

Nagasaki Rally, 9 August 2025

Caroline Lucas

Vice President, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

UK

Greetings from CND, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in the UK. **We're proud to stand with you** in our common struggle to eliminate all nuclear weapons.

We're here today to offer **our deepest respect and gratitude to the Hibaksha**, who work so tirelessly to keep alive the horrific events of the 6th and 9th August, so that the world may learn and not forget. But learning and remembering is not enough – **we have to act, urgently, now.**

Because as we meet here today, the obscene truth is that **the world's 9 nuclear armed states have *already* amassed the equivalent firepower of nearly 100,000 Nagasaki bombs – enough to destroy the whole world many times over.**

And I am ashamed to say that my own country, the UK, is actively driving this proliferation. Just last month, the British Government announced it would spend an additional £15bn on the development

of new nuclear warheads, as well as purchasing 12 nuclear-capable fighter jets, in breach of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty.

And all this is justified on the flawed and flimsy concept of nuclear deterrence – a concept we must continue to challenge. Because the idea that humans will *always* act rationally, that technology will *always* work perfectly and that miscalculations will *always* be avoided is one hell of an assumption – yet it's the one that underpins the whole deterrence argument. New and emerging military technologies further heighten nuclear risks, such as cyberattacks on early warning systems.

That's why the groundbreaking **Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons** is so important – and nearly half the world's nations support it. But now's the time to step up the pressure. There needs to be a campaign to ensure everyone in the nuclear chain of command, from a national leader down to the launch officers, is treated as a potential war criminal. They should increasingly be subject to legal measures and sanctions that are enforceable in non-nuclear states. We need to step up the moral and political delegitimization of nuclear weapons in the same way as happened with chemical and biological weapons.

And let's not allow the nuclear fanatics to define security. Spending on nuclear weapons is an **obscenely expensive distraction from the real threats we face today.**

It is unforgiveable that, around the world, **governments are spending billions of dollars on weapons of mass destruction** at the same time as their own populations face increased poverty and inequality.

Spending billions on new nuclear warheads **won't protect our communities from the extreme impacts of climate change.**

Expanding our nuclear weapons stockpiles will do nothing to tackle the **catastrophic destruction of nature and biodiversity.**

True security is about equality and justice.

True security is about tackling the climate and nature crisis.

True security is about working together in compliance with international law, human rights, respect and dignity for all.

So as we mark the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, now more than ever we pledge to do all we can to urgently re-establish commitments by the global community to international disarmament frameworks.

We pledge to redouble our work for nuclear disarmament and peace.

And we say today: **we will not give up until we succeed.**

No more Hiroshimas. No more Nagasakis. No more War.