

# Aligning with the Nuclear Ban Treaty



## A Guide for Quakers

**Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament  
and Climate Change  
Northampton Friends Meeting  
43 Center Street  
Northampton, MA 01060**

**[www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/northampton-friends-meeting](http://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/northampton-friends-meeting)**



Dear Friends,

We hope you'll be inspired by this packet. It shows exactly what we did to align our Northampton Friends Meeting with the 2017 UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Since this packet was made, there have been some changes:

1. Along with many others, we told Honeywell that we are boycotting their consumer products division (thermostats, etc.) until they stop making nuclear weapons. Honeywell hasn't stopped making nuclear weapons -- yet. But, perhaps in response to all the letters, they did sell off their consumer products division! This makes it less useful to boycott their products, but perhaps it does indicate that they're listening. Divestment is still a powerful action.

2. The list of the two dozen or so companies that make nuclear weapons changes periodically. For the most recent list, please see [www.NuclearBan.US](http://www.NuclearBan.US) or [www.DontBankOnTheBomb.com](http://www.DontBankOnTheBomb.com).

3. We didn't include writing to each company to tell them about our policy of disconnecting from the entire industry. But it's a great idea. There are sample letters and contact info for each company at [www.NuclearBan.US](http://www.NuclearBan.US).

4. Timmon Wallis, executive director of NuclearBan.US and a member of our Meeting, has published a report called *Warheads to Windmills: How to Pay for the Green New Deal*, launched in Congress on June 20, 2019. It is informative and inspiring reading for anyone working on climate, peace, disarmament, or justice issues, and it is a very useful supplement to this packet. See [www.NuclearBan.US](http://www.NuclearBan.US).

5. FYI, there is now legislation pending that dovetails with the urgent, comprehensive actions required to prevent nuclear war and nuclear weapons accidents as well as the worst effects of the climate crisis: Norton HR-2419, "Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act of 2019." Your Meeting might consider a letter writing campaign seeking co-sponsors and other support. See [www.NuclearBan.US](http://www.NuclearBan.US) for letter templates.

6. If you feel that FCNL should be actively supporting the strongest possible nuclear abolition legislation like HR-2419, you may want to bring that to the attention of your Meeting and FCNL. If you feel that AFSC should be doing more with peace, disarmament, and climate issues, you may want to bring that to the attention of your Meeting and AFSC. Sample letters are available on request.

Yours sincerely,

Vicki Elson,

On behalf of the Northampton Friends Meeting Working Group

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# Aligning with the Nuclear Ban Treaty

## A. DECIDING

On July 7, 2017, by a vote of 122 countries to 1 (with 1 abstention), the *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons* (TPNW or Nuclear Ban Treaty) was adopted at the United Nations in New York. Thirty countries, including all of the nuclear armed nations and many of their nuclear allies, boycotted the proceedings. Nevertheless, this treaty is now officially part of treaty law. It codifies an international norm that conclusively and unequivocally rejects the use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances. And once it has been ratified by 50 countries, it will enter into force as law in all those countries. Sooner or later, this will include most countries in the world.

The question before us, Friends, is how do we, as individuals, as Monthly Meetings, as Quarterly and Yearly Meetings, and as Quakers globally, relate to this new Treaty? This is a treaty between countries, but that does not mean we cannot choose how we relate to it, especially in those countries, like the United States, whose governments are so far refusing to align themselves with this treaty. Are we being called, as Friends, to respond to this new Treaty? Are there steps we can take, as Friends, to align ourselves with this Treaty and with the rest of the world who are speaking out so powerfully as one voice on this issue?

As Friends, we need to listen and be guided by the spirit. We need to carefully discern what it is the spirit is calling us to do in relation to this new Treaty. And we need to act on these promptings of the spirit, as we are able.

## B. DISCONNECTING

How are we, as Friends and as Meetings, connected with that which the world is calling out as evil and unacceptable? Are we connected through our investments, our purchases, or our business affairs, with the companies making and maintaining these weapons? How do we wish to communicate to them our desire that they cease their involvement with these weapons? How do we speak to that of God in those who are profiting from their involvement with these weapons? How do we speak truth to power in ways that help those in power to see what is right and to do it?

How do we, as Friends and as Meetings, express our deeply held beliefs to those who disagree with us? How do we encourage our elected representatives to listen to the ordinary people they represent rather than to the corporate interests who fund their re-election campaigns?

## C. DECLARING

As Friends, we are called to live out our faith as examples to others. But sometimes we are also called to shout from the rooftops so that others may hear. Are we being called, in this instance, to share our stories with other faith communities so they may better discern for themselves what God is calling them to do? Are we being called to share our stories with the general public, through local newspapers, TV, radio and social media, so that others may consider following our example?

## **How Northampton Friends Aligned Themselves with the Nuclear Ban Treaty**

### **1. As Quakers, we are predisposed to work for peace and against war**

As Quakers, we have for generations opposed war and tried to promote paths to peace. Our [historic peace testimony](#) (*see page 10*) calls us to live "in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars." Since the dawn of the nuclear era, Quakers have been concerned about the threat to all life on earth posed by the most dangerous weapons ever invented.

### **2. Learning first-hand about the opportunity we now have with the new Treaty**

We were excited, therefore, to learn first-hand about the [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#) (*see page 11*) from two of our number (Tim Wallis and Vicki Elson). Vicki and Tim were part of the [International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons](#) (ICAN) team at the treaty negotiations at the United Nations in New York. ICAN played an important role in the negotiations, for which they won the 2017 [Nobel Peace Prize](#). Vicki and Tim gave a public presentation about the Treaty on July 9, 2017 at the Northampton Friends Meeting House.

### **3. Acting out of a Quaker concern**

Tim and Vicki felt a very strong calling to bring this new Treaty to the attention of Quakers and others across the country (*see page 12*). They brought their concern to Northampton Monthly Meeting on October 1, 2017, just days after returning from the signing ceremony in New York, where Presidents and Prime Ministers from 40 countries lined up to be the first ones to sign the Treaty.

### **4. Discernment by the Meeting**

The Meeting agreed a minute in support of the Treaty (*see page 13*), and asked our Climate Action Working Group to take this on as part of their work, as our Peace and Social Justice Witness Committee had been laid down. The Meeting also agreed to bring this to Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting (CVQM), which was to meet the following weekend. CVQM invited all the Meetings in the Quarter to consider this issue and to come back to the next Quarterly Meeting in February with suggestions as to how to take this forward (*see page 13*).

