

Draft Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day Proclamation 2024

Possible Proclamation Titles

Lifting Community Voices for A World Free of Nuclear Weapons

It's Time to Step Back from the Brink of Nuclear War

Seeking Justice, Human Security and A World Free of Nuclear Weapons

Whereas, a world in which nuclear weapons exist and threaten our community and humanity's very existence is a deeply unjust world;

Whereas, seventy-nine years ago, on August 6th and August 9th, hundreds of thousands of human beings died¹—many instantly—or suffered severe health consequences in the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Japan when the United States dropped atomic bombs, for the first and only time in armed conflict;

Whereas, many people and communities within the United States have been and continue to be grievously harmed and suffer severe health consequences from the testing, development and production of nuclear weapons and uranium mining;

Whereas, no individual in any community can be truly safe and secure if they are hungry, lack proper housing, education or health care, or are regularly subject to the threat of physical harm, gun violence or nuclear war;

Whereas, nine nations collectively have approximately 12,100 nuclear weapons² in their arsenals, most of which are far more destructive than those used against the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the detonation of even a small number of these weapons would affect everyone on the planet, causing catastrophic human and environmental consequences³ that could threaten human civilization itself;

Whereas, the full cost of U.S. nuclear weapons in 2023 alone, including for weapons development, testing and maintenance, environmental clean-up, missile defense and non-proliferation initiatives, was an estimated \$90 billion⁴ with plans underway to spend an estimated \$1.5 trillion⁵ by 2046 to replace its entire nuclear

arsenal and the bombers, missiles and submarines that deliver them with more capable, more usable versions;

Whereas, in 2023 U.S. taxpayers [insert name of city/town] taxpayers spent [insert amount from PSR-LA Community Costs Calculator - <https://www.psr-la.org/nuclear-costs>] on nuclear weapons-related programs - funds which could be better spent addressing urgent community needs for housing, education, infrastructure, jobs, health care, poverty alleviation, climate resilience and environmental protection;

Whereas, current Cold War-era U.S. nuclear weapons policies and spending are contributing to a dangerous, costly new global nuclear arms race, do not make the country safer and increase the risk of nuclear war;

Whereas, a U.S.-based national grassroots campaign called “Back from the Brink: Bringing Communities Together to Abolish Nuclear Weapons⁶” which calls on the United States to lead a global effort among all nuclear weapons states to achieve a verifiable, timebound agreement to eliminate all nuclear weapons from the planet and to adopt common sense policies to reduce the risks of nuclear war, and which has been endorsed by over 465 health, environmental, academic, peace, faith, and justice organizations and over 80 U.S. municipalities, counties and states⁷ that have adopted resolutions supporting Back from the Brink’s policy solutions.

Whereas, [INSERT ADDITIONAL TEXT HERE THAT IS SPECIFIC TO YOUR MUNICIPALITY AND REFERENCES ANY PAST LEGISLATION, DECLARATIONS OR RESOLUTIONS]

Whereas, the city of [city] is a member of the Mayors for Peace program⁸, a global network of mayors opposed to nuclear war and supporting nuclear abolition; and

Whereas, the people of [city] join with the people of Hiroshima in their call “that all cities and citizens of the world join together in expanding the circle of solidarity transcending national boundaries, partisan ideologies, and religious creeds to strengthen the bond of human friendship and solidarity”;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF [CITY] , DO HEREBY PROCLAIM August 6, 2024 and August 9, 2024 TO BE

[INSERT PREFERRED TITLE] Day

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- ¹ International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Hiroshima and Nagasaki Bombings, https://www.icanw.org/hiroshima_and_nagasaki_bombings
- ² Federation of American Scientists, Status of World Nuclear Forces - <https://fas.org/initiative/status-world-nuclear-forces/>
- ³ International Physicians for the Prevent of Nuclear War, Climate Effects of Regional Nuclear War, <https://www.ippnw.org/programs/nuclear-weapons-abolition/nuclear-famine-climate-effects-of-regional-nuclear-war>
- ⁴ Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles - Nuclear Weapons Community Costs Calculator - <https://www.psr-la.org/nuclear-costs>
- ⁵ U.S. Nuclear Weapons Modernization: Costs & Constraints, Center for Arms Control & Non-Proliferation, <https://armscontrolcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/U.S.-Nuclear-Weapons-Modernization-Costs-Constraints-Fact-Sheet-v-May-2023.pdf>
- ⁶ Back from the Brink: Bringing Communities Together to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, www.preventnuclearwar.org
- ⁷ Back from the Brink: Municipalities and States <https://preventnuclearwar.org/municipalities-and-states/>
- ⁸ Mayors for Peace, List of Member Cities - <https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/members/list-members/>