

# US Leadership for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World -- An Appeal to the Next President

*Educating People with a Blueprint for a Safer World*



FOR RELEASE: January 16, 2008

## NEW NATIONAL APPEAL IS LAUNCHED

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is launching a national educational campaign aimed at reaching and motivating a mass audience with key facts about nuclear weapons and how the world would benefit from US leadership for a nuclear weapons-free world..

The seven steps of the Appeal show a clear path to making the world safer—each step would reduce the threat and so educate people on how nuclear disarmament might proceed. (*See the text of the Appeal below.*)

*“US Leadership” -- A national Appeal that educates people about logical steps to make the world safer.*

One event in 2008 is likely to have more bearing on nuclear disarmament and world peace than any other. It is the election of the next President of the United States. His, or her, actions could create a dramatic change in US nuclear policy and international relations.

Two polls last year ( Worldpublicopinion.org/ U.of Maryland; Angus Reid/Simons Foundation) both found that three-quarters of the American public wanted to eliminate all nuclear weapons. Yet, many people assume the goal is just too hard to accomplish. And many simply do not know what steps we might take to reduce and then eliminate the threat. We feel that large numbers of people could benefit greatly from education not only about the threat, but about a viable strategy to remove it.

That’s why we developed our Appeal. It is filled with prudent, cost-saving ideas such as de-alerting nuclear weapons, no first-use and a permanent ban on nuclear testing.

People can sign the Appeal on our website [www.wagingpeace.org](http://www.wagingpeace.org). We will gather all the names of those who support the campaign and deliver them to the next President in January 2009.

“The era of nuclear weapons must be brought to an end,” writes David Krieger, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and author of the Appeal. “This can be done. It will require leadership and commitment. Nuclear weapons were created by humans, and it is our responsibility to eliminate them before they eliminate us.”

Of course, just getting people to read the Appeal will be an educational victory. There is vital knowledge in the Appeal -- those that read it will learn that there is a clear path to nuclear disarmament. Change is possible, and the United States can take steps immediately that will reduce the threat to our families, neighborhoods, businesses and churches.

*It's time to dissolve the myth of inevitability around nuclear weapons. Education is the key. Here are seven straight-forward steps that will make our lives more secure and the world more peaceful.*

Some issues are beyond partisan politics. We feel working for the elimination of nuclear weapons is one of those common-sense issues.

Nothing illustrates the issue's broad appeal better than the remarkable range of people who have favored the abolition of nuclear weapons. For example: Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birthday we celebrate in a few days, and President Ronald Reagan.

When accepting the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, Dr. King said: “I refuse to accept the cynical notion that nation after nation must spiral down a militaristic stairway into the hell of thermonuclear annihilation.”

In his 1984 State of the Union Address, President Reagan said: “A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. The only value in our two nations possessing nuclear weapons is to make sure they will never be used. But then would it not be better to do away with them entirely?”

Another odd couple are joined in their support of nuclear disarmament -- Arnold Schwarzenegger and the Dalai Lama. Yes, even the Terminator says he wants to get rid of nuclear weapons.

The lesson is clear. Getting rid of nuclear weapons is everyone's issue. Not radical. Not partisan. Just a way to make the world much, much safer. For us and for future generations.

Our Appeal will emphasize this point. Everyone benefits from the elimination of nuclear weapons. People everywhere will feel safer and be safer. In a security conscious world, this is a key point. We are safer without the weapons. Leading the world towards nuclear disarmament is the best way for the United States to stop a potential terrorist attack with nuclear weapons.

*A nuclear policy based on fear does not solve problems, it makes them worse. All decisions based on fear are by definition reactive and emotional. Such decisions are often sourced in weakness and expediency. Eliminating nuclear weapons is a strong, far-sighted policy that suggests faith in the future and the importance of future generations.*

As a 501(c)3 educational charity, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation does not endorse candidates. However, we do believe the public deserves to be informed. To this end, we also are tracking the candidates' positions on nuclear issues and posting their quotes on our web site, [www.wagingpeace.org](http://www.wagingpeace.org), for all to see. So when people sign the Appeal on our website, they will also have the opportunity to learn exactly what the candidates say about their nuclear weapons policy. And there are significant differences – even between members of the same party, like Barrack Obama and Hilary Clinton.

