

Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice



A national faith-based organization *founded in support of Unitarian values*

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President, Margaret Rao

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The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

As President of CUSJ, I last wrote to you on October 6th urging you to reconsider your decision not to join the 120 + UN member states to negotiate the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was adopted on Friday, July 7th. The premise of the treaty recognizes “the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from any use of nuclear weapons,” and concludes that their complete elimination “remains the only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons are never used again under any circumstances.” I daresay, most Canadians would agree. In choosing to renege on your election campaign promise to take part in these historic negotiations and in further aligning Canada’s defence policies with the United States and its NATO allies, you have deeply damaged Canada’s reputation as an ‘honest broker’ in the international arena.

The end result of the doctrine of ‘nuclear deterrence’ has been nuclear proliferation and greater risk than ever of nuclear annihilation. In the name of ‘nuclear security’, the Trump administration announced in February of this year an increase of 54 billion in defence spending with additional nuclear capabilities. The current risky game of nuclear brinkmanship between hostile nations draws the world ever closer to a nuclear stand-off. Now is the time for our elected leaders to show true leadership by signing on to the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty.

All nations will have a chance to redeem themselves, including Canada, come September 20th, when the Annual General Assembly meets again for the 72nd time since its founding in 1945, following the Second World War. May the United Nations live up to its charter to ‘maintain international peace and security’ and ‘develop friendly relations among nations’. Give peace (and nuclear disarmament) a chance!

Standing on the Side of Love and Justice,

Margaret Rao,
President, Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice