

We Affirm Our Belief in the One God

A Statement Regarding Muslim-Christian Perspectives on the Nuclear Weapons Danger

This statement had its origins at a consultation of religious leaders and scholars, Muslims, Christians and others. Religious leaders of all faiths are invited to endorse this statement by sending an email to info@nrldi.org.

We affirm our belief in the One God, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

We agree that the Christian and Muslim traditions are unambiguous on the sanctity of human life and on the protection of all forms of creation, including the environment. We believe in the dignity of all human beings and their roles as trustees and humble custodians of the earth and their responsibility for the needs of future generations.

We believe that chemical, biological and particularly nuclear weapons do not discriminate between combatants and non-combatants and inevitably destroy innocent human life, even as they destroy other forms of life such as animals and vegetation, cause irrevocable damage to the environment for many generations to come and cause human suffering and disease. Therefore, we hold that these weapons are contrary to our religious and ethical principles.

We agree that the ideal response to the nuclear threat is a total and universal ban on all such weapons, including low yield tactical nuclear weapons, their development, production, possession, acquisition, deployment, use, and the threat of use. We hold further that any weakening of the nuclear “Non-Proliferation Treaty” is a setback for world peace.

We agree that all nations, without exception, must abide by international treaties, agreements and other international covenants of which they are signatories.

We further agree that the possession of nuclear weapons is an unacceptable risk for the human community in these times and is a continuing threat to the entire planet and its fragile ecosystem. The risk of theft of nuclear weapons or materials by non-state actors for nuclear terrorism as well as the continuing risk of accidental use of nuclear weapons by nation states themselves makes even the possession of nuclear weapons a danger to God’s creation.

We agree that the enormous resources spent on nuclear weapons can be put to much better use to deal with the problems of poverty, disease and ignorance and to promote a peaceful pluralistic civil society, free of hate and prejudice.

We encourage engagement on the part of civil society in the debate and policy making decisions relating to nuclear weapons.

We therefore believe that the common position held by both of our traditions, expressed as the sanctity of human life, leads us inexorably to say that the only real security for the world and the most responsible position for people of faith in our two traditions is to call upon the United States and other countries of the world to, gradually and in a verifiable manner, finally eliminate these weapons from the face of the earth.

Endorsed by the following participants:

Dr. Asma Afsaruddin , Muslim	Muhammad Shafiq, PhD , Muslim
Sadida Athaullah , Muslim	Dr. Muzammil H. Siddiqi , Muslim
Dr. Jamal Badawi , Muslim	Bishop Walter F. Sullivan , Roman Catholic
Mohamed Elsanousi , Muslim	Rev. Dr. Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite , United Church of Christ
Dr. Muneer Fared , Muslim	Joe Volk , Religious Society of Friends
Rev. Barbara Green , Presbyterian	Dr. Jim Walsh , John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
Rabia Terri Harris , Muslim	Peter Weiderud , Church of Sweden
Dr. Sherman Jackson , Muslim	Dr. Christine Wing , Presbyterian
Rev. Richard Killmer , Presbyterian	
Ibrahim M. Abdil-Mu’id Ramey , Muslim	
Anna Rhee , United Methodist	
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