

# **NUCLEAR WEAPONS: CONFRONT THE NEW NUCLEAR ARMS RACE!**

1. **Join** Olympia FOR’s New Committee Organizing vs. Nuclear Weapons.
2. **Watch** Olympia FOR’s Interview on Our Website and on TCTV.
3. **Stop** ENORMOUS Budget Increase for All New Nuclear Weapons.
4. **Support** Bold International Pressures to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.
5. **Read** about more news, resources and opportunities.

by Glen Anderson

## **1. Join Olympia FOR’s New Committee Organizing vs. Nuclear Weapons.**

The Olympia FOR joined a new statewide coalition, the **Washington Coalition to Stop the New Nuclear Arms Race**. The Olympia FOR also created our own local committee to organize here.

Olympia FOR’s nuclear weapons committee had our first meeting on May 4. **We’ll hold our second meeting on Wednesday June 7 at 7:00 pm at Traditions Café, 5<sup>th</sup> & Water**, in downtown Olympia.

We had already published information about nuclear weapons in previous newsletters, and we had already posted information onto the “Nuclear Weapons” part of Olympia FOR’s website, [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org)

Please join the Olympia FOR’s nuclear weapons committee. Contact Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 [nuclearweapons@olympiafor.org](mailto:nuclearweapons@olympiafor.org)

The **Washington Coalition to Stop the New Nuclear Arms Race** was created in late 2016 by Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, [www.wpsr.org](http://www.wpsr.org). WPSR did this because WPSR recognized the need to mobilize broad public opposition to the new nuclear arms race. Please contact the coalition through [lilly@wpsr.org](mailto:lilly@wpsr.org) or [www.wpsr.org](http://www.wpsr.org) or (206) 547-2630.

WPSR provided both of the guests for the Olympia FOR’s June 2017 TV program about nuclear weapons. See article below and on page 10 of Olympia FOR’s June-July 2017 newsletter.

## **2. Olympia FOR’s JUNE 2017 INTERVIEW FOCUSES ON “CONFRONTING THE NEW NUCLEAR ARMS RACE.” WATCH IT THROUGH [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org) OR ON TCTV CABLE CHANNEL 22.**

See the “TV Programs” part of [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org) to watch this and/or read a document (in Word or .pdf format) that thoroughly summarizes what we said. The end of that summary document lists some excellent sources of information. Also see the “TV Programs” article on page 10 of this newsletter for information about watching it on TCTV or through our website.

Our two guests were provided by Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (WPSR). (See above.) The first four numbered articles you’re reading now highlight a very few of our main points, along with additional information. For more information watch the program on TCTV and/or through our website, and read the website’s thorough summary.

**Lilly Adams** is WPSR’s Security Program Organizer. **Bruce Amundson, MD**, is President of WPSR’s Board of Directors. We explain the problems and the new organizing that’s underway worldwide (see below) – and here in Washington State, and right

here in Olympia (see above) – to stop the new nuclear arms race and to abolish nuclear weapons altogether.

We discuss the U.S.’s longstanding “first-strike” policy, the fatal flaws in “deterrence” theory, many accidents and near-misses, and other extreme dangers. The rest of the world is increasingly outraged that the nuclear nations have persisted with our global threats. But Congress and news media have been negligent.

Since 1945 – for 72 years – the president has had the sole discretion – the absolute unilateral power – to decide when to launch nuclear weapons. This has been a serious problem for 72 years. But now the crisis is extreme, because the one person with this absolute power and his finger on the button is Trump, who seems to be seriously mentally ill with reckless egotism and almost no impulse control!

Congress could fix this longstanding problem by passing the “**Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act**.” This would

## Nuclear Weapons – Updates in Early 2017 – Posted on “Nuclear Weapons” part of [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org)

take the president’s finger off the button to prevent a First Strike unless Congress explicitly authorizes it. The bill has 32 co-sponsors in the House (including 1 Republican) and 7 in the Senate. Rep. Ted Lieu is the prime sponsor of this bill in the House (H.R. 669), and Sen. Ted Markey is the prime sponsor of the Senate bill (S. 200). By early May 2017, nearly 500,000 Americans had signed a petition supporting this legislation. See this updated info from early May 2017: [www.tinyurl.com/kovtvz6](http://www.tinyurl.com/kovtvz6)

Our TV guests mentioned some other good congressional legislation to reduce nuclear weapons.

