



NAPF and RTT's

Submission to the Secretary-General's Report on Youth, disarmament, and non-proliferation

Executive Summary

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that holds consultative status to the UN and is recognized by the UN as a peace messenger organization. The organization is focused on the pursuit of a world free of nuclear weapons through advancing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and international endeavors related to nuclear justice. Dr. Ivana Hughes spearheads NAPF as its President, Christian N. Ciobanu serves as the Policy and Advocacy Director of NAPF and the Project Coordinator of RTT, and Kenneth Chiu is the organization's Communications and Media Coordinator.

In 2023, Reverse The Trend: Save Our People, Save Our Planet became the youth initiative of NAPF. RTT is focused on empowering young people through experiential education by inviting them to attend international conferences on nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation education, and organizing regional activities. Our youth-led chapters are based in Canada, Japan, the Pacific, and South and Southeast Asia.

Activities in the US

During the reporting period, we hosted two Santa Barbara community gatherings, named Sadako Peace Day, to commemorate the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The events brought people together to reflect on the story of Sadako and all victims of war through music, poetry, and remarks. It served as a time of reflection. Moreover, we organized our annual *Barbara Mandigo Kelly Peace Poetry Contest* to illuminate positive visions of peace and the human spirit. Further, we hosted the *20th Frank K. Kelly Lecture* featuring the author, Annie Jacobsen. Additionally, in collaboration with Soka Gakkai International (SGI), we convened the *Choose Hope Symposium*, which honored the legacies of the late NAPF Founder and President Emeritus, David Krieger, and the late SGI Founder and President, Daisaku Ikeda. We also participated in the *Ikeda-Krieger Dialogue: Choose Hope* at Soka University of America. Finally, we participated in a panel discussion on the critical role of education in fostering critical thinking and civic responsibility at the Ikeda Center for Peace and Dialogue.

International Activities

Our international activities focused on youth programs held on the margins of the TPNW States Parties Meetings and the NPT PrepComs, where we delivered statements and organized events with our partners.

In addition, we hosted a youth forum on nuclear justice with frontline and affected communities in Astana, Kazakhstan. They presented a declaration to Kazakhstan and Kiribati.

We also presented our vision of a nuclear weapons free world at the International Symposium for Peace (in Nagasaki, Japan), at the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences (at the Vatican), and at the Imagine Peace Conference (in Paris, France).

With support from NAPF, our youth initiative chapters organized regional activities. RTT Canada created a zine with Bombshelltoe on the ecological impact of nuclear weapons. It also convened two Youth-Parliament Nuclear Summits, working in collaboration with Canadian Senator Marilou McPhedran.

RTT Japan focused its activities on raising awareness about the testimonies of the hibakusha. One notable event was the 2024 Conference on Nuclear Disarmament with NAPF, where hibakusha presented alongside affected communities, academics from the University of Nagasaki, and Mayors for Peace.

RTT Pacific centered its activities on empowering Pacific Islanders to support the TPNW. For instance, it partnered with NAPF and students from the Solomon Islands National University, the University of the South Pacific, and the Malaita Provincial Youth Council to advocate for Solomon Islands to join the TPNW. Additionally, RTT Pacific hosted two art retreats, where the participants engaged in consultations with NAPF experts.

RTT South and South East Asia convened and participated in regional events, including the ASEAN Perspectives on the TPNW and the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

Recommendation

Moving forward, NAPF and RTT recommend that States allocate additional resources to both the UN and CSOs.