

WESTERN STATES LEGAL FOUNDATION

655 - 13TH STREET, SUITE 201 & OAKLAND, CA 94612
wslf@earthlink.net • www.wslfweb.org
(510) 839-5877

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Since 1982

“The United States has in effect taken the initiative in destroying the entire system of international treaties and accords that served as the underlying foundation for peace and security following World War II.” - Mikhail Gorbachev (Oct. 25, 2018)

December 13, 2018

Dear Western States Legal Foundation supporter,

We are living in a time of extraordinary nuclear dangers. President Trump’s announced intention to withdraw the United States from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty is another sign of deepening crisis among the nuclear-armed states. Following the 2002 U.S. withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, it imperils the entire structure of arms control and disarmament, including prospects for extension of the New START Treaty which expires in 2021, and could lead to new, unpredictable rounds of arms racing.

Earlier this year the U.S. declared that it will no longer implement the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA – the “Iran Deal”) and will reimpose sanctions on Iran inconsistent with the JCPOA. This too is a major blow to international governance and to peace and disarmament in the region and the world.

Western States Legal Foundation (WSLF) is working as hard as ever to cut through the fog of propaganda (*on all sides*), to suss out the facts, and to counter this madness at the local, national and international levels. ***WSLF depends on the financial support of hundreds of individual donors like you. We’re counting on your renewed support now. Please give as generously as you can!***

On January 25, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists moved the hands of its iconic Doomsday Clock 30 seconds closer to the end of humanity. It is now set at two minutes to midnight—as close as it’s ever been set since its inception in 1947. In moving the clock 30 seconds closer to the hour of the apocalypse, the Bulletin cited “the failure of President Trump and other world leaders to deal with looming threats of nuclear war and climate change”, and declared, ***“the world is as threatening as it has been since World War II.”***

Last weekend, Trump reaffirmed his shocking 2017 decision to withdraw the U.S. from the landmark 2015 Paris climate agreement. Meanwhile at the global Climate Summit in Poland, the U.S. joined an unholy alliance with Russia, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to challenge language that would have welcomed the findings of the new UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, warning that the world has barely 10 years to cut carbon emissions by nearly half to avoid catastrophic warming!

On August 6, the 73rd anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima, at our annual rally at the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab, Penny Opal Plant, a Bay area indigenous leader and longtime friend of **WSLF**, spoke passionately about the need for a common platform that would join the anti-nuclear movement with the movement to stop and mitigate climate change. And she invited us, from the stage, to participate as an anti-nuclear contingent, in the September 8 “Rise for Climate, Jobs and Justice march” in San Francisco. Penny also called on us to distribute information to the many thousands of young people who would be there, *“who don’t*

have it in their minds yet to connect nuclear weapons and climate change and nuclear weapons and climate profiteers who have been bowed over by money and greed". WSLF took up Penny's challenge. In short order we drafted a [Call to Action](#) and solicited 29 co-sponsoring organizations. On September 8 our contingent marched from Embarcadero Plaza to Civic Center carrying the colorful "No Nukes! No Wars! No Walls! No Warming!" banner we created for Livermore. We also painted a huge graphic illustrating this theme as our contribution to the world's largest street mural. And we staffed an information table in Civic Center plaza. Heeding Penny's advice, WSLF produced an informational flier, "[Nuclear Weapons and Climate Change in the Age of Corporate Globalization](#)" for distribution. (You can watch a short video of Penny's talk at Livermore followed by my "call to action" at www.facebook.com/pg/WesternStatesLegalFoundation/events).

In 2018, WSLF stepped up our engagement with the United Nations. In March and October, we met, by invitation, with Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, to consult about Secretary-General Antonio Gutierrez' new "Securing Our Common Future" disarmament agenda. In October I made a presentation to the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) of the UN General Assembly in New York on behalf of WSLF and Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, titled "[Creating the Conditions for International Peace and Security](#)".

In April, during the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) meeting for the 2020 Review Conference in Geneva, WSLF organized side events on "Resurgent Nationalisms and the Dangers of War Among Nuclear Armed States" and "Social Movements in the Global South, the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the Path to the Ban Treaty". We facilitated the Annual General Meeting of the Abolition 2000 Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons and participated in meetings of the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms and an Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace. During the session of the PrepCom devoted to civil society, I presented a WSLF statement written by Senior Research Analyst **Andrew Lichterman**, titled "[Risk Without Representation: Nuclear Weapons in the 21st Century](#)", to the official government delegations.

In the international arena, the one bright spot this year was the dramatic diplomatic opening that appeared on the Korean peninsula. WSLF is active with the Korea Peace Network, which has been organizing locally, nationally and internationally. Due largely to the skillful leadership of South Korean President Moon Jae-in, with strong grassroots support from the Candlelight Revolution, diplomacy is being kept on track. But the path ahead is very unsure, and we need to keep up the pressure. The Korea Peace Network organized a "**Joint Statement of U.S. Civil Society Groups in Support of the Current Peace Process in Korea**", signed by more than 150 groups, [published in The Nation on December 6](#).

Last month I was in Japan for the 6th Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. I also spoke at a symposium in Tokyo to explore ways that Japanese, South Korean and U.S. NGOs can collaborate in support of peace, normalization of relations and eventual denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula.

In response to Trump's announcement of intent to withdraw from the INF Treaty, WSLF with Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy and United for Peace and Justice helped develop a Roots Action-led online initiative enabling constituents to contact their members of Congress to urge action to save the treaty. This campaign may have "legs" as Senators Merkley, Warren, Gillibrand, Markey, Wyden and Sanders have just introduced the **Prevention of Arms Race Act of 2018**, which erects several high barriers to spending on deployment of INF-violative missiles and declares a sense of the Senate that "*President Trump's announcement of the intent of the United States to withdraw from the INF Treaty, without proper consultation with Congress, is a serious breach of Congress's proper constitutional role as a co-equal branch of government*". **Contact your representatives:** <https://tinyurl.com/infwslf>

WSLF doesn't barrage you with donor appeals. With our tiny 2-person staff (and part-time bookkeeper) we don't have time! **Please renew your support now! You can donate securely online by clicking on the "Donate" button at www.wslfweb.org.** (Our 501-C-3 Tax Exemption Number is 94-2801038.) ***We can't thank you enough!!***

Best wishes to you and your family for a happy, healthy, peaceful holiday season and New Year!!!

☺ *Jacqueline Cabasso*, Executive Director

P.S. Watch for a **new WSLF** website and newsletter, coming in 2019.