### **5. Providing clearness and support**

Meanwhile, the Meeting's Peace and Justice Social Concerns Committee met with Tim and Vicki to discuss with them the Quaker basis of their concern. The Committee recommended that a Support Group be appointed for Tim and Vicki and that they ask the Clerk for a Travelling Minute to take with them on their travels around the country. By this point, Tim and Vicki had already been travelling extensively to give workshops and presentations about the Treaty.

### **6. Assigning a group to take this forward**

Nine Friends then met on November 1, 2017 to form the new Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament and Climate Action (NDCA). They discussed how the Meeting could be more involved in the campaign to build support for the TPNW and for the elimination of all nuclear weapons within the United States. The Working Group

agreed to ask the Meeting to 'proclaim its intention' to be in alignment with the Treaty. Alignment would then involve making sure the Meeting was not inadvertently supporting the nuclear weapons industry through its investments or purchases (*see page 15*).

### **7. Learning more**

On December 2, 2017, Vicki and Tim led a workshop about the new Treaty, what it means to align with it, and why this is so important (*see pages 16-18*). Several members and attenders of Northampton Meeting took part, and there was a follow-up question and answer session at one of our scheduled 9:30 hours, where more members of the Meeting were able to participate.

### **8. Deciding as a Meeting to align with the Treaty**

The request to align with the Treaty was brought to our December Meeting for Business, and concerns were raised about the Meeting issuing a 'proclamation' as well as about it being involved in a boycott. However, the Meeting did want to strengthen its Minute from October, and therefore agreed a new Minute asserting 'its intention to examine the ways in which it is complicit in the nuclear weapons industry... and to plan for ways to eliminate or reduce that complicity.' (*see page 13*)

### **9. Doing our homework – how are we complicit?**

The next step for the Working Group was to see if the Meeting had any connections with the [companies that make nuclear weapons](#) (*See pages 18-19*). With the help of Finance and Property Committee, an inventory of possible connections was made and this was compared to the list of nuclear weapons companies (*see page 20*). We found no investments and no contracts, but we did discover that we had two Honeywell thermostats in the Meeting House (*see page 21*)!

### **10. Going above and beyond**

Although it was not expected that Meetings would go so far as to move bank accounts to align with the Treaty, we also noted that the Meeting had a bank account with Peoples United Bank (PUB). Since PUB has more than \$100 million invested in Orbital ATK, one of the companies concerned, we decided as a Working Group to include them in our request for the Meeting to be Treaty Aligned.

### **11. Discerning the way forward**

Having identified how we were complicit with the nuclear weapons industry, at our January 14, 2018 Meeting for Business, Friends discerned how we may move towards alignment with the Treaty. To that end, we as a Meeting took the following steps.

- We agreed to send a letter and email to Honeywell letting them know of our concerns.
- We agreed to send a letter to Peoples United Bank and ask for a meeting with representatives of the bank.
- We agreed to send to local faith communities asking for their support of the treaty.
- We agreed to support the leading of Timmon Wallis and Vicki Elson to work for a ban of all nuclear weapons. They were given a travelling minute from the

meeting and a support group was formed to elder their work (*see page 14*).

## **12. Corresponding with Honeywell**

Having Honeywell thermostats in the Meeting House did not mean we had to rip our thermostats out of our walls. Rather it gave us an opportunity, as Honeywell customers, to communicate with Honeywell about our concern that they stop making nuclear weapons.

- a. The Clerk wrote, on behalf of the Meeting, to Honeywell CEO, Darius Adamczyk on January 28, 2018 (*see page 22-23*).
- b. We received a reply from Anne Madden, Vice President and General Counsel of Honeywell, on Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, assuring us that Honeywell was ‘in strict compliance with all applicable international laws and regulations.’ (*see pg 24*)
- c. The Meeting sent a response on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, asking if she was denying that Honeywell was involved in the manufacture of nuclear weapons (*see pp 25-26*).
- d. We received a further reply from VP Anne Madden by email on March 17<sup>th</sup>, confirming that Honeywell does indeed manufacture components of nuclear weapons at the National Security Campus in Kansas City, but that as the US is not a signatory to the Treaty, they did not consider their nuclear weapons work to be ‘noncompliant’ with the Treaty (*see page 27*).
- e. Our final letter to Honeywell, sent on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, ended by saying, “Northampton Friends remain hopeful that Honeywell will decide to remove itself from the utterly abhorrent business of nuclear weapons. Until that time, we find ourselves unable to purchase Honeywell products.” (*see page 28*)

## **13. Trying to engage with People’s United Bank**

The Clerk wrote two letters to John P. Barnes, CEO of People’s United Bank, (*see pp 29-30*) but did not receive any response, so the Treasurer spoke directly with someone at the local branch, who said she was happy to meet with us but would not be able to pass our concern onto their Head Office in Connecticut.

## **14. Taking every last opportunity to engage**

At our April 8 meeting for worship for business, it was agreed that the meeting refrain from purchasing products from Honeywell, until they comply with the Treaty. In order to give People’s United Bank one last chance to respond to our concern, it was agreed that two Friends would travel to their headquarters in Connecticut to try to meet with them.

As of our May 13 meeting for worship for business, we had not been given the name of anyone at PUB head office with whom we could speak. The local branch assured us that they were still looking into our concern. Therefore the Meeting agreed to give PUB one more month to respond to our request for a meeting (*see pg 13*).

## **15. The Meeting is Treaty Aligned**

At our June 10, 2018 meeting for worship for business, it was finally decided to move the Meeting’s bank account from People’s United Bank until such time as they have divested from all companies involved in the nuclear weapons business. The clerk



wrote to notify PUB of this decision (*see pg 31-32*), and on Sunday, June 17, the Meeting received a signed certificate of 'Treaty Alignment' from NuclearBan.US, for having completed the process of bringing Northampton Friends Meeting into full compliance with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (*see pg 33*).

#### **16. Publicizing what we have done locally**

Northampton Friends Meeting has proudly displayed our Certificate of Alignment in a prominent spot on our Meeting House wall. We put out a press release and got international attention through the ICAN networks (*see pp 34-35*). We wrote to the local newspaper urging other faith communities to do likewise, in a letter to the editor published in the online edition on July 29, 2018 (*see pg36*).

#### **17. Taking it to other churches and faith communities**

We then sent a letter to 28 other churches and faiths in the Northampton area, with information about the Treaty and inviting them to discuss how we can together raise awareness of the Treaty and encourage individuals and their faith communities to align themselves with it (*pg 37*).

