



# Commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary

## Ideas for organizing events and activities to commemorate the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

The 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6 and 9 August is a significant moment for our campaign and the work to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons. It will be a great opportunity to raise awareness on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and the need to negotiate a treaty to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons.

The Chair's summary of the Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Nayarit indicated the 70th Anniversary as the appropriate milestone to negotiate such a treaty.

It is therefore important that ICAN's partner organisations make this a key date in our calendar and organize events and actions all over the world.

From ICAN's side, we will develop some tools for you to use in your outreach activities. These tools will consist of things like an FAQ on what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, quotes from Hibakusha, material you can share on Facebook and Twitter, pictures you can use to develop your material and relevant information for the media (background info, template op-eds, etc).

### What you can do

There are many things you can do to raise awareness on what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and call on your government to ban nuclear weapons. Here is a list of suggestions that you can use to develop actions and events.

#### Political actions

- Organize a roundtable with relevant national actors: to discuss the pledge and a process to negotiate a treaty to ban nuclear weapons;
- Meetings with foreign minister: to congratulate them for joining the pledge or ask them to join the pledge and discuss next steps namely a process to prohibit nuclear weapons;
- Parliamentary work: Organize meetings, propose a motion, or get a parliamentarian to ask a question to your Foreign Minister about the 70th anniversary, the humanitarian consequences and the need to negotiate a treaty banning nuclear weapons. Although many parliaments, in particular in the Northern hemisphere, are normally closed during July and August, you can also think about involving parliamentarians in other ways for instance by organising a roundtable or ask them to write an opinion piece.
- Meeting with political parties: Political parties normally organise their programmatic meetings

during the summer. Organise an event/debate there and raise awareness on the pledge, the treaty and the historic opportunity to ban nuclear weapons.

### **Public outreach**

- Organize a street action or a flash mob.
- Get in touch with your local faith community and ask to organize a vigil or another ceremony. Perhaps ask if for example the bells or any other sound can ring at 8:15 am on the 6th of August or 11:02am on 9th August (the exact local times when the bombs were dropped).
- Hold a lecture at a university or in schools
- Use traditional symbols for remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki as paper cranes and paper lanterns in activities to create a public action.

### **Media**

The 70th anniversary is a good opportunity to raise awareness of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the humanitarian impact that nuclear weapons have, and the need to negotiate a treaty banning nuclear weapons in the media.

The bombings and the testimonies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors are powerful stories and something that many newspapers and media outlets might be interested in publishing.

- Get as many letters to the editors published in local newspapers all over the country.
- Write an op-ed for a newspaper. (and/or get it signed by a famous person, head of a humanitarian organisation, politician, etc)
- Suggest to journalists that they interview Hibakusha and let them know you can add comments on the process to ban nuclear weapons (we can help with contacts, quotes and images).
- Highlight the role of your government in the process to ban nuclear weapons. Is your government a champion state or a spoiler?

### **Potential partners to work with**

- Team up with all the national ICAN partner organisations or other organisations that work on disarmament and humanitarian issues in your country to coordinate events and activities.
- Work with your national Red Cross/Red Crescent society and other humanitarian actors. (Ask them to co-sign op-eds, co-organize events, do their own media work, etc)
- Invite or co-organize events together with the Japanese embassy in your country.

These are just some initial suggestions, there are many more activities and events that you can do, so get creative! Let us know what you are planning to commemorate the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and if you need any help from us. And do feel free to brainstorm and share experiences and ideas with the rest of the campaign on the Campaigners' list.