

**James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Middlebury Institute of  
International Studies at Monterey**

Submission to the Secretary-General's report on Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation  
(A/RES/78/31)

The James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) is committed to advancing global peace and security by countering the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). CNS achieves this through research, analysis, and by educating the next generation of experts in nonproliferation, arms control, and disarmament.

Its main youth education initiative, the Critical Issues Forum (CIF), engages high school students worldwide on nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. CNS also leads the Summer Undergraduate Nonproliferation Fellowship Program, providing intensive training and research experience for university students.

During the summers of 2023 and 2024, CNS held its Summer Undergraduate Nonproliferation Fellowship Program, training approximately 12 undergraduate students each year from Middlebury College and other U.S. universities. Fellows attended daily lectures and conducted independent research with CNS expert guidance. Topics included multilateral nonproliferation challenges, humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons, nuclear testing and Indigenous communities, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, nuclear energy and proliferation risks, U.S.-China arms control, and missile proliferation. Fellows applied open-source intelligence (OSINT) tools and assisted with CNS projects focused on North Korea, Iran, nuclear energy in Central Asia, gender and disarmament, and other critical areas. More details:  
<https://sites.middlebury.edu/summerintern/>

CNS also mentored aspiring women in the field through its Young Women in Nonproliferation Initiative.

CIF organized three international student conferences in July 2023, April 2024, and March 2025 in Monterey, CA. The 2023 and 2024 conferences brought together students and educators from the U.S. and Japan; in 2025, participants from India and Pakistan joined. Conference themes included:

- 2023: Bringing Intersectional Approaches to Youth Education
- 2024: Advancing Disarmament Through Youth Education
- 2025: 80 Years of Struggle: Revitalizing Disarmament Through Cross-Cultural Engagement (marking the 80th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki)

CIF staff supported students in preparing research projects for each event. Nearly 100 students presented at each conference, proposing action plans for a world free of nuclear weapons. The events emphasized youth activism, cross-cultural dialogue, and critical thinking. Students reaffirmed the importance of inheriting the spirit of the Hibakusha and advancing disarmament.

To expand its reach, CIF also conducted regular online activities. More info:  
<https://sites.middlebury.edu/criticalissuesforum/>