#### **18. Taking it to Friends nationally**

Northampton Friends Meeting initially took our minute of concern to the Quarterly Meeting of Friends in the Connecticut Valley in October 2017. After careful consideration with the other local Quaker Meetings in the area, Connecticut Valley Quarter agreed a minute of concern on May 6, 2018 (*see page 13*).

This minute was passed on to the Yearly Meeting of Friends in New England. New England Yearly Meeting put this item on their agenda for yearly meeting sessions on August 6, 2018, when a minute was agreed to "encourage Friends in New England to seek ways to support this Treaty and to inform people about it."

It's a wonderful act of our spiritual leading to be part of the global effort to eliminate these inhumane, indiscriminate, unjust, unthinkable weapons forever.

## 1. Quaker Peace Testimony

### **A Declaration to King Charles II, from the harmless and innocent people of God, called Quakers, 1660**

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*Our principle is, and our Practice have always been, to seek peace and ensue it and to follow after righteousness and the knowledge of God, seeking the good and welfare and doing that which tends to the peace of all.*

*We know that wars and fightings proceed from the lusts of men (as Jas. v. 1-3), out of which lusts the Lord hath redeemed us, and so out of the occasion of war. The occasion of which war, and war itself (wherein envious men, who are lovers of themselves more than lovers of God, lust, kill, and desire to have men's lives or estates) ariseth from the lust.*

*All bloody principles and practices, we, as to our own particulars, do utterly deny, with all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretence whatsoever. And this is our testimony to the whole world...*

*The spirit of Christ, by which we are guided, is not changeable, so as once to command us from a thing as evil and again to move unto it; and we do certainly know, and so testify to the world, that the spirit of Christ, which leads us into all Truth, will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for the kingdoms of this world.*

## **2. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

(full text of Treaty: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/>)

### **ARTICLE 1**

#### **Prohibitions**

1. Each State Party undertakes never under any circumstances to:
  - (a) Develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;
  - (b) Transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices directly or indirectly;
  - (c) Receive the transfer of or control over nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices directly or indirectly;
  - (d) Use or threaten to use nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;
  - (e) Assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Treaty;
  - (f) Seek or receive any assistance, in any way, from anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Treaty;
  - (g) Allow any stationing, installation or deployment of any nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in its territory or at any place under its jurisdiction or control.

...

### **ARTICLE 4**

#### **Towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons**

2. Notwithstanding Article 1 (a), each State Party that owns, possesses or controls nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices shall immediately remove them from operational status, and destroy them as soon as possible but not later than a deadline to be determined by the first meeting of States Parties, in accordance with a legally binding, time-bound plan for the verified and irreversible elimination of that State Party's nuclear-weapon programme, including the elimination or irreversible conversion of all nuclear-weapons-related facilities. The State Party, no later than 60 days after the entry into force of this Treaty for that State Party, shall submit this plan to the States Parties or to a competent international authority designated by the States Parties. The plan shall then be negotiated with the competent international authority, which shall submit it to the subsequent meeting of States Parties or review conference, whichever comes first, for approval in accordance with its rules of procedure.

### 3. A Quaker Concern

*“We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretence whatsoever; and this is our testimony to the whole world...”*

When the early Quakers made that statement, back in the 1660s, the ‘outward weapons’ under discussion were mostly knives and swords, able to kill or wound a single person at a time. Nuclear weapons, capable of killing millions of people in one instant, causing unimaginable damage to the environment and threatening the very existence of life on this planet, give a whole new meaning to the concept of fighting with outward weapons.

Recent tensions between the US and North Korea put the world dangerously close to the use of nuclear weapons in war for the first time since 1945. There is also an increasing risk of nuclear weapons being used in the Middle East or on the Indian Sub-Continent. And after more than 70 years of being saved from accidents, miscalculations and near-misses by sheer luck, the risk of an accidental nuclear explosion taking place somewhere in the world increases with every passing day.

As Quakers, we say it is long past time to repudiate these weapons as unacceptable relics of the Cold War and to eliminate them from the face of the earth. On July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the United Nations adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We call on all countries, including our own, to sign, ratify and implement this treaty.

We support any and all steps our own government could take in this direction, so long as they lead to the complete and total elimination of all nuclear weapons. Nothing short of this is consistent with our understanding of the Quaker Peace Testimony and our belief that all life is sacred and precious.

We call on Quakers and Quaker structures everywhere to speak out loudly and clearly on this issue, to engage with our elected representatives, our local media and with the general public, alerting them to the threat posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and impressing upon them the urgent need for their total elimination.

We especially urge our fellow Quakers to support the effort to get cities, states, schools, places of worship, businesses, banks and individuals across the country to comply (as far as they are able) with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons without waiting for the US government to sign it. This will involve divestment from nuclear weapons producers and suppliers, conversion of jobs to peaceful production, re-direction of research funding away from nuclear weapons and other ways of purposefully extracting ourselves from the nuclear weapons industry.

#### **4. Minutes of Northampton Friends Meeting and Connecticut Valley Quarter**

##### **a. Minute of Northampton Friends Meeting, October 1, 2017**

2017-78 Consistent with Friends long-standing peace testimony, Northampton Friends Meeting calls on Friends to support the treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons just signed by many and supported by a majority of nations at the United Nations to take action to prevent nuclear war – not just now but for all time - by eliminating all nuclear weapons from the face of the Earth. These weapons of mass destruction threaten all life on Earth and go against everything we believe in.

##### **b. Minute of Connecticut Valley Quarter, October 7, 2017**

Minute 11: Northampton Friends Meeting asks Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting to request all Meetings in the Quarter to find ways to take action on this minute, and to consider forwarding a minute to New England Yearly Meeting. We approve this request and **ask Meetings to report to the February 4, 2018 Quarterly Meeting on their response to this minute.**

##### **c. Minute of Northampton Friends Meeting, December 10, 2017**

2017-97 Northampton Friends Meeting strongly reaffirms its October 2017 minute in support of the 2017 United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and asserts its intention to examine the ways in which it is complicit in the nuclear weapons industry, including the funding of those activities through our investments, purchases, or other business transactions, and to plan for ways to eliminate or reduce that complicity in order to be compliant with the treaty.

##### **d. Minute of Connecticut Valley Quarter, May 6, 2018**

In light of Friends longstanding opposition to weapons of war, and in light of the horrific nature of nuclear weapons, and in light of the unique opportunity presented by the 2017 United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, we encourage Friends in New England to seek ways to support this Treaty and to inform people about it.

