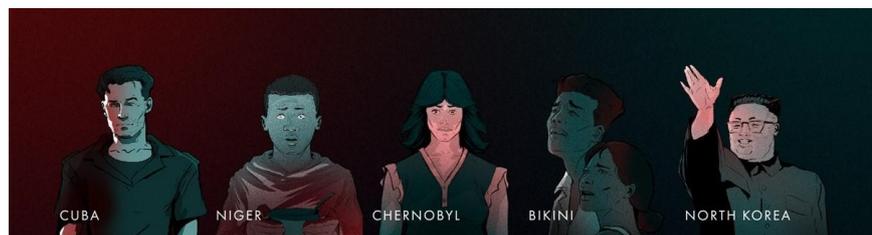
BASEL ANNUAL INTERGENERATIONAL FORUM

BPO organizes an annual inter-generational event in January in conjunction with the [Basel Peace Forum](#). In 2022 [the event](#) focused on engagement between youth and policymakers (legislators) on the Climate / Nuclear Disarmament nexus. The Intergenerational Forum also includes the presentation of PACEY Award finalists and voting by event participants to determine the winners.

NUCLEAR GAMES – NUCLEAR FEAR

In July 2021, on the eve of the Tokyo Olympics, we launched [Nuclear Games](#) in cooperation with Docmine, Swiss Physicians for Social Responsibility/IPPNW, World Future Council and Youth Fusion. Nuclear Games is an innovative film and online platform addressing our nuclear history and the risks and impacts of nuclear weapons and energy.

Nuclear Games tells the stories of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Chernobyl disaster, the victims of uranium mining and nuclear testing and the North Korean nuclear program, using a unique combination of manga, historical footage, and interactive online content designed to engage younger audiences. The package consists of five short manga stories about real people in the center of these historical events, an hour-long animated feature film, and a web documentary platform which serves up the interactive content. The platform has received a number of prestigious Swiss media awards.



In light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the elevated risks of nuclear war, the package and introductory documentary is being reformatted as *Nuclear Fear* and will be released soon.

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, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and Human Rights Council challenging the policies and practices of nuclear armed and allied states, when these states have come up for their periodic reviews. The submissions have been made in cooperation with Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace, World Future Council and Youth Fusion – as well as with national organizations from the countries under review. In 2021 this included submissions on [Canada](#), [Denmark](#) [France](#), [North Korea](#) and [Iceland](#). In 2022 this included submissions on [Japan](#), [Netherlands](#), [South Korea](#) and the [United Kingdom](#).

Some of these submissions have been followed up by online or in-person events, including an event following up on the submission on Denmark – which focused on the impact of the Thule nuclear bomber crash on indigenous (Greenland) women and children – and an [event in Geneva](#) following up on the Netherlands and UK submissions. We also organized an event on *Nuclear weapons and human rights* on to commemorate International Nuclear Remembrance Day (anniversary of the Bravo nuclear test in the Marshall Islands).



Two of our events (and some of the speaker s) on *Nuclear Weapons and Human Rights*

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.



Some of the different lanuage editions of the *Nuclear Disarmament Resource Guide for Religious Communities*.

BASEL PEACE OFFICE FULL REPORT

For a full report on our activities for 2021 please see our [2021 Annual Report](#). For updated information please visit www.baselpeaceoffice.org or [subscribe](#) to Basel Peace Office Updates.