In 1969 the world’s nations took action to stop the spread of nuclear weapons to additional nations. They passed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which went into effect in 1970. The NPT is a grand bargain between the nations **without** nuclear weapons (which agreed **not** to acquire nuclear weapons) and the nations that **did** have nuclear weapons (which agreed to start planning to **get rid of** theirs). This grand bargain went into effect in 1970. Read the NPT’s text at [www.ccnr.org/npt\\_treaty.html](http://www.ccnr.org/npt_treaty.html)

However, the nations with nuclear weapons have utterly failed to uphold their end of the bargain. We’ve been violating the NPT since 1970 and angering the rest of the world!

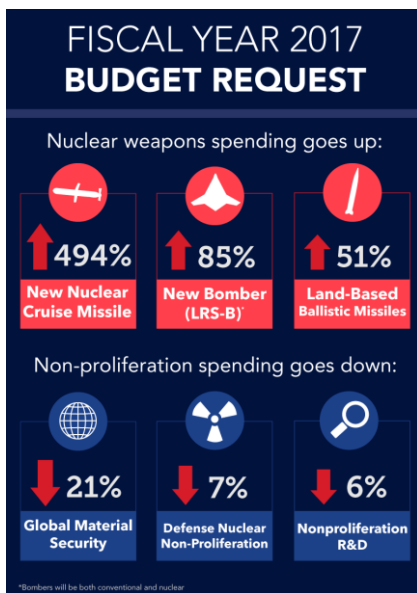
Also, the world is experiencing some geopolitical crises now that are **making nuclear war more likely**:

- Relations between the U.S. and Russia have seriously broken down throughout the entire Obama Administration.
- India and Pakistan have been fighting continuously for many years, and both have nuclear weapons, and both have threatened to actually use their nuclear weapons if they felt sufficiently threatened. The rest of the world has no real control over those nations.
- Now the U.S. has a president who is grossly ignorant and psychologically unstable with poor impulse control.

An amazing number of high quality non-profit organizations have been working for many years to abolish nuclear weapons. See the list at the end of the Word and .pdf documents next to the link for watching our June 2017 program through the “TV Programs” part of [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org)

The U.S. government and the military-industrial complex are pushing us toward suicide. “We the people” must organize and stop the madness – and prevent this suicide! Please help!

### 3. STOP ENORMOUS BUDGET INCREASE FOR ALL NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS.



Source: [www.armscontrolcenter.org](http://www.armscontrolcenter.org)

Decades after the Cold War ended, the U.S. is recklessly provoking a new nuclear arms race! Congress, Obama and Trump have been planning to **re-build all of the U.S.’s nuclear weapons with horribly expensive new ones.**

Obama and Russia were working for modest reductions through the START II treaty, but in order to get Con-

gress to support this, **Obama committed to replacing all of our nuclear weapons – at a lifetime cost of \$1 TRILLION!** This – in turn – is provoking Russia, China and others to beef up theirs.

The FY 2017 budget proposal was bad, but Trump’s budget proposals are much worse.

Congress and mainstream media have failed to discuss this seriously, so the public is almost totally ignorant of this extremely serious threat to our survival. But the rest of the world has been paying attention and they are outraged. (See section 4 below)

The trillion-dollar total rebuild of all U.S. nuclear weapons includes work at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. A very knowledgeable non-profit organization there -- the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA, [www.orepa.org](http://www.orepa.org)) has been documenting and exposing the stupidity, reckless disregard for peace and safety, and the waste of our tax dollars. Reach fascinating, informative reports and news through OREPA’s website and newsletters.

We must demand that Congress **NOT** fund new nuclear weapons! For this purpose, our TV program includes a 1-minute video that uses the classic short video (the “daisy ad”) from the 1964 Johnson/Goldwater campaign. You can watch it through this link: [www.psr.org/chapters/washington/peace-nuclear-weapons](http://www.psr.org/chapters/washington/peace-nuclear-weapons)

Trump’s May 2017 budget proposal would increase the nuclear weapons account by \$1 billion above last year. It would cut \$90 million from the non-proliferation account, impairing our efforts to halt the spread of nuclear weapons and material.

**NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARTICLE CONTINUES ONTO PAGE 4**

## 4. Support Bold INTERNATIONAL PRESSURES TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

Non-nuclear nations are organizing for a worldwide ban on nuclear weapons, possibly soon! I have reported on this in previous issues of Olympia FOR newsletters and the “Nuclear Weapons” part of [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org).

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) – [www.icanw.org](http://www.icanw.org) – is a coalition of more than 400 organizations based in approximately 80 nations joining together to work for an international treaty to ban nuclear weapons altogether. Their first formal meeting was in late March 2017. They’ll meet again in June. (See June 14 calendar listing on newsletter page 16.)

All of the nations that do have nuclear weapons have refused to participate, with only one exception. North Korea is the only nuclear nation joining those efforts in seeking to ban all nuclear weapons. Why don’t mainstream news media or U.S. politicians tell us this?

More than 130 nations are likely to sign on to such a ban, and this super-majority of the world’s nations would put huge pressure on the handful of nuclear nations. This is happening through the UN’s General Assembly, the body of all member nations, and it can happen there because powerful nuclear nations do not have a veto there (only in the Security Council).

See information at <http://thebulletin.org/blog> and this article by Joseph Gerson from the Quaker-based American Friends Service Committee ([www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org)): [www.tinyurl.com/m2kwpph](http://www.tinyurl.com/m2kwpph)

On May 1, 2017, nuclear abolitionists held a worldwide meeting and made progress. The non-profit organization Abolition 2000 held their annual meeting in Vienna and worked toward this international ban. See this information from the United Nations: [www.un.org/disarmament/ptnw](http://www.un.org/disarmament/ptnw) and info at [www.tinyurl.com/mzhucvt](http://www.tinyurl.com/mzhucvt) Another great source of information about this international effort is [www.BaselPeaceOffice.org](http://www.BaselPeaceOffice.org)

## 5. Read ABOUT MORE NEWS, RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES.

**Now we must worry about nuclear weapons again:** For decades Michael Klare has been one of the best informed and most articulate researchers/writers about peace-related matters. Shortly before the 2016 election he wrote an article about why we must start worrying about nuclear weapons again. He was concerned about Hillary Clinton’s hawkishness and Donald Trump’s impulsiveness. He summarized nuclear dangers of the Cold War peak and of the 1980s. He summarized worsening dangers between the U.S. and Russia during the Obama era and the growing dangers on both sides of using “tactical” nuclear weapons to begin a nuclear war. He says this kind of escalation is part of both nations’ “modernization” of their nuclear arsenals, and that China and Pakistan are considering building their own similar weapons too. Read the article at [www.tinyurl.com/mbjpv4f](http://www.tinyurl.com/mbjpv4f)

**Trident nuclear submarines are nearby and horribly destructive:** 25% of all U.S. deployed nuclear weapons are based 60 miles north of Olympia, 20 miles west from downtown Seattle at the Trident nuclear submarine base at Bangor in Kitsap County WA. Eight huge Trident submarines are based there. Each sub carries 24 missiles containing a total of 100 nuclear warheads (assuming 4 warheads per missile). Each warhead has the destructive force of up to 455,000 tons of dynamite. This is about 30 times the power of the 12-15 kiloton Hiroshima bomb that killed 166,000 people and leveled a city larger than Seattle. Source: The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, [www.gzcenter.org](http://www.gzcenter.org) Read about Trident, Ground Zero’s past and upcoming activities, and GZ’s newsletters through their website.

**Three nonviolent protesters at Trident base were found guilty.** The Olympia FOR’s April-May 2017 newsletter reported on their action during Mothers’ Day weekend of 2016.

On April 12, 2017, a federal court in Tacoma found all three – Larry Kerschner, Bernie Meyer, and Gilberto Perez – guilty. Read peace organizer Leonard Eiger’s summary of their trial at Ground Zero’s website, [www.gzcenter.org/2017/04/15/know-where-you-stand-and-stand-there](http://www.gzcenter.org/2017/04/15/know-where-you-stand-and-stand-there)



**Coming soon to a city near you!**

**Do NOT let politicians get away with saying, “All options are on the table.” That is a THREAT to USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS!** How often do we hear politicians say, “All options are on the table”? This means, “We might nuke you!” The U.S. has always had a “first-strike” policy

and has always refused to rule out escalating a conventional conflict into a nuclear war. Trump is only the most current of a 72-year-long history of presidents willing to launch nuclear weapons against other nations. We must **prohibit** this option instead of letting politicians glibly threaten to destroy the world. Info: [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No\\_first\\_use](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No_first_use)

**Organize with Global Zero to oppose nuclear weapons:** When I listed some good groups at the end of the summary of what we said during Olympia FOR’s June 2017 TV program (posted at [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org)), I neglected to list

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[www.globalzero.org](http://www.globalzero.org) as one of the organizations currently working in practical ways to abolish nuclear weapons. Their resources include some information at [www.globalzero.org/get-the-facts](http://www.globalzero.org/get-the-facts)

**U.S. Representative Denny Heck (D-WA 10) was the ONLY Democrat from Washington State who did NOT vote to reduce funding for a recklessly provocative new cruise missile:**

The military-industrial-congressional complex is pushing ahead with reckless, provocative new weapons and a new nuclear arms race. One of these new weapons is the “Long Range Standoff Weapon,” a cruise missile that would recklessly provoke Russia and other nations. This cruise missile would be more precise and could be launched without warning, putting pressure on other nuclear-armed states to keep their arsenals on high alert and increasing the risk of nuclear war. The Pentagon has stated that this weapon would have a role “beyond deterrence.” That means it is an aggressive weapon! The missile and its refurbished warhead will reportedly cost between \$20-30 billion over twenty years to build. **Don’t we have better uses for this money? Our Rep. Denny Heck thought it was OK to spend this money on this aggressive weapon.** Rep. Mike Quigley introduced an amendment to the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, H.Amdt.1187 to H.R.5293, to reduce funding for the Long Range Standoff Weapon. Denny Heck was the **ONLY** Democrat in WA who did **NOT** vote for Quigley’s amendment to reduce funding.

**See information we have been posting on the “Nuclear Weapons” part of [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org).** We will post the article you are reading, and we’ll continue adding to this part of Olympia FOR’s website into the future.

**The U.S.’s weapons in space are part of our nation’s aggressive, illegal plan to dominate the world:** The 1967 Outer Space Treaty (which actually has a much longer formal name) prohibits placing weapons of mass destruction in outer space, in orbit around earth, etc. Nevertheless, the U.S. has for many years been militarizing space. For example, see [www.projectcensored.org/8-planned-weapons-in-space-violate-international-treaty](http://www.projectcensored.org/8-planned-weapons-in-space-violate-international-treaty) and much information from the amazingly knowledgeable Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, [www.space4peace.org](http://www.space4peace.org)

**Nuclear weapons information is included in an insightful article about how Americans remember (and forget) our wars:** See [www.tinyurl.com/lom5zjz](http://www.tinyurl.com/lom5zjz)

**Shape the U.S.’s next Nuclear Posture Review away from nuclear war:** Presidents have much control over what the U.S. does about nuclear weapons. Occasionally they conduct a “Nuclear Posture Review” (NPR) to shape their policies. In January 2017 Trump began his NPR. It’s expected to be released by the end of 2017. The previous one was released in 2010 by President Obama. Trump’s gross ignorance and recklessness cause

many people worldwide to fear what his NPR will promote. Peace supporters want Trump’s NPR to reduce nuclear weapons, avoid a new arms race, cut spending, and declare a no-first-use policy. Urge your U.S. Senate and House members to be voices for sanity and disarmament during the Nuclear Posture Review process. Some House members (led by Representatives Barbara Lee, Mike Quigley and Earl Blumenauer) have urged peaceful alternatives to nuclear dangers. Visit [www.tinyurl.com/mg3dfxq](http://www.tinyurl.com/mg3dfxq) to urge your House and Senate members to support peace in the NPR process.



**A new nuclear arms race is underway!** Ground Zero’s media & outreach expert Leonard Eiger reports on what the government euphemistically calls a “Life Extension Program” for the W76 thermonuclear warhead deployed on the Trident II D5 submarine-launched ballistic missile. An article in the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists ([www.tinyurl.com/jq9gzxv](http://www.tinyurl.com/jq9gzxv)) explains “how US nuclear force modernization is undermining strategic stability: The burst-height compensating super-fuze.” The U.S. “has vastly increased the ability of warheads to detonate closer to their intended targets. Essentially, Trident is now three times deadlier than ever before.” Also, the U.S. **could** have prevented Russia’s development of a new kind of nuclear weapon that threatens the U.S., **but** George W. Bush withdrew the U.S. from the ABM treaty and caused Russia to feel threatened. Bush and Obama have pushed ahead with more nuclear weapons, so Russia is trying to defend itself from U.S. threats. [www.tinyurl.com/kppfwdt](http://www.tinyurl.com/kppfwdt) explains what Russia created in response to U.S. withdrawal from the ABM treaty.

**“Preventing Nuclear War: There’s No Cure”** -- Watch the powerfully informative PowerPoint presentation by Dr. David Hall and Mack Johnson at the Pacific Life Community’s event on March 6, 2017. Click this link: <https://pacificlifecommunity.files.wordpress.com/2017/03/plc-retreat-3-6-2017.pdf>