##### **e. 2018-39 (5/13/2018) Minute on Achievement of Compliance with the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

Continuing the Minutes approved October 1, 2017 (**Minute 2017-78**) and December 10, 2017 (**Minute 2017-97**), Northampton Friends Meeting's work with Honeywell and the decision to move Meeting funds out of People's United Bank puts Northampton Friends Meeting in full compliance with the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

## 5. Travelling Minute for Tim Wallis and Vicki Elson

12<sup>th</sup> month, 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

*Dear Friends:*

*Tim Wallis, who is in the process of transferring to this meeting his membership from Stoke Newington Meeting in London, England, is known to Northampton Friends as the son of a dear member and an unflagging worker for peace. A past director of the Nonviolent Peaceforce, Tim has long been interested in educating people about the dangers of nuclear weapons. His book, *The Truth About Trident*, was released in Great Britain in 2016.*

*Vicki Elson, an attender here, has worked for 35 years in the world of childbirth education and labor support, dedicated to helping new families get a healthy start. Recently, Vicki has been led to working toward the end of nuclear weapons as an even better way to help ensure a healthy future.*

*Tim and Vicki are a vibrant part of Northampton Meeting's Nuclear Disarmament and Climate Action Working Group, and find themselves led to promote a ban on nuclear weapons. Uniting with Tim and Vicki on this concern, Northampton Friends have recently taken actions to make the Meeting and individual Friends compliant with the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons voted in July at the United Nations. We have participated in Tim and Vicki's presentations on this topic, and have provided a ministry support committee for their leading. We believe them to be genuinely called to this work and that you will benefit, as we have, from their insights and from the experience of faithful prayer together.*

*Following their leading, Tim Wallis and Vicki Elson will be taking the conversation on banning nuclear weapons directly to the American people. To this purpose, they plan to visit Friends across the United States. Northampton Friends commend Tim and Vicki to your tender care.*

*Approved and minuted at Northampton Friends Meeting for Business, 12-17-17.*

*Marcianna Caplis, clerk*

Forwarded by Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting to  
Permanent Board of New England Yearly Meeting, May 6, 2018

*Susan Vargo, clerk*

Signed on behalf of Permanent Board of New England Yearly Meeting, May 12, 2018

*Sarah B. Grant, clerk, Permanent Board, NEYM 12 May 2018 [18-85]*

## 6. The Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament and Climate Action



## 7. Treaty Alignment Workshop – Agenda

### How YOU Can Help Get Rid of ALL Nuclear Weapons

NuclearBan.US

## WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

1. Human bingo game	10 min
2. Welcome	5 min
3. Introductions and Goals	10 min
4. Interconnected issues	7 min
5. Quick facts	15 min
6. Visualization	5 min
7. The good news: Treaty, Nobel Peace Prize, Campaign	10 min
8. Individual Treaty Alignment	15 min
a. DECIDING to align	
b. DISCONNECTING your work, your money and your things	
c. DECLARING yourself Treaty Aligned	
9. Next steps: take it up a notch	15 min
10. Closing	10 min





## **The 26 Companies in the Nuclear Weapons Industry:**

(source: [www.dontbankonthebomb.com](http://www.dontbankonthebomb.com))

### **Aecom (USA)**

- part of the group of companies managing US nuclear weapons laboratories and testing facilities.

### **Aerojet Rocketdyne (USA)**

- involved in the design, development and production of land- and sea-based nuclear ballistic missile systems for the United States.

### **Airbus (The Netherlands)**

- produces and maintains submarine-launched nuclear missiles for the French navy (the M51.2), it is also developing the next generation submarine launched missiles, the M51.3.

### **BAE Systems (United Kingdom)**

- involved in the nuclear weapons programmes of France, the UK and the US. It produces key components for Trident II (D5) and Minuteman III missiles.

### **Bechtel (USA)**

- part of the consortium which manages Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore national labs.

### **Boeing (USA)**

- contracted to help keep the Minuteman III nuclear missiles operational until 2030 and will be producing the new Ground Based Strategic Deterrent system for the US.

### **BWX Technologies (USA)**

- part of the consortium that operates Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos National Laboratories, and the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS).

### **Charles Stark Draper Lab (USA)**

- the prime contractor for re-designing the boost guidance system for Trident nuclear missiles through 2040.

### **Engility Holdings (USA) – now bought by Science Applications International Corp (SAIC)**

- conducts the mission planning and post flight analysis of the accuracy and other performance parameters of Minuteman ICBM flight tests.

### **Fluor (USA)**

- lead partner responsible for the management and operation of the US nuclear weapons facilities at Savannah River, South Carolina.

### **General Dynamics (USA)**

- holds numerous contracts related to the Trident II (D5) missile systems for the UK and US.

### **Honeywell International (USA)**

- manages and operates the National Security Campus in Kansas City, which produces about 85% of the non-nuclear components for US nuclear weapons.

### **Huntington Ingalls Industries (USA)**

- involved in management of the US nuclear arsenal and related facilities, including tritium production at the Savannah River Site.

### **Jacobs Engineering (USA)**

- one of the joint venture partners operating the former nuclear weapons test site in the US.

### **Larsen & Toubro (India)**

- responsible for developing the launcher system for the nuclear-capable short-range surface-to-air Akash missile system for the Indian nuclear arsenal.

### **Leonardo (Italy)**

- involved in the design, development and delivery of Transporter Erector Replacement Vehicles for the US Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile fleet.

### **Lockheed Martin (USA)**

- responsible for the construction of the Trident II (D5) nuclear missiles for the US and the UK, and for production and maintenance of other US nuclear missiles.

### **Moog, Inc. (USA)**

- acts as a subcontractor for Lockheed Martin, providing Trident (D5) first, second, and third State Servo Actuator Assemblies.

### **Northrop Grumman (USA)**

- currently involved in upgrading the Minuteman III missiles, and will be producing the new "Ground Based Strategic Deterrent" (GBSD) nuclear missiles.

### **Orbital ATK (USA) – now part of Northrop Grumman**

- produces rocket propulsion systems for Trident II (D5) submarine launched ballistic missiles for the US and UK nuclear arsenals.

### **Raytheon (USA)**

- involved in re-designing the Minuteman III missile system and is producing key components for the new US Long Range Standoff weapon for the US nuclear arsenal.

### **Safran (France)**

- produces, with Airbus, the solid rocket motors for French nuclear missiles.

### **Serco (United Kingdom)**

- is part of the joint venture which runs the UK Atomic Weapons Establishment.

### **Textron (USA)**

- designs and builds re-entry vehicles for the US Minuteman III nuclear missile.

### **Thales (France)**

- works for French government to modernise the M51.3 nuclear ballistic missiles and keep the ability to launch them from submarines.

### **Walchandnagar Industries (India)**

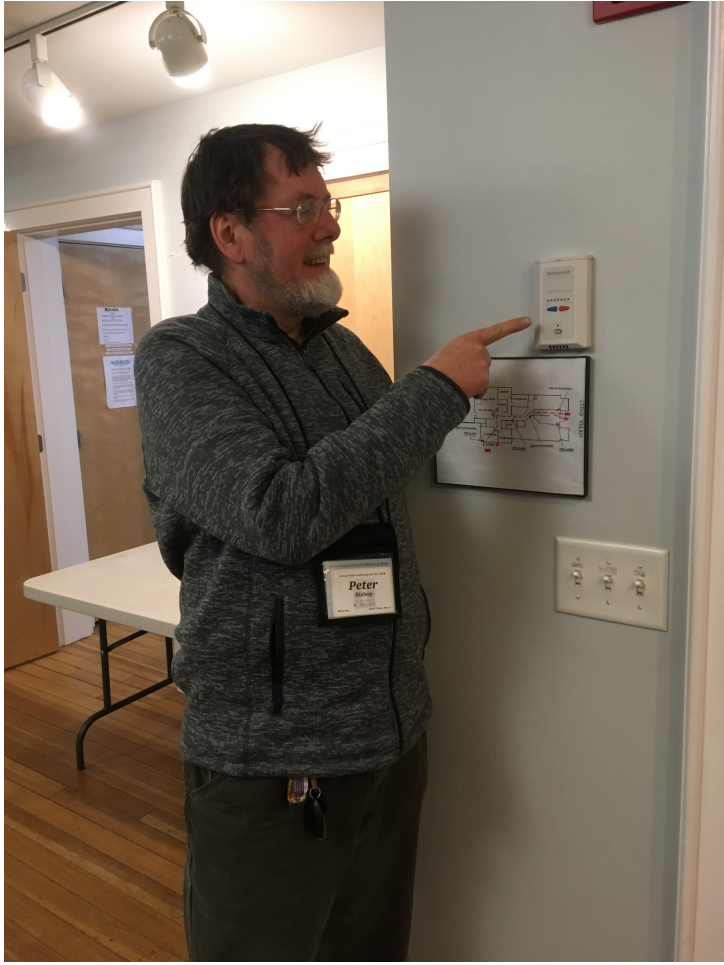
- supplies infrastructure and facilities for the production of nuclear missiles for the Indian arsenal.

**9. An inventory of how the Meeting is complicit with the nuclear weapons industry**

		Manufacturer/provider				OK?	Letter?	Replace?
2	Thermostats	Honeywell				N	Y	N
		programmable T7350						
		remote temp sensor T7771A						
	Sound system	Shure						
	Vacuum cleaner							
	Refrigerator							
	Stove							
	Microwave							
	Dishwasher							
	Coffee maker							
	Hot water heater							
	Computer	Dell						
	Printer (not set up)	HP						
	Telephone service							
	Bank	Peoples United				N	Y	Y
	Insurance	Church Mutual				2016 annual report		
		<a href="https://www.churchmutual.com/">https://www.churchmutual.com/</a>				\$958 M bonds		
						\$290 M stocks		

Sources: <http://www.nuclearban.us/insurance-companies-with-financial-interests-in-the-nuclear-weapons-business/>

<http://www.nuclearban.us/honeywell-international/>



## 12a. First Letter to Honeywell, Jan 28, 2018

January 28, 2018

Darius Adamczyk, CEO  
Honeywell International  
101 Columbia Road  
Morristown, NJ 07960

Dear Darius Adamczyk:

### **We write to you as Honeywell consumers and owners of Honeywell thermostats.**

The Northampton Friends Meeting is a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), one of the historic peace churches. Given our long-standing peace testimony and the increasing risk of nuclear war, we recently affirmed our support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, approved in July 7, 2017 at the United Nations by a vote of 122 to 1. This treaty prohibits the development, testing, production, manufacture, possession and stockpiling of nuclear weapons. It also specifically prohibits "assisting, encouraging or inducing, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited by the treaty." The International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was awarded the 2017 **Nobel Peace Prize for their advocacy in support of this treaty.**

This fall, Northampton Friends Meeting resolved to determine whether we might be in any way complicit in the nuclear weapons industry. We looked at whether we might be funding nuclear armament through our investments, purchases, or other business transactions. In a review of all our equipment and services, we discovered that **our meetinghouse is furnished with Honeywell thermostats.**

Your website proclaims that "*Honeywell is building a smarter, safer, and more sustainable world.*" So, we were surprised and distressed to learn that the Aerospace and Defense division of your company is involved in the production of nuclear weapons. We discovered that Honeywell, among other things:

- Manages and operates the National Security Campus in Kansas City, Missouri where 85% of non-nuclear components for US nuclear weapons are produced;
- Produces integrated circuits for Trident D5 nuclear missiles; and
- Operates the Tritium Extraction Facility at the Savannah River Site that supplies new tritium essential for the continued operation of the US nuclear arsenal.

<https://www.dontbankonthebomb.com/honeywell-international/>

All these activities contribute to the build-up and modernization of nuclear arms at a time when the world has condemned and outlawed these weapons.

**We ask you to discontinue your involvement with nuclear weapons without delay and to bring your international company into compliance with international law. Your support will be crucial to the success of worldwide efforts to abolish nuclear weapons.**

Northampton Friends Meeting intends to eliminate our complicity with the production of nuclear weapons. **Unless you can provide reassurance that Honeywell will no longer engage in the production of nuclear weapons, we will no longer purchase Honeywell products and will encourage other Quaker meetings and faith communities to do the same.**

We look forward to your response and will be happy to share it with others around the world who have similar concerns.

With hopes for a better future,

Marcianna Caplis, Clerk  
Northampton Friends Meeting

## 12b. First reply from Honeywell



**Anne T. Madden**  
Senior Vice President &  
General Counsel

Corporate Law  
115 Tabor Road  
Morris Plains, NJ 07950

Phone 973-455-2454  
anne.madden@honeywell.com  
[www.honeywell.com](http://www.honeywell.com)

February 5, 2018

Ms. Marcianna Caplis  
Clerk  
Northampton Friends Meeting  
43 Center Street  
Northampton, Massachusetts 01060

Dear Ms. Caplis:

Thank you for your letter dated January 19, 2018, to Mr. Darius Adamczyk, which was forwarded to me for response. Our customers are of great importance to us so we appreciate the opportunity to address your concerns.

