

Resolution 19-04

Calling for the United States Government to Sign the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

WHEREAS nuclear weapons cannot be used without catastrophic humanitarian consequences that violate every principle of international law, natural justice and human morality; and

WHEREAS the continued existence of these weapons poses an intolerable risk to human survival; and

WHEREAS the United States, together with Britain, France, Russia and China, signed and ratified a legally binding commitment more than 50 years ago to negotiate “in good faith” and “at an early date” the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals; and

WHEREAS the International Court of Justice ruled, in their 1996 Advisory Opinion on the Legality of Nuclear Weapons, that the legally binding commitment to negotiate means “bringing those negotiations to a successful conclusion;” and

WHEREAS in the year 2000 the United States, together with Britain, France, Russia and China gave an “unequivocal undertaking”* to 187 other nations that they would fulfill their commitment to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals; and

WHEREAS in July 2017, 122 nations adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, making it illegal under international law to develop, test, produce, possess, stockpile, transfer, use, or threaten to use nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS once this Treaty enters in force, it will be illegal in all countries who are party to this Treaty to assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited by the Treaty; and

WHEREAS more and more countries will continue to sign and ratify this Treaty, including sooner or later many key allies of the United States; and

WHEREAS this means that the United States will find it increasingly difficult to develop, manufacture, deploy or justify its continued dependence on nuclear weapons.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Clallam County Democrats call upon the President of the United States to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to invite the other eight nuclear nations to do likewise.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United States is called upon to bring negotiations to a successful conclusion among the nine nuclear nations.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our federal leaders and our nation are called upon to take immediate steps in the meantime to reduce the threat posed by the continued existence of

these weapons and to prevent the possibility of nuclear war taking place by accident, miscalculation or design.

FINALLY BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to US Congressman Derek Kilmer, US Senator Patty Murray, US Senator Maria Cantwell, and President Donald J. Trump.

* <https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2000-07/features/unequivocal-success-implications-npt-review-conference>

Adopted by the Membership of the Clallam County Democrats
September 7, 2019