Approximately 90 people participated in the 2018 Humanitarian Disarmament Forum in New York City on 14-15 October 2017. This was the sixth year in a row that representatives from non-governmental organizations had convened to learn and strategize collectively on their common work to advance humanitarian disarmament and thereby prevent and alleviate human suffering.

Three groups—Human Rights Watch, PAX and the Harvard Law School International Human Rights Clinic—convened the forum at UN Church Center and co-funded it together with contributions from Article 36, Handicap International, and Norwegian People’s Aid. A list of participants is annexed to this report.

The Forum opened on a high note as it took place exactly one week after the announcement that the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons had won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for its role in bringing about the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. ICAN is one of the global NGO coalitions at the heart of the humanitarian disarmament movement and co-hosted the previous forum in October 2016. Fittingly, forum participants celebrated the stunning Nobel news with hibakusha and Japanese peace activists at a closing reception on the visiting Peace Boat.

The 2017 forum looked at how to advance humanitarian disarmament in ever-challenging times. Invited speakers led-off discussions on topics such as how to deal with the current socio-economic climate, how we research and respond to the use of banned weapons. The coordinators of five NGO coalitions provided lightening 15-minute updates on recent advances and described some specific challenges they currently face. The organizers are grateful to all the facilitators and speakers, who are listed in the annexed agenda.
Forum participants reviewed and reaffirmed the communiqué issued by the 2012 Humanitarian Disarmament Summit. They identified the following points for collective action, expanding on the practical measures contained in the 2012 summit report.

- Look for both opportunities in specific campaigns and shared successes that we can leverage to achieve our goals.
- Exchange practical lessons learned—e.g., what worked well, what did not—as our experiences can help establish collective best practices and be replicated across campaigns.
- Communicate more with each other. Contact HRW to be added to the informal humanitarian disarmament community’s email listserv 4disarmament@hrw.org Join the Facebook Page. And follow @4disarmament and its lists.
- Use technology/social media to document the use of weapons and their harm as well as to enhance our advocacy.
- Prioritize and nurture diversity across the humanitarian disarmament movement, including in recruitment of new staff and volunteers.
- Frame disarmament in humanitarian terms at every opportunity.
- Better “brand” humanitarian disarmament and explain its meaning and rationale when engaging with diplomats, the media, or the public or when producing publications (reports, academic articles, etc.) or online materials such as blogs.
- Support and reinforce each other’s work, including on social media, to emphasize the authority and reach of the humanitarian disarmament community.
- Continue the Humanitarian Disarmament Forum by meeting again face-to-face next year.

### FINAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy, @AcronymInst**
Ms. Clare Conboy, @ClareConboy

**Amnesty International, @amnesty**
Ms. Ara Marcen Naval
Mr. David Nichols, @dave_nichols

**Article 36, @article36**
Ms. Laura Boillot, @lauraboillot
Ms. Elizabeth Minor, @elizabethminor3
Mr. Alexander Holder (student)

**Bellingcat, @bellingcat**
Mr. Aric Toler, @arictoler

**BioWeapons Prevention Project & Chemical Weapons Convention Coalition**
Dr. Marie Chevrier

**Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, @bankillerrobots**
Ms. Mary Wareham (also with Human Rights Watch), @marywareham @4disarmament
Centro de Estudios Ecuménicos (México), @ceecumenicos
Ms. Sara San Martín

Center for Civilians in Conflict, @CivCenter
Mr. Evan Cinq-Mars, @ecinqmars

Centre for Peace, Security and Armed Violence Prevention, @cps
Ms. Nounou Booti Meeti

CIVICUS, @CIVICUSalliance
Mr. Mandeep Tiwana, @mandeep_tiwana1

Campaña Colombiana contra Minas @ COL_SIN_MINAS & SEHLAC, @SehlacOrg
Mr. Camilo Serna
Mr. Alvaro Jimenez, @AlvaroJimenezMi

Community of Living Traditions at Stony Point Center (New York)
Ms. Sherly Fabre

Control Arms, @controlarms
Ms. Zoya Craig, @ohboyaitszoya
Ms. Cindy Ebbs
Ms. Bari Fanso, @BariFanso
Ms. Anna MacDonald, @annamac33
Ms. Raluca Muresan, @rimuresa
Ms. Jace Ritchey, @JaceRitchey

Crisis Action, @Crisis_Action
Mr. Gareth Sweeney, @sweeney_gareth

FOMICRES - Peacebuilding, Crime Prevention and Social Reinsertion
Mr. Albino Forquilha

