

Political statement C9

Proponent: NPA Youth for Solidarity

Nuclear weapons

Nuclear weapons pose a threat to the planet and, indeed, to our very survival as a race. Weapons of mass destruction have a transnational effect, with consequences that extend for generations. The detonation of even a single nuclear weapon would kill hundreds of thousands of people, lay waste to towns and cities and have a disastrous impact on the climate, the environment and food production. Nuclear weapons do not discriminate: they wipe out children as well as military targets. Nuclear weapons contravene international humanitarian law, and as an emergency response organisation, a solidarity organisation and a humanitarian player, Norwegian People's Aid is committed to a world free from nuclear weapons.

Norwegian People's Aid will therefore continue to work with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), which was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for its work to promote abolition. A decade of political battles reached its conclusion on 7 July 2017, when 122 countries adopted the treaty to ban nuclear weapons.

Norway, which took the initiative to hold an international conference on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons in 2013, found itself on the sidelines in 2017, however, along with a small minority of states that did not participate in the negotiations. In common with the majority of the Norwegian population, Norwegian People's Aid believes that Norway must change direction, sign and ratify the UN treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons, and side with humanity in the future.

Norway must work to promote a world free from nuclear weapons, and in this context signing and ratifying the treaty banning nuclear weapons constitute an important step, given that the treaty prohibits the development, testing, production, possession, transfer, storage and use – or threat of use – of nuclear weapons. As a nation of peace, Norway must play an active role in ensuring that the treaty comes into effect and becomes international law, such that nuclear weapons are banned in the same way as other weapons of mass destruction.

Norwegian People's Aid demands:

- That the Norwegian authorities ramp up their efforts to contribute to nuclear disarmament and a world free from nuclear weapons.
- That Norway sign and ratify the UN treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons.