**“Glen’s Parallax Perspectives”** is a series of TV programs offering fresh ways for people to see issues such as foreign policy, social and economic justice, governmental functioning, the environment, and so forth. We provide voices and viewpoints that are rarely heard in mainstream media.

**Mainstream media, politicians, and culture see the world in conventional ways. Therefore, in order to solve problems, we need to see things in fresh ways.** Glen Anderson created this TV series to help people see things differently so we can solve problems at all levels from the local to the global.

This series title refers to “***parallax***,” which is the view you get by looking from a different perspective. For example, put one finger in front of your nose and another finger farther away. Close one eye. Then open that eye and close the other. Your fingers will seem to move. This is called a “parallax” view. **This TV series invites you to look at issues from fresh perspectives.**

Each program airs three times a week (currently every Monday at 1:30 pm, every Wednesday at 5:00 pm, and every Thursday at 9:00 pm) for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for cable TV subscribers in Thurston County, Washington. TCTV is part of Thurston County Media. You can see their schedule at [**www.tcmedia.org**](http://www.tcmedia.org)

**You can also watch the program described below through your computer** at [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). All episodes of “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” are posted on this blog’s “TV Programs” part and also in one or more of the categories listed in the right side of the computer screen. Also, see information about various issues at the category headings at [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org).

**This summary includes some information and insights that we did not have time to include during that hour. Many of these are ideas that a guest or Glen had said while preparing for the interview. These additional insights are added under the relevant topic headings below.**

**🡪 I’m saving this document in two formats: Word and .pdf. The Word format’s links are live. If you’re reading the .pdf format and want me to e-mail you any of the links I mention here, e-mail me at** **glenanderson@integra.net** **and I’ll promptly send you the links you request.**

**🡪 Please invite other people to watch this video and/or read this thorough summary at the “TV Programs” and “Organizing” parts of** [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)**.**

**This Treaty Is the Beginning of the End of Nuclear Weapons**

February 2021 Program in the “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” TV Series

by Glen Anderson, the TV series’ producer and host
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**Glen introduced the viewers to this month’s interview topic:**

This month’s interview on “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” provides you with a powerful, inspiring, exciting worldwide campaign that is already making progress toward abolishing nuclear weapons.

American politicians and American news media have grossly failed to inform the American people about the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly approved it in July 2017. As of the date we’re taping this TV interview – on January 20, 2021 – 51 nations have ratified the Treaty. The Treaty went into effect on January 22, 2021.

During this hour, an exceptionally well informed guest – Joanne Dufour – will explain what the Treaty does, how it came into being, how it fits into international law, and how we can help it move forward worldwide toward actually abolishing all nuclear weapons.

Joanne Dufour has a long background in the peace movement, including first-hand experience volunteering directly with the United Nations in New York. She is an active member of the Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons in Olympia, Washington.

Glen welcomed Joanne, and she expressed appreciation for this opportunity to publicize the Treaty. Glen said that – since the U.S. government and mainstream media have failed to inform the public about it – ordinary people like us and our peace organizations are working hard to provide the necessary information.

**What is the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons? What does it do?**

We started with a brief overview about the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Joanne said any treaty is a contract among nations. She said the nations that have ratified this Treaty seriously intend to eliminate all nuclear weapons worldwide. She said we should not consider this Treaty to be unrealistic because other treaties – which we mentioned later in this interview – have preceded it with big goals and have indeed made a huge difference for peace. She said now is the time to take this major step toward abolishing nuclear weapons.

Glen agreed that previous treaties that have banned entire categories of Weapons of Mass Destruction have set a precedent for taking bold actions such as ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. He said this bold action is not beyond the realm of possibility. **We really can accomplish this!**  Our interview will show how ratifying this treaty is actually practical and realistic as well as bold and exciting.

**Why is this Treaty significant for the world?**

Glen said that in July 2017 an overwhelming majority of the world’s nations (122 of the 193 nations in the United Nations General Assembly – a 3/5 majority) approved the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Then it became available for nations to sign and ratify on a nation-by-nation basis.

We taped this TV interview on January 20, 2021. As of that date, 51 nations had ratified it, so this is becoming part of their national laws. On January 22, this Treaty went into effect for the nations that have ratified it.

Joanne explained why the Treaty is significant for the world. She said when a huge majority of the General Assembly voted for the Treaty in July 2017 they were decisively opening up the world to a future without nuclear weapons. This strong majority voice developed into a demand to abolish nuclear weapons. This was a rebuke to the nine nations that currently have nuclear weapons. The persistent danger of nuclear war has been endangering those nations for many decades, so they decisively called a halt to that nuclear terrorism.

Joanne said when international law makes something illegal in the world, this opens the door to expanding what is called “customary law.” This means a future in which even the nations that have not signed on to the treaty begin to feel the pressure to reconfigure how they function so they will increasingly abide by the treaty even if they do not formally ratify it. We have accomplished this regarding other Weapons of Mass Destruction, and now we’re proceeding toward doing this regarding nuclear weapons too.

Glen said this Treaty reflects – and reinforces – a massive global shift of consciousness among the world’s nations for increasing the moral pressure on the nine nations that have nuclear weapons. He said the vote occurred in the U.N.’s General Assembly, which is the most democratic body providing an equal vote for every nation, instead of being raised in the Security Council, where big, powerful nations with nuclear weapons could veto it. The General Assembly showed “people power” in action.

Joanne agreed that this is why the Treaty was introduced in the General Assembly. She also pointed out that because the nine nations with nuclear weapons boycotted those discussions, the vast majority of the world’s nations that want peace were free to write this Treaty with very strong language that the nuclear nations would not have wanted. Because the nuclear nations boycotted the process of writing the Treaty, the vast majority of the world’s peace-oriented nations were able to shepherd it through the General Assembly without the militarily powerful nuclear nations stopping them.

Joanne added more information about why the Treaty is so significant. She said that the Geneva Conventions already prohibit the kinds of damage that nuclear weapons do. (We addressed this later in the interview. See page 7 of the document you are reading now.) Now she said the Treaty is very broad with wording that prohibits anything and everything about nuclear weapons.

***We did not have time during the interview to mention this about the Treaty’s origins and practicality:***

Joanne used to maintain a disarmament blog for the United Nations Association. This blog post is relevant: **How the "Impossible" Became Possible** explains the origins and practicality of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: [**https://www.uua.org/international/blog/disarmament/how-impossible-became-possible**](https://www.uua.org/international/blog/disarmament/how-impossible-became-possible) “The point here is that the 2017 adopted Convention to Ban Nuclear Weapons may be pie in the sky for some, but this is simply a new chapter for those who have been working diligently for disarmament over the last several decades and is soon coming into force.”

**More information about the Treaty’s origins and how it came into being:**

Glen said that everybody who has heard Joanne speak about her first-hand experience with the United Nations respects her knowledge about the U.N.’s efforts for peace and disarmament. He asked her to tell us how the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) came into being – even before it came to the U.N. General Assembly in July 2017. What are the Treaty’s actual origins?

Joanne said it is a great story. About 50 years ago the world’s nations were worried that more and more nations might develop or acquire nuclear weapons. They devised a treaty to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) went into effect in 1970. Glen said this was a grand bargain between the nations that already had nuclear weapons and the nations that did not. In exchange for the non-nuclear nations agreeing never to get nuclear weapons, the nations that did have nuclear weapons agreed to take actions to promptly reduce and eliminate theirs.

Here is the actual wording of the NPT’s Article VI: **“Each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.”** The NPT’s explicit overall goal was “nuclear disarmament.” Article VI requires “effective measures” to stop “the nuclear arms race at an early date.”

Joanne said that in the meantime, the nuclear nations would protect the non-nuclear nations so they would not need to create their own.

Glen pointed out that the nuclear nations have been violating the NPT for half a century by failing to take prompt actin toward nuclear disarmament. Now the rest of the world has said, “Enough is enough! We’re going to hold your feet to the fire and do this from the bottom up.” He said that’s the context for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The rest of the world is acting upon the NPT’s grand bargain by creating and ratifying the TPNW.

Joanne said the NPT authorized periodic reviews every ten years. The rest of the world was recognizing that the nuclear nations had not been making the progress toward disarmament that they had promised. She said that during the 2010 review of the NPT about 40 non-nuclear nations raised strong concerns that they would suffer from a nuclear war, and they did not like being powerless in relation to the nuclear nations. The discussions that began in 2010 continued to develop in discussions that were held in 2013 and 2014. By the time of the 2015 discussion, more nations had become actively involved in planning how to solve the long-standing problem by actually eliminating nuclear weapons. The number of nations discussing this increased to 60 and eventually 100.

Joanne said the non-nuclear nations decided to actually write a treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons. She said those nations were so exasperated at the nuclear nations’ half century of failure to abide by the NPT’s Article VI which called for them to promptly move toward eliminating them, that those nations moved ahead with writing what became the TPNW.

The nations that do have nuclear weapons refused to participate in writing this new treaty, so the non-nuclear nations were free to write it with very strong wording. The TPNW was drafted in 2016. In July 2017 at the United Nations General Assembly, 122 nations approved it to become open for signatures. She said a nation signs on to a treaty to show it is serious about it and intends to consider its own national process for deciding whether to ratify it. Ratifying a treaty is the legal process of formally affirming it so it will become an actual part of that nation’s own laws. Since July 2017 nations have been using their own respective processes for ratifying this treaty. As of the date we taped this TV interview (January 20, 2021), 51 nations had ratified it.

Some nations ratified it as soon as it became available for ratification. The treaty’s wording says it would go into effect 90 days after the 50th nation had ratified it. On October 24, 2020, Honduras was the 50th nation to ratify it, so the treaty went into effect on January 22, 2021. We expect more nations to ratify it during 2021 and beyond.

The worldwide organization that promoted the treaty most effectively has been the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN, [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)). They won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts.

Joanne said the United Nations is a gathering of nations with representatives from those nations’ governments. She said that in addition, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participate actively in a variety of ways to support international peace, development, human rights, and other activities. Sometimes governments’ ambassadors to the U.N. do not actually do the will of the public, but NGOs do a very good job of representing the will of the public.

ICAN knew that previous treaties had already been successfully written and ratified to abolish other kinds of Weapons of Mass Destructions (land mines, chemical weapons, biological weapons, etc.), so they looked at those precedents and used those treaties as templates for writing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). (See page 6 for information about those previous treaties for other kinds of weapons.)

Again, Glen encouraged people to visit ICAN’s website, [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)

**Major progress since the 2017 milestone in the U.N. General Assembly:**

Joanne said that the first step is for the various nations’ ambassadors to sign on to the treaty. Then the ambassadors ask their own respective national governments to consider ratifying the treaty. Each treaty includes wording that specifies how many nations must ratify it in order for the treaty to become part of international law. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) specifies that it will go into effect – and become international law – 90 days after the 50th nation has ratified it.

The United Nations does not have its own enforcement mechanisms for treaties. Enforcement is done by the individual nations that have ratified the treaties.

Joanne said three nations ratified the TPNW on the first day ratification became possible, and dozens of other nations have followed, until we now have 51 nations. ICAN and various organizations are lobbying their respective national governments to also ratify the TPNW, so we will have broader worldwide support for abolishing nuclear weapons and the enforcement that goes along with it.

She said many of the nations that ratified the treaty are very small nations with absolutely no likelihood that they would ever develop nuclear weapons. But also some nations with large populations (Brazil and Nigeria) ratified it. Also, some nations that had previously started to pursue nuclear weapons but decided to give up those ambitions have ratified it too. South Africa is one example. When the Soviet Union broke up three decades ago, some of their nuclear weapons were located in what became independent nations of Ukraine and Kazakhstan. Both of those nations dismantled their nuclear weapons, and Kazakhstan has become one of the world’s greatest promoters of peace.

She said the Europeans have been holding back. NATO countries have been allowing the U.S. to provide a “nuclear umbrella” for them, and some NATO countries actually host the U.S.’s nuclear weapons on their territory. Also, the U.K. and France have their own nuclear weapons. Russia also is a European nation with its own nuclear weapons. Russia has some of their nuclear weapons aimed at other European nations, and vice versa.

Glen said that 49 of the 51 nations that have ratified the TPNW thus far are in the global South. Only two (Ireland and the Vatican) are in the global North. He said the global South is leading this effort – just like the global South has actually been leading the worldwide movement to deal with the climate crisis.

**More information about the Treaty’s legal significance for international law:**

Glen said Joanne is recognized as very knowledgeable about international law – especially International Humanitarian Law. He wants the public to understand that international treaties are part of international law. Also, when nations ratify treaties they are thereby embedding those treaties into their own national laws. He asked Joanne to summarize the legal significance of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Joanne said treaties can be made among any number of nations. They can be bi-lateral between just two nations or multi-lateral among many nations. She said 191 have ratified the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. She said there is no worldwide enforcement mechanism. The United Nations is “a forum for legislation and the encouragement of treaties,” but the U.N. has no enforcement authority. The authority for enforcing a treaty resides with the nations that have ratified the treaty. Ratification brings the treaty into its own domestic system, so the nation must follow the treaty’s stipulations. This is the enforcement arm.

International Law is the collection of many thousands of treaties that nations have ratified over a period of time. The United Nations is the repository that holds these treaties. She said the U.N. is not the enforcer but is actually the collector.

**The Treaty’s global political and economic significance:**

Glen said that at the global level, the Treaty is very significant for raising the world’s consciousness about nuclear weapons. He asked Joanne to discuss the treaty’s significance for promoting positive changes in global politics and economics.

Joanne said the nations that have been objecting to nuclear weapons are not the nations that had been part of the competitive game of brandishing nuclear weapons. Unlike the threats that nuclear-armed India and Pakistan have been making to each other or that the U.S. and Russia have been making to each other, the nations that have been supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons wanted to live in peace without the threat of being annihilated by nuclear-armed nations that might detonate their weapons. She said these non-nuclear nations were taking a humanitarian perspective: “Why should we die in a war that you have? Why should our lives be jeopardized? Our lives count.” Only nine nations have nuclear weapons. Why should they be allowed to endanger the populations of all of the other nations on earth? Why should nine nations be allowed to bully the rest of the world? Now the rest of the world has spoken out and said, “No more!” This is a new focus for the world.

Glen said this is a new kind of power balance. Instead of the Cold War power struggle between two gigantically powerful militaristic nations threatening each other, now this is a new re-balancing of global power between the vast majority of the world’s nations that do NOT have nuclear weapons vs. the nine nations that DO have nuclear weapons and are recklessly threatening the whole world. The rest of the world is very clearly saying they are done with letting the nuclear nations bully everyone else. The rest of the world is demanding accountability from the nuclear nations and an end to their nuclear weapons.

Joanne and Glen both agreed that this major change in the power relationships is exciting and beautiful. She said now “we really are recognizing that we all live in the same world.” She said big nations have no right to endanger small nations.

Glen said one of the signs he enjoys holding at our weekly peace vigils says, “We all share one world.” He said the pedestrians and motorists who pass by show their enthusiastic agreement with that positive message. He said Americans tend to think that we are exempt from the realities, but we really are part of the world’s realities.

***We did not have time during the interview to mention this fascinating resource about the Treaty:***

On December 16, 2020, six of Olympia’s anti-nuclear organizers (including Joanne and Glen) participated with more than 80 other people in a nationwide Zoom webinar about what the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons really means and how we can build power to implement it. The webinar was powerfully informative and empowering. **It was recorded, so you can watch it at this link:** [**http://www.nuclearban.us/webinar-entry-into-force-of-the-nuclear-ban-treaty-what-does-it-mean/**](http://www.nuclearban.us/webinar-entry-into-force-of-the-nuclear-ban-treaty-what-does-it-mean/)

**Significant precedents for bold peace treaties already exist.
In 1928 the world outlawed war through the Kellogg-Briand Pact:**

Glen said passing a treaty as bold as the one we are discussing is perfectly reasonable. He wants people to understand that we do have historical precedents for passing very bold treaties for peace. Almost nobody in the general public knows that the world actually outlawed war in 1928.

Joanne told us about the 1928 Kellogg-Briand Pact, which was organized and promoted especially by the United States and France and actually outlawed war. She said World War I was very much different from previous wars. More nations fought in that war than in any previous war. Many horrible new weapons were used for the first time in World War I (tanks, airplanes, toxic gas, etc.), and – unlike previous wars in which the fighting was only between military people fighting each other – for the first time many innocent civilians were targeted.

She said that when World War I ended in 1918 the nations of the world recognized how traumatized they had become. They recognized how the troops had been traumatized through “shell shock” (which we now call Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, PTSD). The nations recognized the trauma entire populations had suffered, so many nations (especially in Europe and the U.S.) and many sectors throughout each nation issued vigorous calls for peace and an outright end to war altogether.

Two diplomats – the French Minister of Defense and the U.S. Secretary of State – took the lead in writing a treaty to outlaw war, and they won a Nobel Peace Prize for what became the Kellogg-Briand Pact. She said 36 nations signed onto this treaty as soon as it became available for signatures in September 1928. This was more nations than were members of the League of Nations. By 1934, 63 nations had signed on to it. Other nations continued signing on to it for many more decades into recent years.

The Kellogg-Briand Pact changed consciousness away from using war as a way to settle disputes. Instead, nations agreed to use diplomacy and negotiations.

Things changed in the 1930s and nations reverted to war again. Nevertheless, the Kellogg-Briand Pact had significantly increased knowledge and respect for International Law instead of military violence.

She said that when the United Nations Charter was being written in 1945, they used some of the most important wording from the Kellogg-Briand Pact, word-for-word.

Now the TPNW Weapons builds upon this bold global vision for disarmament, she said.

**Significant precedents already exist.
Since 1972 the world has banned other Weapons of Mass Destruction:**

Glen said the world has adopted a number of powerful treaties for peace, so the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons flows naturally into this series of treaties that have BANNED other kinds of Weapons of Mass Destruction over the past half-century.

He brought onto the TV screen a list of some powerful multilateral treaties passed since 1972 that have banned various kinds of Weapons of Mass Destruction. See the list here in this box:

**SIGNIFICANT MULTILATERAL TREATIES SINCE 1972**

(A) WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

 1) Biological Weapons: Banned 1972

 2) Chemical Weapons: Banned 1993

 3) Land Mines: Banned 1997

 4) Cluster Bombs: Banned 2008

 5) Nuclear Weapons: Banned 2021

(B) In 2002 the ROME TREATY established the INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Glen summarized this list of accomplishments. Yes, during the past half century the world has indeed ratified multi-lateral treaties that have banned several kinds of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Now nuclear weapons are the newest kind to be banned by the new TPNW. More and more nations are ratifying the TPNW, so the treaty is going into effect in January 2021.

Also, in 2002 the International Criminal Court was established by multi-lateral treaty.

Joanne pointed out that these treaties have been so successful in eliminating nearly all of the banned weapons that on the extremely rare occasions when biological weapons, for example, are used, this is so rare that it becomes news. She said about 90% of the chemical weapons that had existed have been destroyed as a result of the 1993 treaty that banned them. She said this has been such a significant accomplishment that ICAN used the chemical weapons treaty as a prototype when it was developing the TPNW.

She added that the hardest part of such a treaty is the verification that any nation really has destroyed the weapons that it has committed to banning. The TPNW does not have strong verification written into it yet, but she said that an effective verification procedure will be the next step for strengthening the ban on nuclear weapons.

**U.S. Constitution specifies that treaties are “the supreme Law of the Land”:**

Next Glen showed on the screen what the U.S. Constitution says about international treaties. He said Americans need to know that the U.S. Constitution specifies that when the U.S. ratifies a treaty it becomes “the supreme Law of the Land.” If the U.S. were to ratify the TPNW, it would have the full force of federal law and be enforceable by the courts.

*See the Constitution’s wording on the next page.*

**United States Constitution Article 6, clause 2:**

“This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any ...”

Joanne reminded our TV viewers that the U.S. has ratified the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The NPT’s Article VI specifies that all nations that have nuclear weapons must – “MUST,” she emphasized – work for their elimination. The U.S. has not done that. She said we are already required by the NPT to abolish our nuclear weapons, so we do not need to sign on to a new treaty in order to create the obligation to disarm.

We need to push the U.S. to do what the other nations are pushing us to do: abolish nuclear weapons. Other nations have taken the new action through the TPNW to tell the nine nuclear-armed nations that we have been failing to do what we had said we would promptly do fifty years ago.

Glen agreed with Joanne. We’ve been violating the NPT for half a century. The rest of the world says, “Enough is enough!”

**How do nuclear weapons violate fundamental principles of
International Humanitarian Law (the Geneva Conventions)?**

Glen said Joanne knows a lot about International Humanitarian Law – the Geneva Conventions. He said he enjoyed her explanation of these when she was his only guest for his March 2020 TV program. People can watch it and/or read a thorough summary through this link on Glen’s blog: [**http://parallaxperspectives.org/international-humanitarian-law-watch-interview-and-or-read-information**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/international-humanitarian-law-watch-interview-and-or-read-information)

Glen showed on the TV screen the image shown in the box below on this page. Joanne summarized these principles – and then we explained how nuclear weapons VIOLATE fundamental principles of International Humanitarian Law.

**Fundamental Principles of International Humanitarian Law (Geneva Conventions)**

1) Military Necessity

2) Distinction

3) Proportionality

4) Limited Suffering

Joanne said the first Geneva Convention was created a century and a half ago in 1863 in Geneva, Switzerland. She said it really is a law that governs how wars can be fought. She said this has been revised four times, including after World War II.

What we see on the screen (*shown in the box above*) are four limits that place humanitarian limits on how wars can be fought. (Hence the term International Humanitarian Law.) She said the United States government agrees with these Geneva Conventions and call them the Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC).

Joanne summarized these four fundamental principles:

1) **Military Necessity:** Certainly the military intends to win the war it is fighting. But a nation’s military is prohibited from doing anything it might want to do. The International Red Cross says a military can do only what is necessary to accomplish its goal, but it cannot be more destructive than that.

2) **Distinction:** Wars are fought by nations’ actual troops (not by ordinary people), so the troops on each side of a war must identify themselves (typically by wearing uniforms) so they can know whom to attack. Troops may attack only the other nation’s identified troops, but are not allowed to attack civilians. Troops must protect civilians, not attack them. She said the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki violated this principle of law. Promptly after the atomic bombings the International Red Cross stated strongly that atomic bombs violate the Geneva Conventions because atomic bombs cannot distinguish between killing combatants and killing innocent civilians.

3) **Proportionality:** This principle limits military actions to being only proportionate to what you are retaliating against. This principle prohibits escalating beyond what is proportionate and reasonable. It prohibits utterly destroying the other nation and its population. Your retaliation against the other nation’s action must be proportional and fair, based on what the other nation had just done to you. She said we have heard rhetoric – including recently – that threatened the total annihilation of another nation. That violates this principle of International Humanitarian Law.

4) **Limited Suffering:** The principle of limiting the amount of suffering is so obvious it needs no further explanation here.

Joanne said it is clear that **nuclear weapons violate all four of these fundamental principles of International Humanitarian Law** (the Geneva Conventions). The U.S. is a party to these Geneva Conventions.

Therefore, our nuclear weapons – and those of other nations – were ALREADY ILLEGAL, even before the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons came along.

**Support for the Treaty is growing worldwide. Many nations are ratifying it:**

Glen said this interview had already reported the victory in the United Nations General Assembly in July 2017 when 122 nations approved the Treaty. Since then 51 nations have ratified the Treaty. Other nations are making progress toward ratification.

Although the nine nations that do have nuclear weapons oppose the Treaty – and so do the NATO nations that host or support the U.S.’s nuclear weapons – growing numbers of other nations’ populations and local governments want to get rid of nuclear weapons and want to support the TPNW.

Glen said he read an article that explains why the European Union should join the TPNW. This article – [**https://beyondnuclearinternational.org/2021/01/03/european-union-should-join-ban-treaty/**](https://beyondnuclearinternational.org/2021/01/03/european-union-should-join-ban-treaty/) – includes these three excerpts:

Europe would face the greatest level of destruction in the event of a nuclear conflict …

Finland did not participate in the negotiations leading up to the treaty, and it did not vote for it. Public opinion is, however, in favour of the treaty, with one poll showing that 84 per cent of Finns would support signing up. Three parties in Finland’s coalition government also want the country to join. …

It is worth quoting at length the statement published on 21 September, 2020, by 56 former leaders and foreign or defence ministers of NATO and US ally countries, including two former NATO secretaries-general:

“The prohibition treaty is an important reinforcement to the half-century-old Non-Proliferation Treaty, which, though remarkably successful in curbing the spread of nuclear weapons to more countries, has failed to establish a universal taboo against the possession of nuclear weapons. The five nuclear-armed nations that had nuclear weapons at the time of the NPT’s negotiation — the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China — apparently view it as a licence to retain their nuclear forces in perpetuity. Instead of disarming, they are investing heavily in upgrades to their arsenals, with plans to retain them for many decades to come. This is patently unacceptable.”

On December 16, 2020, about 80 persons nationwide (including Joanne and Glen and four other persons from Olympia) participated in a nationwide Zoom webinar with experts who explained what the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons really means and how we can build power to implement it. **The webinar was powerfully informative and empowering. It was recorded, so you can watch it at this link:** [**http://www.nuclearban.us/webinar-entry-into-force-of-the-nuclear-ban-treaty-what-does-it-mean/**](http://www.nuclearban.us/webinar-entry-into-force-of-the-nuclear-ban-treaty-what-does-it-mean/)

Support for the TPNW has been growing worldwide beyond what Joanne and Glen had time to say during the TV interview. Support is strongest in the global South, but it is increasing elsewhere too, including in some NATO nations and other allies of nations that do have nuclear weapons. See links to some information near the end of the document you are reading now.

Joanne shared some interesting and encouraging updates from Ireland, one of the few nations in the global North that ratified the TPNW and followed up with national legal actions. She said that actually nuclear weapons had already been illegal, as she explained a few minutes before. Now she highlighted some of the TPNW’s provisions by listing some of the actions that are now prohibited by this new treaty. She asked people to listen to the wide range of these verbs. She said the TPNW prohibits developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, transferring, possessing, stockpiling, using, threatening to use, allowing stationary weapons to be placed within your country, assisting, encouraging, inducing anyone to engage – especially states with nuclear weapons. She said this range of verbs means that if some business company does any activity in a nation that ratified the TPNW, that business company’s activity becomes illegal now. A nation that ratified the TPNW will want to restrict its dealings with business companies that do any of these activities even in other nations because some relationship still exists.

She said Ireland – which did ratify the TPNW – was one of the first nations to change its laws very significantly in order to stop all of its support for nuclear weapons. Ireland stopped allowing the U.S. to use its Shannon Airport to land and refuel any U.S. military airplanes in Ireland if those airplanes are carrying nuclear weapons *en route* to other nations that host the U.S.’s nuclear weapons (Turkey, etc.). Remember Joanne had listed the verb about transporting nuclear weapons and some other verbs that caused Ireland to stop that support for the U.S.’s nuclear weapons.

She said now nations will have to examine whether they are doing anything that helps nuclear weapons in any way and stop that. This might include work in research labs, small shops that manufacture any components, storing anything or assisting any efforts related to nuclear weapons.

She said some of the nations that host U.S. nuclear weapons are demanding that their governments stop doing that. Now 77% of Belgium’s people want to get the U.S.’s nuclear weapons out of Belgium. Increasing numbers of the population and many local governments in those nations are calling for their elimination from their lands. She said even though the nine nuclear nations want to keep their weapons, many of our allies are pushing to eliminate them. People realize that accidents do happen – and many accidents involving nuclear weapons actually have happened – so populations want to get those weapons out of their countries.

In any case, more people are recognizing that nuclear weapons are not useful. They have not deterred nations or groups within nations from starting wars. We must get rid of them.

She said the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN, [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)) has been working with the nations that have ratified the TPNW to help them – step-by-step – to implement the treaty’s provisions. ICAN helps them examine their laws to help them change to prohibit all aspects of nuclear weapons, examine their financial arrangements to discover whether any financial institutions have relationships with any other entities that support nuclear weapons, and so forth. Nations and financial entities within them need to divest from businesses that help nuclear weapons in any way.

Joanne said that decades ago a worldwide movement pushed many businesses to divest from their business activities in South Africa as a way to apply strong financial pressure on the South African government in order to force them to stop their brutal Apartheid laws and policies. Now South Africa has ratified the TPNW and is on the good side of the world community.

She said now we need to push many entities to divest from nuclear weapons. Who can divest from funding nuclear weapons? Banks. Pension funds. Endowment funds that are owned by colleges and religious institutions and non-profit organizations. Governments that fund some kinds of laboratories, including some that are partnered with universities and conduct research related to nuclear weapons. She suggested that students and alumni can pressure them to stop nuclear weapons work and any investments that finance or profit from nuclear weapons. Likewise customers of banks and pension funds and members of institutions that have endowment funds can pressure those to cut off all financial ties that support nuclear weapons in any way.

Glen said this kind of organizing is really taking off. He mentioned an organization called “Don’t Bank on the Bomb.” See [**www.dontbankonthebomb.com**](http://www.dontbankonthebomb.com) Joanne added that the woman-based peace organization Code Pink ([**www.codepink.org**](http://www.codepink.org)) is working on this too. Glen encouraged people to work with these and other organizations that are helping people take their money out of banks, insurance companies, and other entities that finance or support nuclear weapons in any way.

Joanne added some additional good news about this nuclear abolition movement. She said that besides the 51 nations that have signed on **and ratified** the TPNW, another 86 nations have signed on and **are considering** ratification. She said some people have estimated that about 16 of them will likely ratify it soon, and people are expecting many more of these nations to ratify the TPNW later in 2021 or beyond. She said all of these nations combined are a huge majority of the world’s 193 nations. If all of these nations implement the TPNW’s provisions through their own respective national laws and policies, that becomes a huge dynamic pushing nuclear weapons toward abolition.

Glen mentioned that Joanne has a list of how much public opinion has shifted against nuclear weapons in a number of countries and another list of how many cities and other political jurisdictions have passed resolutions calling for ridding their nations of the U.S.’s nuclear weapons, calling for the TPNW to be ratified, and calling for abolition worldwide. He included this list as a resource near the end of the document you are reading now.

**Nuclear weapons exist in the context of our overall foreign policy.
For 75 years this has been solidly bi-partisan.
We must stop the new arms race with Russia, change policies and pass laws:**

Glen said the U.S.’s nuclear weapons exist in the context of our nation’s overall foreign policy. For a very long time the U.S. government – and most American people – have felt entitled to dominate other nations and to make wars against them.

Since the 1940s – for ¾ of a century – the U.S. has felt entitled to build nuclear weapons and to threaten the rest of the world with them. Therefore, he said, we need to “do a major culture shift” to free Americans from that entrenched assumption.

He said during an international crisis, when the President speaks on TV to the American people and to the rest of the world, and says, **“All options are on the table,”** this is **a direct threat to use nuclear weapons** against the other nation.

Indeed, since the 1960s the U.S. has **specifically** been planning to **start** a nuclear war and has been designing and building nuclear weapons **specifically for a “first-strike.”** These weapons and our “first-strike” policy intend to destroy another nation’s nuclear weapons while they are still in their silos – before the other nation can launch them – so the U.S. can “win” a nuclear war against the other nation.

The Trident nuclear submarines based at Bangor in Kitsap County just 60 miles from Olympia (20 miles west of Seattle) were designed and built **specifically** for a **“first strike” to start** a nuclear war. If Kitsap County WA were to secede from the U.S., it would be the world’s third largest nuclear weapons nation after Russia and the remainder of the U.S.

The U.S. foreign policy is **thoroughly bi-partisan**. It has persisted since 1945 regardless of which party is in the White House and which party dominates Congress. **Both political parties** aggressively and lavishly fund the Pentagon and the nuclear weapons budgets. **Both political parties** keep the relevant laws and policies in place. The U.S.’s November 2020 election did not change this 75-year-long bi-partisan support for nuclear war.

He said therefore it is the responsibility of ordinary Americans to build a strong grassroots movement to change U.S. foreign policy toward a truly peaceful foreign policy and also to abolish nuclear weapons.

**Fortunately**, some smart legislation has been introduced in Congress to significantly change the status quo. **But unfortunately**, none of this legislation has anywhere near enough support to pass.

The “Back from the Brink” campaign ([**www.preventnuclearwar.org**](http://www.preventnuclearwar.org)) promotes a cluster of FIVE smart changes to public policy that would significantly reduce the likelihood of nuclear war. It urges the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

**1. Renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first**

**2. Ending the sole, unchecked authority of any U.S. president to launch a nuclear attack**

**3. Taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert**

**4. Cancelling the plan to replace its entire nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons**

**5. Actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals**

See pages 12-13 below for more information about these five smart proposals in the “Back from the Brink” campaign.

Accomplishing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons would free the world from nuclear terrorism and create a nuclear-free future. Even if the U.S. does not support this Treaty, we can still move our nation incrementally toward peace by achieving the 5 goals in the “Back from the Brink” campaign.

Some nationwide organizations – and our Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons – are working for these 5 goals in addition to the Treaty.

Joanne added that the pope has been vigorously supporting the TPNW while it was gaining steam among the world’s nations. She also said the Vatican was the very first nation to ratify the TPNW. Ireland was the only other nation in the global North to promptly ratify it. The head of the International Red Cross worked vigorously to support the TPNW.

**History has proven the peace movement’s strength when we act boldly.
Now the U.S. peace movement is growing and can change U.S. policies:**

Although American politicians and mainstream news media typically ignore the peace movement, **we actually have made a lot of progress over the decades**. We have pushed back effectively and prevented several major escalations of nuclear weapons that the government had planned. We convinced several presidents of BOTH political parties to take steps toward peace, including supporting some treaties to reduce nuclear weapons dangers.

