

RESOLUTION FOR 2023

RESOLUTION To request the RI Board to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

Proposer: *Club (if proposed by a Club) or District (if proposed by the District) name and number go here*

Endorsed by: *District Number and Country go here*

1 WHEREAS Rotary International has already taken a stand against nuclear weapons with the
2 Rotary Foundation's Responsible Investment Policy (June 2021) which includes the
3 commitment that "the Rotary Foundation will avoid investing in companies that derive
4 significant revenue from producing, distributing, or marketing ...nuclear explosives"... "to
5 promote alignment with its mission to act responsibly and create lasting positive change."
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7 Whereas the TPNW is a vehicle to encourage the 9 nuclear countries that possess nuclear
8 weapons to enter in to negotiations for a verifiable, enforceable, timebound agreement to
9 eliminate their nuclear weapons
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11 WHEREAS, the TPNW, already signed by 92 countries, prohibits the development, testing,
12 production, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, with the
13 ultimate goal being their total elimination
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15 WHEREAS 70-80% of people surveyed in countries around the world (including Rotarians)
16 support the elimination of nuclear weapons and are looking for leadership to make this happen
17 – and Rotary is a leader when it comes to Peace
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19 WHEREAS Past Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta, speaking at an International
20 Summit, Sept 30, 2021, on Eliminating the Existential Threat of Nuclear Weapons, said: "Rotary
21 can take stronger positions for nuclear disarmament as organizations like the Red Cross have
22 already done" (The International Red Cross has endorsed the TPNW)
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24 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of RI consider supporting the
25 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and encourage Rotary Clubs to become
26 better educated on the need to work for the elimination of nuclear weapons.
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PURPOSE AND EFFECT

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30 Rotary could work for world-wide endorsement of the TPNW by simply following the same
31 brilliant and effective and non partisan strategies used to eradicate polio in Africa: Rotary and

its partners negotiated truces and military protection, Rotary advocated with government leaders to dispel persistent myths.

The only effective way to prevent a nuclear war is to get rid of nuclear weapons. Deterrence does not work against accidents, miscalculations, or terrorists

Although the world has eliminated thousands of nuclear warheads, there are still about 13,000 left. And it would take as few as 100 of these weapons to destroy civilization as we know it.

We already have comprehensive bans for chemical weapons, biological weapons, landmines and cluster bombs, which have effectively stigmatized and dramatically decreased their use world-wide. The TPNW is expected to have the same impact on nuclear weapons.

The reality is that Rotary could do thousands and thousands of Positive Peace projects and one nuclear catastrophe could undo them all.

Rotary would like to increase membership. Standing for an important peace initiative that represent the wishes of 70%-80% of the world's population is a compelling attraction for new members.

Rotary already has the knowledge and experience to tackle this issue. Our membership includes hundreds of authors, educators and speakers who are experts on nuclear weapons. It was a Rotarian who, in 2016, chaired the session on the humanitarian impact of nuclear war at the UN's Open Ended Working Group meeting in Geneva that led to negotiations for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. His organizations are twice recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize. Rotarians have represented the Rotary Action Group for Peace at both Nuclear Nonproliferation Review and TPNW First Meeting of States Parties in 2019 and 2022.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The financial impact would depend on the scope and extent of support provided by the RI Board to accomplish our goal.