*A nuclear weapon detonated anywhere at any time would be a disaster. So eliminating nuclear weapons is just disaster prevention. Practical, determined US Leadership for the abolition of nuclear weapons is just a level-headed strategy to preserve public safety.*

In addition, we have just completed a new 20 minute DVD, *Nuclear Weapons & the Human Future*. It is also available on line—and provides even more background on how the world will benefit by getting rid of nuclear weapons.



For 25 years, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has been a voice of conscience on nuclear weapons issues. We believe people of conscience must take action now. To remain silent is to approve the status quo, which is likely to lead to further nuclear weapons proliferation with a high possibility of nuclear weapons use. The time has come for the United States to take leadership to build consensus with other nations to solve the 21st century's most immediate threat.

*Sign a petition to leave a legacy of peace to future generations. Go to [www.wagingpeace.org](http://www.wagingpeace.org)*

For interview requests with David Krieger, or to ask any questions, please contact Director of Public Affairs, Steven Crandell at 805 965 3443 or email [scrandell@napf.org](mailto:scrandell@napf.org).

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**US LEADERSHIP FOR A NUCLEAR WEAPONS-FREE WORLD**  
**An Appeal to the Next President of the United States**

Nuclear weapons could destroy civilization and end intelligent life on the planet.

The only sure way to prevent nuclear proliferation, nuclear terrorism and nuclear war – before the next blinding flash – is to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

The era of nuclear weapons must be brought to an end. This can be done. It will require leadership and commitment. Nuclear weapons were created by humans, and it is our responsibility to eliminate them before they eliminate us.

The United States, as the world’s most militarily powerful nation, must take the initiative in convening and leading the nations of the world to urgently take the following steps:

- **De-alert.** Remove all nuclear weapons from high-alert status, separating warheads from delivery vehicles;
- **No First Use.** Make legally binding commitments to No First Use of nuclear weapons and establish nuclear policies consistent with this commitment;
- **No New Nuclear Weapons.** Initiate a moratorium on the research and development of new nuclear weapons, such as the Reliable Replacement Warhead;
- **Ban Nuclear Testing Forever.** Ratify and bring into force the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;
- **Control Nuclear Material.** Create a verifiable Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty with provisions to bring all weapons-grade nuclear material and the technologies to create such material under strict and effective international control;
- **Nuclear Weapons Convention.** Commence good faith negotiations, as required by the Non-Proliferation Treaty, to achieve a Nuclear Weapons Convention for the phased, verifiable and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons;
- **Resources for Peace.** Reallocate resources from the tens of billions currently spent on nuclear arms to alleviating poverty, preventing and curing disease, eliminating hunger and expanding educational opportunities throughout the world.

*We call upon the next President of the United States to make a world free of nuclear weapons an urgent priority and to assure US leadership to realize this goal.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

The **Nuclear Age Peace Foundation** will send this signed appeal to the White House when the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States takes office on January 20, 2009.  
Return to **Nuclear Age Peace Foundation**, PMB 121, 1187 Coast Village Rd, Suite 1, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

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**The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation --** The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation initiates and supports worldwide efforts to abolish nuclear weapons, to strengthen international law and institutions, and to inspire and empower a new generation of peace leaders. Founded in 1982, the Foundation is comprised of individuals and organizations worldwide who realize the imperative for peace in the Nuclear Age. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan international education and advocacy organization. It has consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council and is recognized by the UN as a Peace Messenger Organization.

For more information about the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, see [www.wagingpeace.org/menu/about](http://www.wagingpeace.org/menu/about)

For More Information please call Director of Public Affairs, Steven Crandell at 805-965-3443 or email [scrandell@napf.org](mailto:scrandell@napf.org)

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