

June 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

As citizens of Australia who condemn nuclear weapons, we believe in the power of international law and that our country be a leader in efforts to make them illegal and start a nuclear arms disarmament process.

We welcome your pre-election commitment to sign and ratify the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)** which is essential for bringing the current nuclear arms race to an end.

Under your leadership we hope to see the goal of a nuclear weapon free world reinstated as an Australian foreign policy priority.

We consider it unacceptable that almost 13,000 nuclear weapons remain in the world today more than 50 years after the **Nuclear Non -Proliferation Treaty (NPT)** entered into force. These weapons pose a threat to human life underlined by Russia's nuclear threats to Ukraine. Unless we chart a new course, nuclear weapons will almost certainly be used again with catastrophic consequences.

The **TPNW** reaffirms the need for full and effective implementation of the **NPT** and is underpinned by safeguard arrangements administered by the **International Atomic Energy Agency**.

Membership of it is compatible with Australia's alliance commitments as Australia has already signed and ratified treaties on landmines, cluster munitions and nuclear testing. The first two are war crimes already committed by Russia in it's war on Ukraine and their using nuclear weapons is a serious threat.

Our country can achieve much on the world stage and by pursuing a principled foreign policy. Sign the treaty and be part of the disarmament process.

Yours sincerely,

Citizen