

Germantown Meeting Statement on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

January 14, 2018

On July 7, 2017, the United Nations General Assembly, by a vote of 122 to 1, approved a Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The comprehensive scope of this treaty is heartening and unprecedented. But the obstacles to the treaty's full implementation are enormous. No country with nuclear weapons supported the treaty. The United States and other nuclear powers have been hostile to it as they maintain the dangerous logic of nuclear deterrence and the possibility of nuclear devastation. This important UN action has received too little publicity. It is clear that the treaty needs to be widely publicized in this country and throughout the world.

Germantown Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends strongly supports the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We applaud the initiative of Multnomah (OR) Friends Meeting in alerting Friends to the importance of this international instrument. We are guided on this issue by the Quaker Peace Testimony, which calls on us to live in the virtue of that life that takes away the occasion of all wars. We affirm the longstanding work of Friends and others in calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons, which, like chemical and biological weapons, deserve to be singled out for their particularly horrifying nature. We strongly support the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and call upon the United States and all nations to sign and ratify it. We ask others to walk with us as we seek all nonviolent methods for achieving the worldwide abolition of nuclear weapons and a more peaceful world.