

Global Zero is an international movement for the elimination of nuclear weapons. We are building a diverse, representative movement that can influence politics and policy making.

If our goal is building political will, we need a feasible path to the elimination of nuclear weapons that can engage the nuclear reliant governments. Global Zero does this with a high level group of political, military and civil society leaders. They have put forward a feasible plan for the phased elimination of nuclear weapons by 2030.

But we also need to build a public movement to build political traction to change policy. This requires the engagement of young people. We are at the heart of every social movement in history. And we have real political power. Global Zero understands the importance of providing youth with powerful advocacy actions.

The view of Global Zero is: that In order to change hearts and minds, and build a movement, we need to link the policy discussions of the governments with action that engages the public, and especially youth.

One example of this is the cooperation between Global Zero youth, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament and the European Parliament. With teams of young people meeting with members of the parliament, we moved nearly 400 MEPs to physically sign the Written Declaration supporting the Global Zero plan – enough to make it official European Parliament policy.

Another example of this is a Global Zero event called: *Bike Around the Bomb*. This is an annual a global action where in more than 75 cities around the world, thousands of activists take to the streets on August 6th, the anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima, to bike the circumference of that would be obliterated by a small nuclear blast in their communities.

Our call to action – through the bike ride and accompanying social media, was that we need leaders to ensure nuclear weapons are eliminated so that they can never be used... not to maintain the weapons and the risk of another Hiroshima or Nagasaki.

I was involved in the Bike around the Bomb event in Prague, the city where President Obama made his famous speech calling for a nuclear-weapons-free world. The Bike Ride was co-sponsored by PragueVision and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament.

We started from the square where President Obama gave his speech, and visited other notable sites along the way such as the John Lennon Peace Wall.

The event was a great success and an example of the power these events have. The average person will not attend disarmament conventions or research the consequences and likelihood of a nuclear bomb. They will however, spend a day outside biking around their city and engaging in conversations about this serious issue. Our ride around the city made for a fun day- but also gave a reality check to just how devastating a nuclear bomb would be. It was a day full of meeting new people and having them look at nuclear weapons as an imminent threat instead of a distant one.

Many people of my generation do not see the threat of nuclear weapons. Although I am sure the vast majority believes they are bad for the world- many do not understand the threat we are still under today just by their very existence. This is why I firmly believe that engaging today's youth, and public at large, in fun activities, is vital to achieving real change. Global Zero and PNND are cooperating to do this. We look forward to your active participation as well.

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