A decade ago we brought to Olympian a university history professor from New York to speak publicly about the peace movement successes. He is Lawrence S. Wittner. He had recently published his book, ***Confronting the Bomb: A Short History of the World Nuclear Disarmament Movement***. His book documents the power that the peace movement does have when we organize and push effectively.

During those times when the peace movement was actively growing and pushing, we did cause our government to ease back away from nuclear weapons and to pass treaties limiting them. But when the peace movement was not active, the government escalated the nuclear arms race.

Joanne added that nuclear weapons funding and policies escalated sharply in the past four years. Trump even classified weapons manufacturers as “essential workers” during the pandemic.

Glen said that in the early 1980s when President Reagan was radically escalating nuclear weapons and recklessly threatening nuclear war, the peace movement rose up – especially with the 1982 Freeze Campaign in the U.S. and the 1982 United Nations Second Special Session on Disarmament. Joanne was one of a million people in New York City for the giant peace rally in June 1982. Glen worked actively to help the Thurston County Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign win a county-wide ballot issue with more than 62% of the vote in the November 1982 election. Through these activities the peace movement helped tilt the nation and the world toward peace.

**Again nowadays the peace movement is telling the public that instead of protecting “national security,” our nuclear weapons destroy our security.**

Immediately next door to the Trident nuclear submarine base in Kitsap County WA, the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action has been nonviolently organizing against them since the 1970s.

If a Trident starts a nuclear war, the greater Seattle area will be a target for retaliation. The entire area and all of its people will be destroyed. Instead of protecting “national security,” our nuclear weapons would destroy us.

**Below is the image we showed on the TV screen. This image that has been posted on a number of billboards throughout the greater Seattle area.**



**Many excellent peace organizations exist nationally, regionally and locally:**

Especially since American politicians and American mainstream news media have horribly failed to inform us about the treaty, many dozens of American organizations have stepped up and done great work to publicize and promote the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

A great number of organizations around the world – and a great many throughout the U.S. – have been supporting this Treaty and working in other ways to abolish nuclear weapons. During the interview we did not have time to discuss these organizations, but Glen mentioned just a few.

He expressed great appreciation for the **International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN,** [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)), the non-profit organization that has been wildly successful in generating worldwide grassroots support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. ICAN won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize a few months after convincing the United Nations General Assembly to overwhelmingly approve the Treaty in July 2017.

Later in this document you can see the websites of other organizations for which Glen expressed great appreciation. These include nationwide organizations such as the **Arms Control Association** ([**www.armscontrol.org**](http://www.armscontrol.org)), the **Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists** ([**www.thebulletin.org**](http://www.thebulletin.org)), **Physicians for Social Responsibility** ([**www.psr.org**](http://www.psr.org)), the **Union of Concerned Scientists** ([**www.ucsusa.org**](http://www.ucsusa.org)), and **World Beyond War** ([**www.worldbeyondwar.org**](http://www.worldbeyondwar.org)).

Regional groups with nationwide influence include the **Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action** ([**www.gzcenter.org**](http://www.gzcenter.org)) next door to Kitsap County’s Trident base – and the **Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance** ([**www.orepa.org**](http://www.orepa.org)) at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where plutonium is processed for nuclear weapons.

Here is Washington State, our statewide coalition, **Washington Against Nuclear Weapons** ([**www.wanwcoalition.org**](http://www.wanwcoalition.org)) has been working for several years, and I appreciate the work of our local **Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons**. (Glen Anderson is OCANW’s contact person at (360) 491-9093 **glenanderson@integra.net**). Our Olympia Coalition meets monthly to share information and organize activities.

I invite ALL OF YOU to sign up for OCANW’s **FREE online course, “Nuclear Weapons Nowadays: What You Can Know and Do.”** Joanne, Glen, and two other well informed persons conduct this 4-session course online many times each year. It includes many online resources and good interaction among the participants. Contact Glen to find out about the next available opportunity.

You can see more informational resources posted to the “Nuclear Weapons” category of Glen’s blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). This TV program and the document you are reading now are posted to the blog’s categories for **“Nuclear Weapons”** or **“TV Programs.”** Please share the blog link for this TV program so your friends and other people everywhere can watch this interview with Joanne Dufour and read the document you are reading now, which thoroughly summarizes what we said during this interview. Again, visit [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) then click either the **“Nuclear Weapons”** link or the **“TV Programs”** link. The blog post’s title is the title of this February 2021 episode of Glen’s TV series: **“This Treaty Is the Beginning of the End of Nuclear Weapons.”**

**See much more information in the resources listed below and at the “Nuclear Weapons” part of Glen’s blog,** [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)**:**

Since mainstream news media have been failing to inform the American people about nuclear weapons, “we the people” must take responsibility to inform ourselves and the public and the media and the politicians in a variety of ways, including writing letters to newspapers and magazines and holding signs at street corners. It’s also important to communicate with the President and Congress.

The **“Nuclear Weapons”** category of Glen’s blog helps you and your friends learn a lot more from the many substantive articles and news items from recent years and various fact sheets and other informational resources. Also you can watch previous interviews about nuclear weapons from Glen’s TV series.

**The next column lists some links to Glen’s recent blog posts about the Treaty we’re discussing:**

* **November 5, 2019:** [**Fact Sheet: 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons – Glen's Parallax Perspectives**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/fact-sheet-2017-treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons)
* **May 20, 2020:** [**Build support for the U.N. treaty to PROHIBIT nuclear weapons! – Glen's Parallax Perspectives**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/build-support-for-the-u-n-treaty-to-prohibit-nuclear-weapons)
* **October 24, 2020:** [**GOOD NEWS!!! The 50th nation has ratified the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons!!! – Glen's Parallax Perspectives**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/good-news-the-50th-nation-has-ratified-the-u-n-treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons)
* **October 31, 2020:** [**50 nations ratified the U.N. treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons! See these great statements! – Glen's Parallax Perspectives**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/50-nations-ratified-the-u-n-treaty-prohibiting-nuclear-weapons-see-these-great-statements)
* **December 15, 2020:** [**Three more nations ratified the U.N. treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons. – Glen's Parallax Perspectives**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/three-more-nations-ratified-the-u-n-treaty-prohibiting-nuclear-weapons)

***We did not have time during the interview to mention the many resources listed below:***

The 5-point plan from Back from the Brink – [**www.preventnuclearwar.org**](http://www.preventnuclearwar.org) is very smart and practical. In addition to the brief mention during the interview, Glen encourages people to understand this about their smart 5-point plan:

In 2017 two nationwide organizations – the Union of Concerned Scientists ([**www.ucsusa.org**](http://www.ucsusa.org)) and Physicians for Social Responsibility ([**www.psr.org**](http://www.psr.org)) – created the **“Back from the Brink”** campaign ([**www.preventnuclearwar.org**](http://www.preventnuclearwar.org)) to promote a smart proposal of five public policy changes that would significantly reduce the likelihood of nuclear war. Many other organizations (nationwide and local, including the Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) have joined the effort.