Forum on the Arms Trade, @ForumArmsTrade
Mr. Jeff Abramson, @jeffabramson

Global Action to Prevent War
Mr. Mario Cordero

Global Security Institute, @GSInstitute
Zaena Ballon, @heightdefective

The HALO Trust, @TheHALOTrust
Ms. Camille Wallen

Handicap International, @HI_Advocacy
Ms. Alma Taslidžan Al-Osta, @alma_oosta
Ms. Anne Héry, @Anneh2906
Mr. Luc Lampriere
Harvard Law School International Human Rights Clinic, @HmnRghtsProgram
Ms. Anna Crowe
Ms. Bonnie Docherty (also with Human Rights Watch)
Ms. Molly Brown (student)
Ms. Helena Buitrago (student)
Ms. Natalie McCauley (student)
Ms. Catherine Wiener (student)

Hibakusha Stories
Ms. Kathleen Sullivan
Mr. Ari Beser

Human Rights Now, @hrn_friends_eng
Ms. Kazuko Ito
Ms. Maromi Martinez

Human Rights Watch, @hrw
Mr. Steve Goose
Mr. Mark Hiznay, @MarkHiznay
Ms. Marta Kosmyna, @martakosmyna

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, @nuclearban
Mr. Daniel Högsa, @dhogsta
Mr. Tim Wright, @timmileswright

International Campaign to Ban Landmines - Cluster Munition Coalition
Ms. Amelie Chayer, @minefreeworld @banclusterbombs @MineMonitor

International Committee on Robot Arms Control, @icracnet
Dr. Peter Asaro, @PeterAsaro
Dr. Thompson Chengeta, @DrThompsonLaw
Dr. Noel Sharkey, @NoelSharkey @StopTheRobotWar @RespRobotics

Japan Campaign to Ban Landmines
Ms. Motoko Mekata

Mennonite Central Committee (Canada)
Ms. Jennifer Wiebe

Mines Action Canada, @MinesActionCan
Mr. Paul Hannon, @PCHannon
Ms. Erin Hunt, @erinlynnhunt

MAG (Mines Advisory Group), @MAGsaveslives
Mr. Chris Loughran, @cjdl2012
Mr. Robert Jenkins

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Mr. Kevin Carroll

Muslim Peace Fellowship
Ms. Susan Smith

**Non-Violence International**
Mr. Yeshua Moser-Puangsuwan, @yeshuamp
Mr. Michael Beer
Mr. Paul Magno

**Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, @NAPFGeneva**
Ms. Alice Slater, @aliceslater
Mr. Christian Ciobanu, @GSInstitute

**Pace University, @PaceUniversity**
Dr. Matthew Bolton, @politicalmines
Dr. Emily Welty, @emilywelty
Ms. Alyssa Curran (student)
Tuan Phuong Le (student)
Sheyda Aliyeva (student)
Tiya Singh (student)

**PAX, @PAXvoorvrede**
Ms. Roos Boer, @rboer
Ms. Susi Snyder, @susisnyder
Ms. Christina Hawley, @chghawley
Mr. Michel Uiterwaal, @micheluiiterwaal

**Pax Christi International**
Ms. Beth Begley
Ms. Beverley J. Johnstone

**Peace Boat**
Ms. Sumiko Hatakeyama
Ms. Akira Kawasaki, @kawasaki_akira

**Peace Foundation Melanesia (PNG)**
Mr. James Laki, @JamesLaki1

**Pressenza IPA, @PressenzaIPA**
David Andersson, @davidandersson

**Project Ploughshares (Canada), @ploughshares_ca**
Mr. Cesar Jaramillo
Ms. Branka Marijan

**Reprieve**
Mr. Shahzad Akbar, @Reprieve

**Security Research and Information Centre (Kenya)**
Mr. Stephen Singo, @smwachofi

**Soka Gakkai International**
Ms. Anna Ikeda, @anna_ikeda
Ms. Hayley Ramsay-Jones

**South Sudan Action Network on Small Arms (SSANSA)**
Mr. Geoffrey Duke, @DukeGeoffrey

**University of Massachusetts-Amherst**
Ms. Alexandria Nylen (student)

**University of Sheffield**
Dr. Amanda Sharkey

**WILPF Reaching Critical Will, @RCW_**
Ms. Ray Acheson, @achesonray
Ms. Allison Pytlak, @a_pytlak
Ms. Gabriella Irsten, @ikff_sverige

**Women’s March Global, @WM_Global**
Ms. Lindsey Asher, @lindsey_tje
AGENDA
2017 Humanitarian Disarmament Forum
New York
13-15 October 2017

FRIDAY, 13 OCTOBER
6:00pm-8:00pm: Welcome reception at the Press Box (cash bar)

SATURDAY, 14 OCTOBER
8:30am-9:30am: Registration and coffee/tea, breakfast

9:30am-10:45am: Session I – Welcome to the 2017 Forum, which asks: How we can advance humanitarian disarmament in challenging times? Facilitated by Mary Wareham, Human Rights Watch
   2. Are these times any more challenging than previous years? – Steve Goose, Human Rights Watch
   3. How we banned nuclear weapons and won the Nobel Peace Prize despite the naysayers – Daniel Högsta, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

Followed by plenary discussion/Q & A.

