

## **ESSENTIAL FACTS: NUCLEAR BAN TREATY ENTRY INTO FORCE 1/22/21**

**1/22/21: The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons enters into force as law in the first 50 ratifying countries.** As of late December 2020, 135 countries have indicated their support for this Treaty, 86 countries have signed it, and 51 have ratified it. New signatures and ratifications are documented at:

[www.icanw.org/signature\\_and\\_ratification\\_status](http://www.icanw.org/signature_and_ratification_status)

**Everything to do with nuclear weapons will be completely illegal in those 51 countries.** Many more countries are expected to ratify in the near future, and the treaty will become law in those countries 90 days after ratification.

**This treaty will not enter into force in the US** or in any of the other nuclear-armed nations (Russia, UK, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan, and North Korea) until they decide to join the treaty. However, nuclear weapons companies with offices, projects, subsidiaries, contracts, suppliers, or investors in these other countries could be affected. There is no law that protects US companies, their directors or employees, from prosecution in another country when the laws of that other country are being violated.

**It has never been legal to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons**, in almost every imaginable scenario, under international laws of war already incorporated into US law. **With this treaty, it is now also illegal to develop, test, produce, manufacture, transfer, station, possess, or stockpile nuclear weapons - and it's also illegal to assist, encourage, or induce anyone else** to do any of those things. That could include financing those activities, in at least some of the countries that join the Treaty.

**The consequences for violating treat-enforcement laws** in the ratifying countries will vary. But for example, in Ireland, any person (including a corporate decision-maker) who violates these laws may be **subject to fine and/or a sense of up to life in prison.**

Two of the largest pension funds in the world have already divested from the nuclear weapons industry. The City of New York is expected to divest its pension funds in the near future. Investors will be increasingly concerned with legislative risk, reputational risk, and the possibility of stranded assets if future weapons contracts are cancelled.

The Treaty represents an **absolute reject of “deterrence theory”** by most of the world. It stigmatizes nuclear weapons as a grave danger to all humanity, whether they are used as designed or detonate by accident.

The Treaty lays out a clear **pathway for the elimination of all nuclear weapons from all countries**, in line with existing legal obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty the the US and other nuclear-armed nations have already committed themselves to.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons won the 2017 **Nobel Peace Prize** for its role in facilitating the Treaty.

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