The **“Back from the Brink” campaign** recognizes problems and **proposes five practical solutions:**

**We call on the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:**

 **1. Renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first:** Earlier in this article I explained the U.S.’s “first-strike” policy and the “first-strike” nuclear weapons. Even if our nation retains those weapons, we can still renounce the option of actually launching them first.

 **2. Ending the sole, unchecked authority of any U.S. president to launch a nuclear attack:** The U.S. Constitution specifies that only Congress can declare war, but since 1945 a *de facto* loophole has existed, because a president can start the biggest war of all – a nuclear war – on his own authority without Congress’s consent. From 2017 to early 2021 we had a president who was emotionally unstable, reckless and impulsive! But this problem persists even after Trump, as it has for 75 years when ALL presidents have been endangering us all – in violation of the U.S. Constitution. Remember, in 1945 a sensible president escalated a conventional war into dropping two atomic bombs on innocent civilian populations in Japan.

 **3. Taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert:** The “first-strike” policy and “first-strike” weapons have caused them to be put on “hair-trigger” alerts that can very quickly launch them and start a nuclear war. It is possible to de-alert them and negotiate some additional steps that can allow the U.S. or Russia or other nations to spend some time for a more thoughtful analysis of newly arriving information to make sure what our technology is seeing is not a computer error or a flock of birds or a weather balloon in the north. (All of those have actually occurred, and only thoughtful analysis and refusal to launch have prevented several nuclear wars.)

 **4. Cancelling the plan to replace its entire nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons:** In 2009 President Obama publicly said he wanted to eliminate nuclear weapons, and he supported the “New START” Treaty, which would reduce nuclear weapons. But the Senate Republicans refused to ratify this treaty unless Obama committed to what has been called the “complete rebuild” – the replacement of ALL of the U.S.’s nuclear warheads, missiles, bombers and submarines with ALL NEW ONES that are MUCH MORE DANGEROUS and MUCH MORE LIKELY TO START A NUCLEAR WAR. The projected cost was likely to exceed $1.2 TRILLION, but everybody expects it to be cost much, much more than that. Obama foolishly caved in to the Senate Republicans, and they ratified the New START Treaty – but only for 10 years ending in February 2021. Just a few days ago President Biden agreed to extend the New START Treaty, and Putin immediately agreed. (Putin had been urging renewal for several years, but Trump had been refusing.) We must cancel plans for the horrendously expensive replacement of ALL nuclear weapons with horribly more expensive and horribly more dangerous new ones. This is Point #4 in Back from the Brink’s 5-point proposal.

 **5. Actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals:** The U.S. is the only nation that has attacked another nation with atomic bombs – and the U.S. has been escalating each step of the nuclear arms race since the 1940s – so the U.S. has the greatest moral responsibility to be the leader in moving toward nuclear disarmament. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is one way for the rest of the world to pressure the nine nuclear nations to act sensibly. Other kinds of agreements are possible too. We need strong grassroots action to move the U.S. and the other nuclear nations toward peace.

**More resources about the TPNW specifically or nuclear weapons overall:**

**(I’m listing them here in no particular order):**

* Nuclear Weapons Will Soon Be Banned Under International Law: [**https://truthout.org/articles/nuclear-weapons-will-soon-be-banned-under-international-law/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=4e557096-e59a-4280-a35b-45d08c679dba**](https://truthout.org/articles/nuclear-weapons-will-soon-be-banned-under-international-law/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=4e557096-e59a-4280-a35b-45d08c679dba)
* This climate scientist opposes “nuclear winter” and urges Biden to sign the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: [**https://beyondnuclearinternational.org/2020/10/25/dear-president-elect-biden/**](https://beyondnuclearinternational.org/2020/10/25/dear-president-elect-biden/)
* Interesting article summarizing the UN's nuclear weapons treaty's meaning -- and what's next: [**https://thebulletin.org/2020/10/the-nuclear-ban-treaty-is-set-to-enter-force-experts-explain-what-comes-next/?utm\_source=Newsletter&utm\_medium=Email&utm\_campaign=MondayNewsletter11022020&utm\_content=NuclearRisk\_BanTreaty\_10302020**](https://thebulletin.org/2020/10/the-nuclear-ban-treaty-is-set-to-enter-force-experts-explain-what-comes-next/?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=MondayNewsletter11022020&utm_content=NuclearRisk_BanTreaty_10302020)
* Cities can endorse the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, even if their nations do not: [**https://beyondnuclearinternational.org/2020/11/01/ican-save-my-city/**](https://beyondnuclearinternational.org/2020/11/01/ican-save-my-city/)
* The highly respected Arms Control Association (ACA) published this article saying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is a “much-needed wake-up call” -- [**https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2020-11/focus/nuclear-ban-treaty-much-needed-wake-up-call**](https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2020-11/focus/nuclear-ban-treaty-much-needed-wake-up-call)
* The ACA published this article: When the TPNW goes into force, what's next? [**https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2020-11/features/nuclear-weapons-ban-treaty-enter-into-force-whats-next**](https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2020-11/features/nuclear-weapons-ban-treaty-enter-into-force-whats-next)
* Despite 50 nations enacting the treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, some nations are launching a new nuclear arms race! [**https://www.juancole.com/2020/10/nations-accelerating-dangerous.html**](https://www.juancole.com/2020/10/nations-accelerating-dangerous.html)
* National Fellowship of Reconciliation’s statement on the ratification of the U.N. treaty outlawing nuclear weapons: [**https://forusa.org/2020/10/27/for-usas-statement-on-passage-of-un-treaty-outlawing-nuclear-weapons/**](https://forusa.org/2020/10/27/for-usas-statement-on-passage-of-un-treaty-outlawing-nuclear-weapons/)
* Click to sign this petition urging Joe Biden to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: [**https://forcechange.com/577435/eliminate-all-nuclear-weapons/**](https://forcechange.com/577435/eliminate-all-nuclear-weapons/)
* Populations in six NATO nations overwhelmingly support the TPNW: [**https://www.icanw.org/nato\_poll\_2021**](https://www.icanw.org/nato_poll_2021)
* In early January 2021, Joanne Dufour compiled this impressive list from several ICAN sources:

***Some cities endorsing the Treaty from Oct 17 2020 to Jan 4, 2021: TOTAL 372***

**AUSTRALIA** 26>31 cities have opposed the government policy of continuing to depend on NW

**BELGIUM** 35 >65 cities; 150 Belgian mayors signed a [letter](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.mayorsforpeace.org%2Fenglish%2Fwhatsnew%2Factivity%2F181015_Belgium_IDP_2018.html&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cf5321b58a2fa4edf209308d8b1d84bfd%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637454889854732308%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=sxEco3ezUjfPOsg8Kp3UMsBNVnXONARYmwOyGKel9GM%3D&reserved=0) to the Belgian government in 2018; in opposition to  storing  20 US  NW ; new government now supports Treaty

**CANADA** 8 >10 cities have encouraged their government to reverse its policy of endorsing NW

**CROATIA**  2 cities but govt has not yet signed or ratified the treaty

**FRANCE** 25 >30 cities opposing 290 nuclear weapons in their arsenal

**GERMANY** 68  cities and 150 federal parliamentarians oppose the hosting of 20 US NW

**INDIA** 1 city has opposed India’s arsenal of 150 NW but the government has remained firm about continuing and updating its arsenal.