Honeywell invents and manufactures technologies that address some of the world's most critical challenges around energy, safety, security, productivity and global urbanization and we are committed to building a smarter, safer, and more sustainable world. We can assure you that our work at the National Security Campus in Kansas City, or in any other jurisdiction in which we operate, is in strict compliance with all applicable domestic and international laws and regulations. This includes the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We are committed to the highest standards of integrity and compliance in everything we do.

The reputation of our company matters to us -- Honeywell Hometown Solutions provides resources and financial support to causes and communities around the world to meet local neighborhood needs where Honeywell can make a real, lasting impact. We focus in five critical areas: (1) science and math education to inspire students and teachers; (2) our affiliation with Rebuilding Together to create housing and shelter for our neighbors in need; (3) our family safety and security programs; (4) our partnership with organizations to protect the environment; and (5) our humanitarian relief fund providing immediate direct assistance during natural disasters. Our commitments to health, safety and the environment reflect our values: ensuring a cleaner, safer, healthier future.

If there is any additional information concerning Honeywell that we can provide, please feel free to contact us. We appreciate your continued confidence in Honeywell.

Sincerely,

Anne T. Madden  
Senior Vice President & General Counsel



## 12c. Second letter to Honeywell

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Northampton Friends Meeting  
43 Center Street  
Northampton, Massachusetts 01060

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March 2, 2018

Anne T. Madden  
Senior Vice President & General Counsel  
Honeywell International  
115 Tabor Road  
Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950

Dear Anne Madden:

Thank you for your letter dated February 5<sup>th</sup> in response to our letter to Darius Adamczyk of January 19<sup>th</sup>. You said to contact you if there is additional information concerning Honeywell that we require, so we are taking you up on that offer.

As Quakers, we are happy to share many of the values that you espouse in your letter. We are glad that, as a company, you are committed to a cleaner, safer, healthier future and that you support science and math education programs, provide housing and shelter for those in need, work to protect the environment, and contribute to humanitarian relief efforts.

It is surprising to us that you do not see the contradiction between these basic humanitarian values that we all share and your company's direct involvement in the production and maintenance of weapons of mass destruction.

When 122 nations adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in July 2017, they committed to never, under any circumstances, "*develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices*" [Article 1 (a)]. Being in compliance with this treaty means having nothing whatsoever to do with nuclear weapons.

We were puzzled when you stated in your letter that Honeywell is in 'strict compliance' with this treaty. Does the National Security Campus (NSC) in Kansas City, Missouri, really have nothing to do with nuclear weapons?

According to the website of the NSC, "*The NNSA's Kansas City National Security Campus, located near Kansas City, MO, is responsible for manufacturing and procuring nonnuclear components for nuclear weapons, including electronic, mechanical, and engineered material components. It supports national laboratories, universities, and U.S. industry. The KCNSC is operated by Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies.*"

According to the same website, the "central mission" of this facility includes "*maintaining the active stockpile, Life Extension Programs (LEPs) and Weapons Dismantlement...referred to as the Stockpile Stewardship and Management Program.*"

We are, of course, very happy to learn that Honeywell is involved in the dismantlement of nuclear weapons. Be clear, however, that manufacturing components for nuclear weapons, maintaining 'active' stockpiles of nuclear weapons, and extending the 'life' of these weapons

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Northampton Friends Meeting  
43 Center Street  
Northampton, Massachusetts 01060

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is absolutely contrary to both the letter and the spirit of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and puts you in noncompliance with the treaty.

We would therefore ask you, once again, to discontinue your involvement with nuclear weapons without delay and to bring your international company into compliance with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Nuclear weapons threaten our very existence on this earth. Northampton Friends Meeting intends to eliminate our complicity with the production of nuclear weapons. Unless you can explain to us how Honeywell intends to extract itself from the nuclear weapons business, we will no longer be able to purchase Honeywell products. As part of our spirit-led campaign to eliminate nuclear weapons from the face of the earth, we will encourage other Quaker meetings and faith communities to join us.

We look forward to your more detailed response to our concern and would be happy to meet with you in person to discuss further.

With hopes for a better future,

Marcianna Caplis, Clerk  
Northampton Friends Meeting

## **12d. Second reply from Honeywell**

March 17, 2018

Dear Ms. Caplis:

Thank you for your letter dated March 2, 2018. We proudly share many of the values espoused by the Northampton Friends Meeting and other faith communities, and we hope that this letter will help to clarify our prior response.

Honeywell observes the highest standards of business ethics and corporate social responsibility wherever we operate. We have a responsibility to conduct ourselves with integrity in everything we do. From the shop floor to the boardroom, all Honeywell employees and representatives are held to the highest standards, and we cultivate a culture of compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. This standard applies to all of our activities, including our contract with the U.S. Department of Energy (DoE) at its National Security Campus in Kansas City, Missouri.

Honeywell does indeed manufacture non-nuclear components of nuclear weapons and maintain the non-nuclear operational infrastructure for the U.S. nuclear stockpile through our operation of Federal Manufacturing and Technologies (FM&T), a government owned, contractor operated plant at the National Security Campus in Kansas City, Missouri. We engage in these activities under contract with the DoE. Consistent with our business operations around the world, we conduct these activities in full compliance with applicable laws and regulations. As the U.S. is not a signatory to the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, we do not consider our work at FM&T under contract with the U.S. government to be noncompliant.

We appreciate and share your commitment to humanitarian values but we respectfully disagree that our activities in support of the DoE are inconsistent with those principles or with applicable law.

Sincerely,

Anne T. Madden  
Senior Vice President & General Counsel  
Honeywell | Corporate Law, Government Relations & HSE&PS  
Office: 973.455.2454  
eFax: 973.695.2752  
Mobile: 973.727.5996

[anne.madden@honeywell.com](mailto:anne.madden@honeywell.com)

[www.honeywell.com](http://www.honeywell.com)

Twitter: @HoneywellNow

## **12e. Final letter to Honeywell**

27 March 2018

Anne T. Madden  
Senior Vice President and General Counsel  
Honeywell Corporation  
115 Tabor Road  
Morris Plains, NJ 07950

Dear Anne Madden:

Northampton Friends appreciate your willingness to engage in dialogue with us about the important and urgent issue of nuclear disarmament. We are pleased that Honeywell shares many of our values and principles, and are sorry that these do not include a commitment to the goal of a nuclear weapons-free world.

