



Youth engagement and empowerment in disarmament and non-proliferation, August 2023 - June 2025

ICAN engages young people by providing them with information, training, and opportunities to participate and shape decisions in the field of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

Empowering future leaders to make contributions towards a secure world

Since 2019, the Hiroshima Prefecture and ICAN have held an annual Hiroshima- ICAN Academy. The course was launched to nurture young global leaders to make concrete contributions towards disarmament. Course participants include students and young professionals from around the world chosen to represent a range of disciplines.

Fostering the development of research by emerging scholars

ICAN's Critical Nuclear Weapons Scholarship program supports emerging and seasoned scholars working on groundbreaking nuclear weapons scholarship to conduct and disseminate their research, bringing fresh perspectives to the field. Among the scholars are young researchers from the Pacific, Europe, and Africa. During the third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), ICAN coordinated the participation of more than 50 academics and organized two events to build up the global network of researchers.

Promoting youth engagement in global disarmament meetings

ICAN often sponsors young delegates to attend global disarmament meetings where they actively participate in a variety of activities and advocacy work, speak in thematic debates, deliver statements, and participate in media interviews facilitated by ICAN. As the civil society coordinator at TPNW meetings, ICAN ensures that youth are effectively represented in every aspect.

Supporting youth-led non-proliferation and disarmament events

Through its small grants program, ICAN supports youth-led partner organisations to organize nuclear disarmament and TPNW awareness programs locally with parliamentarians, government ministries, students, religious groups, among other groups in the Pacific, Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas. For example, in Belgium, Canada, and Norway, in an effort to reinvigorate public discourse and strengthen political support, ICAN supported a series of debates featuring youth politicians, university students engaging local stakeholders on nuclear disarmament and the TPNW reinforcing dialogue between policymakers and civil society.

Amplifying youth voices via social media

ICAN uses its social media channels to influence public opinion, particularly among youth. For example, in order to increase social media engagement, we held a successful in-person TikTok training for young people ahead of the second Meeting of States Parties TPNW and supported similar social media training at the third. ICAN partnered with [youth campaigners](#) to showcase personal testimonies and create explainer videos which resonated with younger audiences. Also in March 2025, ICAN worked in partnership with key organizations, including UNODA's Youth4Disarmament, OPANAL, Qazaq Nuclear Frontline Coalition, PeaceBoat, Marshallese Educational Initiative, and others, with the "[Hold the Memory, Carry on the Legacy](#)" campaign and [recap videos](#), adding depth to the discussions and engaging younger audiences to understand UN Treaty implementation efforts. ICAN uses its social media channels to spotlight youth-oriented and youth-led initiatives including the Hiroshima ICAN Academy, the Youth Nuclear Peace Summit, Youth for TPNW and other youth-driven advocacy at disarmament meetings.