

# RESOLUTION 23R-18

To request the RI Board to consider supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

**Proposer(s):** Rotary E-Club of 2410se, District 2410, Latvia and Sweden  
Rotary Club of International Peace, WE Rotary, District 5000, USA  
Rotary Club of Nakusp, District 5080, Canada and USA  
Rotary Club of Winnipeg, District 5550, Canada  
Rotary Club of Winnipeg-Charleswood, District 5550, Canada  
Rotary Club of Parry Sound, District 7010, Canada  
Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle, District 7780, USA  
Rotary Club of Canberra Burley Griffin, District 9705, Australia

1 WHEREAS, RI has already taken a stand against nuclear weapons with The  
2 Rotary Foundation’s Responsible Investment Policy (April 2021), in which it  
3 commits to avoiding investment “in companies that derive significant revenue  
4 from producing, distributing, or marketing nuclear explosives,” as well as to  
5 promote “alignment with its mission to act responsibly and create lasting positive  
6 change,” and

7  
8 WHEREAS, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), already  
9 signed by 92 countries, encourages the nine countries that possess nuclear  
10 weapons to enter into negotiations for a verifiable, enforceable, timebound  
11 agreement to eliminate these weapons and prohibits the development, testing,  
12 production, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear  
13 weapons, with the ultimate goal being their total elimination, and

14  
15 WHEREAS, 70-80 percent of people surveyed in countries around the world  
16 (including Rotarians) support the elimination of nuclear weapons and are looking  
17 for leadership to make this happen, and

18  
19 WHEREAS, speaking at an international summit on nuclear disarmament  
20 (Eliminating the Existential Threat of Nuclear Weapons, 30 September 2021,  
21 online), 2021-22 RI President Shekhar Mehta said, “Rotary can take stronger  
22 positions for nuclear disarmament, as organizations like the Red Cross have  
23 already done.” (The International Red Cross has endorsed the TPNW.), and

24  
25 WHEREAS, there are already comprehensive bans in place against chemical  
26 weapons, biological weapons, landmines, and cluster bombs that effectively  
27 stigmatize and dramatically decrease their use worldwide, and the TPNW can be  
28 expected to have a similar impact on nuclear weapons, and

1 WHEREAS, the only effective way to prevent a nuclear war is to get rid of nuclear  
2 weapons; deterrence does not work against accidents, miscalculations, or  
3 terrorists, and

4  
5 WHEREAS, although the world has eliminated thousands of nuclear warheads  
6 (Russia and the USA jointly destroyed 40,000 of their nuclear warheads in the  
7 early 1990s), there are still about 13,000 left. As few as 100 of these weapons  
8 would destroy civilization as we know it

9  
10 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary  
11 International consider supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear  
12 Weapons and encouraging Rotary clubs to become better educated on the need to  
13 work for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

(End of Text)

### **PURPOSE AND EFFECT**

14 Rotary could work for worldwide endorsement of the TPNW by simply following  
15 the same effective political (but not partisan) strategies used to eradicate polio in  
16 Africa:

- 17 • Rotary and its partners negotiated truces and military protection.
- 18 • Rotary advocated with government leaders and educated the public to  
19 dispel persistent myths.
- 20 • Rotary coordinated campaigns with surrounding nations.
- 21 • Rotarians used their status as respected members of society, and often  
22 their personal charisma, to advocate for their governments to become  
23 involved.

24  
25 Rotary is striving to increase membership. Supporting an important peace  
26 initiative that represents the wishes of 70-80 percent of the world's population  
27 will be viewed as a compelling reason to become a member.

28  
29 Support by the RI Board would assist the efforts of the hundreds of Rotarian  
30 authors, educators, and speakers who are experts on nuclear weapons. Rotarians  
31 have published articles on the prevention of nuclear war and need for nuclear  
32 disarmament in numerous journals, including the New England Journal of  
33 Medicine, the Lancet, the British Medical Journal, the World Medical Journal,  
34 World Policy Journal, Tikkun Magazine, and Medicine and Global Survival. It  
35 was a Rotarian who, in 2016, chaired the session on the humanitarian impact of  
36 nuclear war at the United Nations' Open-ended Working Group meeting in  
37 Geneva that led to negotiations for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear  
38 Weapons. Rotarians are leaders in International Physicians for the Prevention of  
39 Nuclear War (IPPNW) and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear  
40 Weapons (ICAN). Both organizations are recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 1 If implemented, this resolution could have a financial impact on RI which cannot
- 2 be determined at this time. Cost would be dependent on the scope and extent of
- 3 support provided by the RI Board to accomplish this goal.