The United States did, in fact, sign the 1968 Non-proliferation Treaty, which has the goal of eliminating nuclear arsenals. That commitment was ruled as binding by the World Court in 1986, and in 1995 the United States reaffirmed unequivocally its intention to fulfill its obligations under the 1968 treaty. Our country's failure to sign the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons does not negate earlier commitments, nor does it absolve the United States -- or Honeywell -- of the basic human responsibility of working to make the world safe.

We encourage your company to seek information on what other companies and organizations are doing to address this issue. You may find this site helpful: <http://www.nuclearban.us/businesses>

Northampton Friends remain hopeful that Honeywell will decide to remove itself from the utterly abhorrent business of nuclear weapons. Until that time, we find ourselves unable to purchase Honeywell products.

In the Light,

Marcianna Caplis, clerk  
for Northampton Friends Meeting

## 13a. Letters to People's United Bank – sent Jan 28 and again on Feb 11, 2018

Northampton Friends Meeting  
43 Center Street  
Northampton MA 01060  
[www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/northampton-friends-meeting](http://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/northampton-friends-meeting)

February 11, 2018

John P. Barnes, CEO  
People's United Bank  
850 Main Street  
Bridgeport CT 06604

Dear Mr. Barnes:

### **Northampton Friends Meeting is a concerned customer of People's United Bank.**

Northampton Friends Meeting is a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), one of the historic peace churches. Given our long-standing peace testimony and the increasing risk of nuclear war, we recently affirmed our support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, approved on July 7, 2017 at the United Nations by a vote of 122 to 1. This treaty prohibits the development, testing, production, manufacture, possession and stockpiling of nuclear weapons. It also specifically prohibits "assisting, encouraging or inducing, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited by the treaty." The International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for their advocacy in support of this treaty.

This fall, Northampton Friends Meeting reviewed all our business transactions, including banking accounts, to determine whether we might be in any way complicit with the nuclear weapons industry. In 2002, we began banking with the Bank of Western Mass, which held a mortgage (discharged some years ago), our checking account, and a tenant's CD. You inherited us when you took over the Bank of Western Mass, and we have chosen to stay customers of the bank. However, we are considering changing that affiliation if we cannot convince you to change your lending policies in support of the nuclear weapons industry.

**We recently learned that People's United Bank provided, last year, more than \$100 million worth of corporate loans and revolving credit to Orbital ATK, an aerospace and defense industry contractor that is involved in the production of nuclear weapons.** We discovered that Orbital ATK has played a key role in every Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) program for more than five decades. Currently this company:

- Produces rocket propulsion systems for Trident II submarine launched ballistic missiles,
- Is responsible for refurbishing all three solid propellant stages of the Minuteman III ICB, and
- Is involved in the joint management and operation of the Y-12 National Security Complex in Tennessee and the Pantex Plant in Texas, where nuclear weapons are assembled.  
<https://www.orbitalatk.com/>

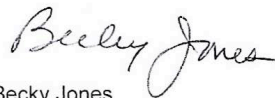
The financing of Orbital ATK directly contributes to the build-up and modernization of nuclear arms at a time when the world has condemned and outlawed these weapons.

**We ask you to examine your conscience and to divest from Orbital ATK without delay, to bring People's United Bank into compliance with international law.** The actions of your bank and other financial institutions will be crucial to the success of worldwide efforts to abolish nuclear weapons.

Northampton Friends Meeting is working to eliminate our complicity with the production of nuclear weapons. Given that intention, **unless you can provide reassurance that People's United Bank is working to divest from companies involved in the production of nuclear weapons, we will move our business elsewhere and will encourage other Quaker meetings and faith communities to do the same.**

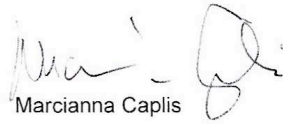
We look forward to your response and will be happy to share it with others around the world who have similar concerns. We are also quite willing to meet with you. We intend to meet with a local representative of Peoples United Bank to express our concerns there as well.

With hope for the future,



Becky Jones

Treasurer



Marcianna Caplis

Clerk

## 13b. Final letter to People's United Bank

Northampton Friends Meeting  
43 Center Street  
[www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/northampton-friends-meeting](http://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/northampton-friends-meeting)

January 27, 2019

John P. Barnes, CEO  
People's United Bank  
850 Main Street  
Bridgeport CT 06604

Dear Mr. Barnes:

**Northampton Friends Meeting is a concerned customer of People's United Bank. We sent you a letter about our concern about People's United Bank's lending practices on January 28, 2018 and again on March 13, 2018. Although we have sought out and spoken with employees of our local branch, we are disappointed that we have received no response to our requests for a discussion with you regarding our concerns about People's United Bank.**

As we explained before, Northampton Friends Meeting is a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), one of the historic peace churches. Given our long-standing peace testimony and the increasing risk of nuclear war, we recently affirmed our support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, approved on July 7, 2017 at the United Nations by a vote of 122 to 1. This treaty prohibits the development, testing, production, manufacture, possession and stockpiling of nuclear weapons. It also specifically prohibits "assisting, encouraging or inducing, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited by the treaty." The International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for their advocacy in support of this treaty.

In the fall of 2017, Northampton Friends Meeting reviewed all our business transactions, including banking accounts, to determine whether we might be in any way complicit with the nuclear weapons industry. In 2002, we began banking with the Bank of Western Massachusetts, which held a mortgage (discharged some years ago), our checking account, and a tenant's CD. You inherited us when you took over the Bank of Western Massachusetts, and we chose to remain as customers of the bank. **We have decided that we can no longer do so.**

**As a reminder, in our review, we learned that People's United Bank has provided more than \$100 million worth of corporate loans and revolving credit to Orbital ATK, an aerospace and defense industry contractor that is involved in the production of nuclear weapons.** We discovered that Orbital ATK has played a key role in every Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) program for more than five decades. Currently this company:

- Produces rocket propulsion systems for Trident II submarine launched ballistic missiles,
- Is responsible for refurbishing all three solid propellant stages of the Minuteman III ICB, and
- Is involved in the joint management and operation of the Y-12 National Security Complex in Tennessee and the Pantex Plant in Texas, where nuclear weapons are assembled.  
<https://www.orbitalatk.com/>


The financing of Orbital ATK directly contributes to the build-up and modernization of nuclear arms at a time when the world has condemned and outlawed these weapons.

