



## THREE THINGS YOU CAN DO ***NOW*** TO HELP RID THE WORLD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Nuclear weapons pose a threat to all life on our planet. Even a limited nuclear exchange, e.g., between India and Pakistan, would have catastrophic effects, both regionally and globally.<sup>1</sup> Here are three things you can do now to promote nuclear abolition:

- **Read the December 2014 statement of the Holy See, “[Nuclear Disarmament: Time for Abolition](#),” and share it with your faith community and others.** The statement makes a compelling case that the strategy of nuclear deterrence is no longer morally acceptable, and it declares, “Now is the time to affirm not only the immorality of the use of nuclear weapons, but the immorality of their possession, thereby clearing the road to nuclear abolition.”<sup>2</sup>
- **Endorse the [Back from the Brink Campaign](#), supported by Pax Christi USA and many others. Urge your elected officials to enact its five commonsense reforms to U.S. nuclear policy:**
  - Renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first;
  - End the sole, unchecked authority of any U.S. president to launch a nuclear attack;
  - Take U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert;
  - Cancel the \$1.7 trillion plan to replace the entire U.S. nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons; and
  - Actively pursue a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.
- **Learn more about the [Kings Bay 7 Plowshares activists](#)—Mark Colville, Clare Grady, Martha Hennessy, Fr. Steve Kelly, SJ, Elizabeth McAlister, Patrick O’Neill, and Carmen Trotta—and contribute to their [support fund](#).** Money raised will be used to defer expenses related to their court case and to continue their work for nuclear disarmament.

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<sup>1</sup> Owen B. Toon, Charles G. Bardeen, Alan Robock, Lili Xia, Hans Kristensen, Matthew McKinzie, R. J. Peterson, Cheryl S. Harrison, Nicole S. Lovenduski, and Richard P. Turco, "[Rapidly Expanding Nuclear Arsenals in Pakistan and India Portend Regional and Global Catastrophe](#)," *Science Advances*, Oct 2, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> See also the Nov. 10, 2017, [Address of Pope Francis to Participants in the International Symposium, "Prospects for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons and for Integral Disarmament](#)," in which the Pope declares, "Nor can we fail to be genuinely concerned by the catastrophic humanitarian and environmental effects of any employment of nuclear devices. If we also take into account the risk of an accidental detonation as a result of error of any kind, *the threat of their use, as well as their very possession, is to be firmly condemned*" (emphasis added).

The Pope recently reiterated these statements in his [address on nuclear weapons](#), delivered in Nagasaki on Nov. 24, 2019 ("Peace and international stability are incompatible with attempts to build upon the fear of mutual destruction or the threat of total annihilation."), and his [address to the Meeting for Peace](#) in Hiroshima later that day ("The use of atomic energy for purposes of war is immoral, just as the possessing of nuclear weapons is immoral, as I already said two years ago. We will be judged on this.").