**ITALY** 37 province towns  and 1 provincial capital city have opposed the hosting of 40 US NW

**JAPAN**  2 cities and a growing number of organizations and citizen groups support the treaty and resist the  current government policy to continue US protection using NW

**LUXEMBOURG**  9 >13 cities are in opposition, but govt still supports NW

**NETHERLANDS** 1 >3 cities opposed the 20 US NW but growing popular support of the treaty. Ony NATO nation which took part in but voted against the Treaty

**NORWAY** 25 >40 cities have supported the treaty with growing popular support but govt resistance

**SPAIN** 11 >13 cities have supported the Treaty along with one political party, but no action yet by government to sign the treaty

**SWITZERLAND** 6 >7 cities prompted government to vote in favor of adopting the Treaty but no action yet

**UNITED KINGDOM**   9 >13 cities supported the Treaty to oppose the 210 UK nuclear weapons. Popular opinion for the treaty is growing but government firmly against the Treaty.

**UNITED STATES** 37 <36 cities; 3 states (CA, OR, NJ) support the Treaty but government firmly against it at this time.

**8002 mayors in 165 countries and regions have endorsed the Treaty as of 1/1/21**

* The Secretary-General of the United Nations issued this statement when the TPNW went into effect on January 22, 2021: [**https://www.icanw.org/tpnw\_enters\_into\_force**](https://www.icanw.org/tpnw_enters_into_force)
* Beatrice Fihn, ICAN’s leader, issued this statement when the TPNW went into effect: [**https://www.icanw.org/beatrice\_fihn\_speech\_un\_high\_level\_on\_tpnw\_entry\_into\_force**](https://www.icanw.org/beatrice_fihn_speech_un_high_level_on_tpnw_entry_into_force)
* The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons went into effect on Friday January 22, 2021, for the nations that have ratified it. Worldwide actions celebrated it. In Olympia WA people held signs at prominent street corners.
* News Release: Peace Activists Appeal to Navy Personnel at Trident Base: Refuse illegal orders; Refuse to launch nuclear missiles: See my January 4, 2021, e-mail from Leonard Eiger containing their January 3 news release. They placed an ad in a newspaper and posted it to Ground Zero’s website. SEE THIS: News Release: Peace Activists Appeal to Navy Personnel at Trident Base: Refuse illegal orders; Refuse to launch nuclear missiles: [**https://www.gzcenter.org/2019/03/31/appeal-to-navy-personnel/**](https://www.gzcenter.org/2019/03/31/appeal-to-navy-personnel/)
* Before TPNW went into effect, this article publicized it: “Nuclear Weapons Will Soon Be Banned Under International Law” -- [**https://truthout.org/articles/nuclear-weapons-will-soon-be-banned-under-international-law/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=4e557096-e59a-4280-a35b-45d08c679dba**](https://truthout.org/articles/nuclear-weapons-will-soon-be-banned-under-international-law/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=4e557096-e59a-4280-a35b-45d08c679dba)
* **How the "Impossible" Became Possible** ; the story of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: [**https://www.uua.org/international/blog/disarmament/how-impossible-became-possible**](https://www.uua.org/international/blog/disarmament/how-impossible-became-possible) The point here is that the 2017 adopted Convention to Ban Nuclear Weapons may be pie in the sky for some, but this is simply a new chapter for those who have been working diligently for disarmament over the last several decades and is soon coming into force.
* This climate scientist opposes "nuclear winter" and urges Biden to sign the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: [**https://beyondnuclearinternational.org/2020/10/25/dear-president-elect-biden/**](https://beyondnuclearinternational.org/2020/10/25/dear-president-elect-biden/)
* Here is the recorded TPNW nationwide Zoom meeting from Wed. Dec. 16, 2020: Six of us from Olympia participated in the Wed. Dec. 16 nationwide webinar about what the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons really means and how we can build power to implement it. The webinar was powerfully informative and empowering. **It was recorded, so you can watch it at this link:** [**http://www.nuclearban.us/webinar-entry-into-force-of-the-nuclear-ban-treaty-what-does-it-mean/**](http://www.nuclearban.us/webinar-entry-into-force-of-the-nuclear-ban-treaty-what-does-it-mean/)

**Glen’s closing encouragement:**

Glen thanked Joanne Dufour for sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm for nuclear disarmament!

He also thanked all of the people who have been watching this interview.

We understand that nuclear weapons are an extreme danger – and therefore a very scary topic. Most people try to avoid thinking about scary topics such as the climate crisis and nuclear weapons. Joanne and Glen appreciate your courage in watching this interview – or reading the thorough summary he typed up. (You are reading that document now.)

We want to inform people – and also to EMPOWER people to take effective actions to prevent nuclear war and actually abolish nuclear weapons.

Big, scary realities such as the climate crisis and nuclear weapons can feel too big and overwhelming. We believe that solid information, a positive “can-do” attitude, and smart strategies can help people join together in organizations to take the actions necessary to actually solve the big problems. These are positive ways to rescue ourselves from feeling overwhelmed and powerless. It feels good to take positive actions to solve problems!

Glen offers FREE online workshops in “Nonviolent Grassroots Organizing” to provide the insights, resources and skills to help people make significant progress on any kinds of issues they care about (peace, environment, human rights, economics, etc.). Please contact him for information about taking those free online workshops: (360) 491-9093 **glenanderson@integra.net**.

Decades ago a great peace activist names David Dellinger wrote a book decades ago titled, ***More Power Than We Know***. Yes, **ordinary people really do have more than we think we have**. The hard, scary reality of nuclear weapons is not the only reality. Nonviolent people-power is a powerful countervailing reality too. **We really can abolish nuclear weapons!**

Please join with the national, regional and local peace organizations mentioned above and/or contact me through the box below.

You can get information about a wide variety of issues related to peace, social justice and nonviolence through my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)or by phoning me at
(360) 491-9093 or e-mailing me at **glenanderson@integra.net**

I end each TV program with this encouragement:

**We're all one human family, and we all share one planet.**

**We can create a better world, but we all have to work at it.**

**The world needs whatever you can do to help!**