

RESOLUTION 21R-29

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

Proposer(s): Rotary Club of Woodstock-Oxford, District 7080, Canada
Rotary Club of Fredericton North, District 7810, Canada and
USA
Rotary Club of Canberra Burley Griffin, District 9705, Australia

1 WHEREAS, Rotary is committed to promoting world peace, and

2

3 WHEREAS, there can be no peace as long as there is the threat of nuclear war,
4 and

5

6 WHEREAS, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) prohibits
7 the development, testing, production, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use and
8 threat of use of nuclear weapons, with the ultimate goal being their total
9 elimination, and

10

11 WHEREAS, 86 countries are signatories to the TPNW and are looking for
12 leadership to get it endorsed worldwide – and Rotary is a leader when it comes to
13 peace, 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 Rotary is a leader when it comes to
18 peace

19

20 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary
21 International consider endorsing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear
22 Weapons by working to encourage countries to sign and support the treaty, as
23 well as encouraging Rotary clubs and Rotarians to work to encourage their
24 governments to sign and support the treaty.

(End of Text)

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

25 Rotary already knows how to work for worldwide endorsement of the TPNW by
26 simply following the same successful ‘political’ (but not partisan) strategies used
27 to eradicate polio in Africa (as described in *The Rotary Magazine*, February
28 2021), namely:

29

- Rotary and its partners negotiated truces and military protection

- 1 • Rotary advocated with government leaders and educated the public to
- 2 dispel persistent myths.
- 3 • Rotary coordinated campaigns with surrounding nations
- 4 • Rotary members used their status as respected members of society – and
- 5 often their personal charisma - to advocate for their governments to
- 6 become involved

7
8 The only effective way to prevent a nuclear war is to get rid of nuclear weapons.

9
10 Deterrence is fear-based and does not work against accidents, miscalculations, or

11 terrorists. It prevents even negative peace (the absence of the threat of violence)

12 and makes positive peace impossible.

13
14 Despite the enactment of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear

15 Weapons over 50 years ago, there is no progress in the reduction of the world's

16 nuclear arsenal. On the contrary, there is an increase in spending on these

17 weapons and an increase in the number of countries with access to them.

18
19 We have comprehensive bans for chemical weapons, biological weapons,

20 landmines, and cluster bombs. Nuclear weapons are exponentially more

21 dangerous, could result in the death of billions of people and could destroy our

22 planet. We must ensure the TPNW is endorsed worldwide.

23
24 The reality is that Rotary could undertake thousands and thousands of service

25 projects and just one nuclear catastrophe could undo them all. Working for

26 worldwide endorsement of the TPNW is also working to support and preserve

27 Rotary's legacy of positive peace initiatives.

28
29 Rotary would like to increase membership. Standing for an important peace

30 initiative that represents the wishes of 70-80 percent of the world's population

31 will be viewed as a compelling reason to become a member.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

32 If implemented, this resolution could have a financial impact on RI which cannot

33 be determined at this time. Cost would be dependent on the scope and extent of

34 support provided by the RI Board to accomplish this goal.

35
36 Currently, Rotary does not have the knowledge or the expertise to speak with

37 accuracy or authority on nuclear risks.