



BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER
TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS



PREVENTNUCLEARWAR.ORG



BACKFROMBRINK



BACK FROM THE BRINK

MEDIA CONTACT

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Back from the Brink: Bringing Communities Together to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (BftB) is a U.S.-based grassroots coalition of individuals, organizations and elected officials working together on a multi-year campaign to rid the world of nuclear weapons and secure a set of common sense U.S. nuclear weapons policies that will make the world safer, healthier, and more just.

01

ABOUT US

Back from the Brink's power lies in its focus on everyday people and communities, making nuclear weapons a local issue— and an organizing approach that enables advocates to educate and engage other individuals, organizations, & municipalities in their region. Organizers are able to use local endorsements and municipal resolutions to demonstrate to members of Congress & other Washington decision makers that their constituents want them to take action and show leadership on this issue. City by city, state by state, we are disrupting complacency with agency – giving voice and ways for anyone to get involved and take action.

02

WHY NOW

In January 2025, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists set the Doomsday Clock to 89 seconds to midnight – the closest it has ever been. Meanwhile, climate chaos is heightening global tensions and increasing the likelihood of armed conflicts escalating to nuclear war. It's going to take all of us to ensure critical policy reforms are enacted, including pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed nations to eliminate their arsenals.

03

OUR HUBS

Back from the Brink currently has 23 Hubs in the United States. Our Hub model is our national, distributed network of grassroots organizers who are working together to rid the world of nuclear weapons and secure a set of common sense U.S. nuclear weapons policies that will make the world safer, healthier, and more just. A BftB Hub is any group or local organization within a community who come together to engage in advocacy and other activities within their communities.

04

OUR SOLUTIONS

We call on the US to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war. Here's how:

- Pursue Global Elimination
- Renounce First Use
- End Sole Authority
- End Hair-Trigger Alert
- Cancel Enhanced Weapons

INTERVIEW OUR EXPERTS



DR. IRA HELFAND

Ira Helfand, MD is a retired physician and a recognized global leader and public health expert on nuclear weapons policy. A member of the Back from the Brink Steering Committee, Dr. Helfand is a long-time member of the International Steering Group of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), the recipient of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize, and Immediate Past President of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, the founding partner of ICAN and itself the recipient of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize. He is also co-founder and Past President of Physicians for Social Responsibility, IPPNW's US affiliate.

Dr. Helfand was educated at Harvard College and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Helfand co-authored PSR's report, "Nuclear Famine: 2 Billion at Risk?", which outlines the global health consequences of regional nuclear war. He was a leading medical voice in ICAN's campaign for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Dr. Helfand addressed government delegations at international conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Oslo, Norway, Narayit, Mexico, and during the May 2016 U.N. Open-Ended Working Group on disarmament in Geneva, and throughout the U.N. General Assembly negotiations in 2017.

His areas of expertise/interest are U.S. and global nuclear arms control and disarmament policy and advocacy and public health/medical and humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons.

SEAN MEYER

Sean Meyer is a strategic advisor/consultant to Back from the Brink, a US-based grassroots nuclear disarmament campaign, which he co-founded in 2017. A longtime nuclear disarmament organizer/policy advocate, Sean served as manager of strategic campaigns for the Union of Concerned Scientists Global Security Program from 2007 to 2021. He previously served as Coordinator of the Congressional Roundtable on Post-Cold War Relations and in senior public relations, advertising and marketing roles in the private sector.

His areas of expertise/interest are federal policy making/advocacy, grassroots organizing and movement building, U.S. nuclear weapons policy and public relations/marketing.

INTERVIEW OUR EXPERTS



DANNY HALL

Daniel (Danny) Hall serves as BftB's lead Capitol Hill Representative & Faith Community Outreach Coordinator and is the long-time Director of Public Affairs for Soka Gakkai International-USA (SGI-USA) and is based in Washington, DC.

In 2014, he helped organize the one-day conference Making a Difference: Faith Communities and the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons at the United States Institute of Peace and in 2017 he co-organized a one-day conference Toward a Fundamental Change in Nuclear Weapons Policy at the United States Capitol Visitor Center. In March 2021, he co-organized a virtual policy briefing and workshop series titled Eliminating Nuclear Weapons Before They Eliminate US: Opportunities Under the Biden Administration to Take Action. He was a citizen lobbyist at the 2017 UN preparatory meetings for the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Publications include the book chapters in Religion and Public Diplomacy, Palgrave MacMillan, 2013, and Forbidden: Receiving Pope Francis's Condemnation of Nuclear Weapons, Georgetown University Press, 2022, and opinion pieces in Inkstick and Common Dreams. He serves on the steering committee of Back from the Brink.

His areas of expertise/interest are federal nuclear disarmament and victim assistance advocacy, and faith community engagement in these spaces.

DENISE DUFFIELD

Denise Duffield is a seasoned community organizer and nuclear disarmament advocate/campaigner. Denise directs Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles (PSR-LA) Nuclear Threats program, which advocates for nuclear weapons abolition and policies that prevent exposure to radioactive waste and contamination. She serves on the Steering Committee of Back from the Brink. In Los Angeles, Denise helped lead efforts for the City of Los Angeles and California State legislatures to adopt Back from the Brink resolutions. She also plays a major role in efforts to fully clean up the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL), a contaminated nuclear and rocket-engine testing site located just 30 miles from downtown Los Angeles.

Her areas of expertise/interest are: US nuclear weapons policies; grassroots and community organizing; movement building; community/health impacts of nuclear weapons testing, production and waste; Santa Susana Field Lab clean-up.

INTERVIEW OUR EXPERTS



DR. PETER WILK

Peter Wilk, MD is a retired psychiatrist and current administrative chair of the Back from the Brink Steering Committee. Active for over 40 years with advocacy organizations calling for the U.S. to lead efforts to abolish nuclear weapons, Dr. Wilk has served on the board of Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), including two terms as PSR's Board President and three years as PSR's Executive Director, and on the board of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and as Speaker of IPPNW's International Council.

Over the past seven years Dr. Wilk has helped lead efforts to grow BftB's organizational capacity, including increasing the number of local organizing hubs across the country and supporting efforts to secure adoption of BftB resolutions in municipalities, counties and state legislative bodies. Dr. Wilk was educated at Harvard College and the University of Vermont College of Medicine.

His areas of expertise/interest are grassroots organizing and movement building, U.S. nuclear weapons policy, and public health.

FACTS & MILESTONES



FACT SHEET

- Back From The Brink was founded in 2017 by leaders of two national organizations, the Union of Concerned Scientists and Physicians for Social Responsibility as a way to give voice and agency to people and communities.
- BftB is endorsed by over 400 policy, civic, health, faith-based, academic, peace and other groups
- BftB's five point platform has been endorsed by nearly 500 local, regional and national policy, civic, health, faith-based, academic, peace and environmental groups, as well as 425 local and state elected officials and 45 members of Congress.
- Back from the Brink currently has 23 Hubs in the United States

POLICY MILESTONES

- BftB worked with U.S. Representative Jim McGovern (D-MA) to introduce H. Res 77, a U.S. House resolution – cosponsored by 44 U.S. House members – that calls on the U.S. to adopt Back from the Brink's comprehensive policy prescriptions for preventing nuclear war.
- Hundreds of the local and state elected officials have endorsed BftB's policy platform and signed open letters to President Biden in September 2021 and November 2023 respectively urging bold action on nuclear weapons policy.
- Some 85 municipalities, counties and state legislative bodies across the country have passed Back from the Brink resolutions to eliminate nuclear weapons thanks to the work of BftB activists.