**We asked you to examine your conscience and to divest from Orbital ATK without delay, to bring People's United Bank into compliance with international law.** The actions of your bank and other financial institutions will be crucial to the success of worldwide efforts to abolish nuclear weapons.

**Since you have been unwilling to provide reassurance that People's United Bank is working to divest from companies involved in the production of nuclear weapons, we have closed our People's United Bank checking account and moved the Northampton Friends Meeting funds to a bank which is not complicit with the nuclear weapons industry. We will encourage other individuals, Quaker meetings and faith communities to do the same.**

Please let us know if you are willing to communicate with us about this matter. We remain ready for dialogue.

With hope for the future,



Becky Jones

Treasurer



Marcianna Caplis

Clerk

cc: Manager, Northampton Branch  
People's United Bank  
43 King Street  
Northampton MA 10160



## 15. The Meeting is Treaty Aligned



## 16. Publicizing what we have done locally

### Northampton Quakers Are First to Comply with UN Treaty



Northampton Friends receive a certificate for their efforts to comply with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Photo credit: Jim Fussell

SUNDAY, JUNE 17: Northampton Friends Meeting (Quakers) today became the first faith community in the country to declare their compliance with the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (or Nuclear Ban Treaty).

The Nuclear Ban Treaty, adopted by 122 nations at the United Nations last year, comprehensively prohibits, under international law, the development, production, deployment, threat, and use of nuclear weapons. It also prohibits “assisting” others in carrying out any of the prohibited activities.

The Meeting took the decision in December last year *“to examine the ways in which [the Meeting] is complicit in the nuclear weapons industry, including the funding of those activities through our investments, purchases, or other business transactions, and to plan for ways to eliminate or reduce that complicity in order to be compliant with the treaty.”*

The Quakers found they had no investments in any of the 26 companies involved in the nuclear weapons industry in this country. However, they *did* have thermostats made by Honeywell – a company which assembles nuclear weapons at the National Security Campus in Kansas City, MO. They also had a bank account with People’s United Bank, which has over \$100 million invested in the company responsible for upgrading the propulsion systems on both Trident and Minuteman nuclear missiles (Orbital ATK).

Having done their research, the Meeting then wrote to these companies and urged them to stop their involvement in the nuclear weapons business. When the responses made clear that neither company was changing its policies, Northampton Quakers took the decision to boycott Honeywell products until they are in compliance with the Treaty, and to move their bank account from People’s United Bank. They notified the companies of that decision and were recognized for their efforts on Sunday, with a ‘Certificate of Alignment with the Treaty’ given to them by NuclearBan.US. Other faith communities in Hampshire County are now looking into ways they can be in alignment with the Treaty.

# Marcianna Caplis: Calls for alignment with nuclear ban treaty

Sunday, July 29, 2018

## **Calls for alignment with nuclear ban treaty**

We appreciate the Gazette's coverage of efforts to bring the nuclear weapons ban to the local level.

On June 17, Northampton Friends Meeting (Quakers) became the first faith community in the country to declare compliance with the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We share something of our process as we encourage other faith communities and local organizations to take the important step of becoming aligned with the treaty.

Northampton Friends Meeting found that it had no investments in any of the 26 companies involved in the United States' nuclear weapons industry. However, the meetinghouse did have thermostats made by Honeywell — a company that assembles nuclear weapons at the National Security Campus in Kansas City, Missouri. Further, People's United Bank, where Northampton Friends Meeting had an account, has over \$100 million invested in the company responsible for upgrading the propulsion systems on both Trident and Minuteman nuclear missiles (Orbital ATK).

We wrote to these companies, urging them to divest from the nuclear weapons industry. Their responses made clear that they did not plan to change their policies and Northampton Quakers made the decision to boycott Honeywell products until the company is in compliance with the treaty, and to move the meeting's bank accounts from People's United Bank. Both companies were notified of the decision.

At that point, Northampton Friends Meeting was recognized by NuclearBan.US with a certificate of alignment with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Other faith communities and organizations in Hampshire County have joined the effort to prevent nuclear war by passing resolutions. We at Northampton Friends Meeting hope they will take the next step by becoming aligned with the treaty. For more information, see [www.NuclearBan.us](http://www.NuclearBan.us) and [www.preventnuclearwar.org](http://www.preventnuclearwar.org).

Marcianna Caplis

Northampton

The writer is clerk of Northampton Friends Meeting.

## 17. Taking it to the next level – approaching other faiths

Northampton Friends Meeting

43 Center Street

Northampton, Massachusetts 01060

19 July 2018

Dear friends in faith,

The world is sitting on a powder keg waiting to explode. Climate change is already causing major disruption in our own country as well as mass migrations of people across the globe. Tensions and conflicts among nations will only increase as the effects of climate change continue to unfold. Throwing nuclear weapons into this mix drastically reduces our chances of survival as a species.

But it is not too late to act. As people of faith, we can lead the way when our government fails to do so. The *International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)* did the improbable by getting 122 countries to adopt a nuclear ban treaty at the United Nations. In recognition of this extraordinary accomplishment, ICAN was awarded the *Nobel Peace Prize* for 2017! This tells us that the rest of the world is ready and waiting for the United States to take action – on nuclear weapons as well as on climate change.

The Campaign for the Nuclear Ban Treaty is designed for all of us -- as individuals and as members of towns, cities, faith communities, businesses, schools, social clubs, and organizations of every sort. In November 2017, the Northampton City Council passed a resolution that "calls upon our federal leaders and our nation to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and make nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of our national security policy." Northampton Friends Meeting recently went through the process of becoming treaty-compliant, and we will be glad to share our experience with you. Other faith communities are aligning themselves with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, in preparation for the eventual elimination of these weapons.

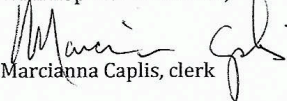
This campaign enables each of us to take action on this vitally important issue, despite our government's refusal to do so -- much as towns and states have done in relation to the Paris Climate Accords.

We are heartened that a number of faith communities around the country and in the Pioneer Valley have endorsed the Back from the Brink call, and others are considering it. Wherever your community is in that process, we urge you to consider an action that your faith community can take right now.

Please see the enclosed booklet and check [nuclearban.us](http://nuclearban.us) for action steps for faith communities. If you are interested in hosting a workshop for your congregation or faith community this fall, please contact [info@nuclearban.us](mailto:info@nuclearban.us).

Let us join together, as people of faith and citizens of the world, in working toward a future without nuclear weapons.

With hope for the future,

  
Marcianna Caplis, clerk

[www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/northampton-friends-meeting](http://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/northampton-friends-meeting)