



*Report of Abolition 2000 Youth and Nuclear disarmament working group (Abolition 2000 Youth Network) on its activities in 2017 and in the first half of 2018  
by Marzhan Nurzhan, Convener*

### **Information, facts & figures**

**Number of members:** around 115 members from 31 countries – including from all the nuclear-armed States except DPRK (list of participants is attached separately)

**Recent rebranding:** from Abolition 2000 Youth and Nuclear disarmament working group to Abolition 2000 Youth Network (hereafter). This was done following consultation with the working group members.

**Social media outreach and representation:** [Facebook page](#) has around 200 likes and [Facebook group](#) has 108 members

Abolition 2000 Youth Network has been in existence for many years, but was revitalized and became more active in 2017. This included outreach to youth and organizing actions and events. A key planning event on “Youth actions and the 2018 UN High Level conference (UNHLC)” was held at the UN in New York during the ban treaty negotiations. The meeting gathered young people from different organisations and provided a forum to discuss issues on youth engagement in nuclear disarmament, representation of, preparation for and participation in the 2018 UNHLC and global youth actions for key dates such as August, 6, 9 & 29 and September, 26.

In my capacity as convener of Abolition 2000 Youth Network, I spoke at the various events in 2017, representing youth voice and engaging, raising awareness amongst young people, such as:

- [Peace and Planet conference](#) “No nukes, no wars, no walls, no warming” in June 2017 in New York City at the section on Youth in lead, speech is available [here](#). We thank Joseph Gerson for invitation.
- [Atomic Bomb Awareness Day](#) organized by Genbaku No Hi in cooperation with the NGO Committee on Peace, UNODA at the UN Vienna in August 8, 2017 to commemorate the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and call for abolition of nuclear weapons. Speech is available [here](#) from 47:37 - 52:49.
- [International day for the total elimination of nuclear weapons](#), delivering [speech](#) at the UN High-Level meeting in September 26, 2017 chosen as a representative of civil society to address on nuclear disarmament, youth, UNHLC and economic aspects of the nuclear weapons. For more information see [Civil society addresses the UN General Assembly on nuclear disarmament](#)

**Further activities included:**



- Social media action “Reaching high for a nuclear-weapon-free world” on [UN Youth Day](#) and [Nuclear Abolition Day](#)– photos of young people holding peace sign high with hashtags #Youth4Peace, #YouthDay, #ReachHIGH, #ReachHIGH2018, #Sep26dontNukeUs, #abolishnukes, and/or #YouthAgainstNukes
- [International youth conference in Prague](#) in November 27-29, 2017 which released “Reach High for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World”, [Youth appeal](#) (document 1 is attached separately) to world leaders to participate at the highest level in the 2018 UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament, to use the occasion of the UNHLC to sign the ban treaty (if they have not already done so) and to support interim measures to reduce the risks of nuclear weapons being used.
- Youth appeal was sent to world leaders in January 2018. Responses from some of the countries were received accordingly. In addition, youth appeal was also presented and handed-in to the Honorable Ambassadors of the following diplomatic missions: Austria, Canada, India, Indonesia, Sweden and Mexico in Geneva (Switzerland) in March 2018. We thank IPB – International Peace Bureau for inclusion of youth appeal into the newsletter from January 31, 2018 on page 7 <http://www.ipb.org/newsletter-archive/>
- On January 2018, thanks to cooperation with Pugwash and member organisation the International Student/ Young Pugwash movement, convener attended the ISODARCO (International school on disarmament and research on conflicts) winter school in Italy organized by the Italian Pugwash Group.
- Youth network contributed to the study survey conducted by the YWILPF Australia on the *Role of youth in nuclear disarmament activism*. More information is here <https://ywilpf.wordpress.com/nuclear-abolition/>
- New member organisations joined the Youth Network worldwide:
  1. Nigeria Youth 4 Peace Initiative - NY4PI, Nigeria
  2. United Nations Youth Associations Network, the USA
  3. Youth Association for Development (YAD), Pakistan
  4. Adecop PeaceBuilders, DRC
  5. JSF شباب بلا حدود Youth Without Borders, Tunisia
  6. World Youth Assembly, Malaysia
  7. Nagasaki Youth Delegation, Japan
- Movie screenings of the documentary [“Where the wind blew”](#) were organized in Czech Republic and Switzerland jointly with the Kazakhstan diplomatic missions based in those countries respectively, and in Italy. Screenings included audience at the universities in Czech Republic and Switzerland, during the winter school in Italy and PORG MUN 2018 conference in Prague)
- Youth network is actively involved in the events of the second Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear



Weapons (NPT) on April 23- May 4 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland. Convener was invited to give a speech at the CTBTO and Pugwash side-event titled “Bridging the gap: CTBT” on April 25, thanks to the membership in CTBTO Youth Group. Youth network contributed to the Youth appeal presented as joint statement of young people from different youth organisations present during the NPT PrepCom (document 2 is attached separately)

Current global action:

- Youth voices and concerns should be considered at the UN Conference. World leaders are encouraged to take action in order to protect current and future generations from the risks of nuclear annihilation. In this regard, convener leads the initiative and invites youth to be a part of a [global video action](#) to support the UN High-Level Conference. The videos of “reaching high for a nuclear-weapon-free world” will be compiled and shown to world leaders to encourage them to take action at the High-Level Conference.