



## Humanitarian Disarmament Campaigns Forum

New York  
14-15 October 2017

### REPORT OF THE 2018 FORUM

Issued February 2018

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 lightning 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 listserve [4disarmament@hrw.org](mailto: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.

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## 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, @SehlaOrg**

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, @ohboyaitsoya

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\_osta

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 Högsta, @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, @cjd12012  
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, @micheluiterwaal

**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

**Relieve**

Mr. Shahzad Akbar, @Relieve

**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 Nylén (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

1. What is humanitarian disarmament? – Bonnie Docherty, Harvard Law School International Human Rights Clinic
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: Lightning 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: Lightning 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: Lightning 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: Lightning 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 and Cluster Munition Monitor
5. and Cluster Munition Monitor

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

**1:15pm-1:30pm: Lightning 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)