



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 is a coalition of four Swiss organizations and four international organizations working for the peace and security of a nuclear-weapons-free world.

Located close to the UN in Geneva and on the border of a non-nuclear country (Switzerland), a nuclear weapon State (France) and a nuclear ally (Germany), Basel focuses on bringing together constituencies from differing countries to develop [common security approaches](#) to end the reliance on nuclear deterrence and achieve nuclear disarmament.

We serve as the European Office of [Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament](#) (PNND) and have programs on the *Climate-Peace-Disarmament Nexus*, *Nuclear-weapon-free zones*, *Sports and Peace*, [Nuclear weapons and climate change in the UN Human Rights Bodies](#), *Inter-faith engagement in nuclear abolition*, *Youth engagement* and *Nuclear weapons budgets/divestment*. In this short report we will cover just two projects from these programs – the **PACEY Award** and the **Move the Nuclear Weapons Money campaign**. You can read about all programs at [Basel Peace Office Director's Report 2023](#).



The [Peace, nuclear Abolition and Climate Engaged Youth \(PACEY\) Award](#) provides three annual prizes of €5000 each for youth projects plus organizational support to assist in the successful implementation of the projects. Normally we receive 70-80 nominated projects each year. The jury selects **nine finalists** from these. And the winners are chosen by secret ballot of participants at the annual PACEY Award ceremony, after they have heard presentations from the finalists.

Some of the [previous winners](#) have achieved a lot after receiving the award. [World's Youth for Climate Justice](#), for example, has succeeded in their campaign to get the issue of climate change heard in the International Court of Justice, the world's highest court. The [case is currently pending](#).

Winners for 2024 were:

- **Educational Youth Initiative on Climate Change and Nuclear Testing**, a project of [Moruroa e Tātou](#) to educate and engage youth in these issues through a series of workshops on various islands of Māōhi Nui (Polynesia);
- **Bridge Builders: Empowering Youth for Peace in Afghanistan**, a project of the [Afghanistan Women's Think Tank](#) to rekindle the peace-building spirit and activate youth participation in peacebuilding;
- **Empowering Youth for Climate Action and Peace**, a project of [Effective Thesis](#) to help students choose a thesis topic that could make positive impact for the world in the areas of climate change and peace, and to provide thesis coaching once the thesis topic has been chosen.



[Move the Nuclear Weapons Money](https://www.nuclearweaponsmoney.org) is a global campaign to cut nuclear weapons budgets, end investments in the nuclear weapons industry and shift these budgets and investments to support peace, climate protection, public health and sustainable development.

The campaign was launched in October 2016 at the 135th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly in Geneva by the Basel Peace Office, International Peace Bureau, World Future Council and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament. A number of other organizations and networks are cosponsors including the Global Security Institute, Peace Accelerators, UNFOLD ZERO, World Federalist Movement, Youth Fusion and the Abolition 2000 Working Group on Economic Dimensions of Nuclearism.

The campaign highlights nuclear divestment at national levels - Lichtenstein, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland have already divested from the nuclear weapons industry – and encourages additional countries to follow this example, especially those that have signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The campaign also promotes divestment at regional and local/city levels, and by universities, faith-based institutions, banks (including by supporting *Don't Bank on the Bomb*) and individual investors.

In 2019, the campaign organized a global [Count the Nuclear Weapons Money action](#), during which over \$500 billion in mock money was 'taken' from the nuclear weapons industry, counted and reallocated to the SDGs.

In 2023, the campaign promoted legislative initiatives to cut nuclear weapons budgets, including those introduced in the US senate by PNND Co-President Senator Ed Markey and PNND member Rep Jim McGovern. One example in 2023 was the [Hastening Arms Limitation Talks \(HALT\) Act](#). In introducing the act Rep McGovern said:

"Every penny spent on nuclear weapons serves no purpose but to strengthen the hand of evil in the world and bring humanity one step closer to extinction. We need a 21st century nuclear freeze movement so we can spend our time and money improving our country and world, and eliminate nuclear weapons before they eliminate us."

And we ran a [Move the Nuclear Weapons Money action month](#) as part of the Global Days of Action on Military Spending. The campaign also promotes the [Protect People and the Planet Appeal](#), which includes the call to cut nuclear weapons budgets and investment and re-purpose these for peace, climate protection and sustainable development.