10:45am-11:00am: Coffee/tea break

11:00am-11:15am: Lightening Update from the International Campaign to Ban Landmines-Cluster Munition Coalition – Amelie Chayer

11:15am-12:30pm: Session II – How can we protect and strengthen norms relating to humanitarian disarmament? Facilitated by Matthew Bolton, Pace University
   1. Building new norms – Laura Boillot, Article 36
   2. Responding to new use of banned weapons – Marie Chevrier, Coalition for the Chemical Weapons Convention
   3. Dealing with treaty violators: Case study from the Arms Trade Treaty – Anna Macdonald, Control Arms

Followed by small group discussions on these topics.
12:30pm-1:30pm: Lunch for all participants

1:30pm-1:45pm: Lightening Update from the International Network on Explosive Weapons – Laura Boillot

1:45pm-3:00pm: Session III – How can fieldwork advance the goals of humanitarian disarmament?
Facilitated by Camilo Serna, SEHLAC
1. How can victim assistance be successfully implemented? – Alma Taslidžan Al-Osta, Handicap International
2. What more can be done to ensure humanitarian clearance of landmines and explosive remnants of war? – Chris Loughran, Mines Advisory Group
3. What is required to conduct research from a distance using social media? – Aric Toler, Bellingcat

Followed by small group discussions on these questions.

Please relocate at 3:00pm to WeWork, 205 E 42nd St.
3:00pm-3:55pm relocation and coffee break at WeWork

4:00pm-5:00pm: Address by Lindsey Asher, Women’s March Global followed by a Q & A facilitated by Anna Macdonald, Control Arms. Lindsey is currently director of partnerships and development for Women’s March Global, the organization created from the historic Women’s March on Washington on January 21, one of the largest global human rights demonstrations in history. Hundreds of thousands of women and men convened in the streets of Washington, DC and around the world, galvanizing a movement.

5:00pm-6:30pm: Performance and interactive workshop with the Peace Poets. The Peace Poets are a high-energy, exciting collective from the Bronx in New York, who work with community groups, and perform and educate on issues of peace, reducing conflict and liberation. They will run a short workshop session with us and also give a performance.

6:30pm-8:00pm Buffet dinner and drinks will be served

SUNDAY, 15 OCTOBER
8:30am-9:30am: Coffee/tea and breakfast available

9:30am-9:45am: Lightening Update from the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots – Mary Wareham

9:45am-11:00am: Session IV – How do we deal with the current socio-political environment?
Facilitated by Paul Hannon, Mines Action Canada
1. How do we respond to the declining space for civil society and growing right-wing movements? – Mandeep Tiwana, CIVICUS
2. How do we identify and respond to fake news? – Aric Toler, Bellingcat
3. Where have the champions gone? – Elizabeth Minor, Article 36

Followed by small group discussions on these questions.

11:00am-11:15am: Coffee/tea break
11:15am-11:30am: Lightening Update from the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons – Daniel Högsta

11:30-12:45pm: Session V – Small group discussions on working together to protect and strengthen humanitarian disarmament norms. Facilitated by Roos Boer, PAX

Break into small groups to discuss the following topics, each of which will run twice:
1. Working with indigenous communities – Erin Hunt, Mines Action Canada
2. Working across campaigns – Daniel Högsta, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
3. Working with students, academics, and technical experts – Peter Asaro, International Committee for Robot Arms Control, and Anna Crowe, Harvard Law School International Human Rights Clinic
4. Working with other researchers using publicly available information – Jeff Abramson, Landmine
5. and Cluster Munition Monitor

12:15pm-1:15pm: Lunch for all participants

1:15pm-1:30pm: Lightening Update from Control Arms – Anna MacDonald

1:30pm-2:45pm: Session VI - How can we move forward as a collective humanitarian disarmament community? Facilitated by Susi Snyder, PAX

1. Feedback on the 2012 Humanitarian Disarmament Communique – Mary Wareham, Human Rights Watch
2. Upcoming opportunities and next steps – Bonnie Docherty, Harvard Law School International Human Rights Clinic
3. Key lessons and take-aways from the Forum – Roos Boer, PAX

Followed by plenary discussion/Q & A.

2:45-3:00pm: Closing remarks

6:00pm-8:00pm: Peace Boat reception (only for those who RSVP’ed)