

Report on *Disarmament Education Activities*

June 2022-May 2024

Executive Summary

Between June 2022 and May 2024, the Soka Gakkai International (SGI) conducted a wide range of disarmament education activities. SGI worked in collaboration with partner organizations to develop educational tools such as “*Automated by Design*,” an exhibition that explores the spectrum of digital dehumanisation (curated and produced by Identity 2.0 for Stop Killer Robots and supported by Amnesty International and SGI) and “*I Want To Live On: The Untold Stories of the Polygon*,” a documentary that sheds light on the Semipalatinsk Test Site (created by Center for International Security and Policy with the support of SGI). SGI also promoted the importance of disarmament education in the UN fora through statements, working papers and side events. It also worked to engage young people in disarmament issues, including co-organizing the Future Action Festival in Tokyo, Japan, which gathered some 70,000 young people in person and over 500,000 viewers online.

Full Report

This document presents a comprehensive report on SGI’s disarmament education activities from June 2022 to May 2024.

Promoting Disarmament Education *at the UN and Other International Fora*

Recommendations 1, 2, 4, 12, 13, 22, 23, 29a, 29b, 29c

As an NGO in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), SGI has actively participated in international disarmament conferences. The organization has made efforts to advance discussions on disarmament education, through contributions such as working papers and the organization of side events in collaboration with other like-minded entities. Key initiatives include:

November 2023, UN Headquarters

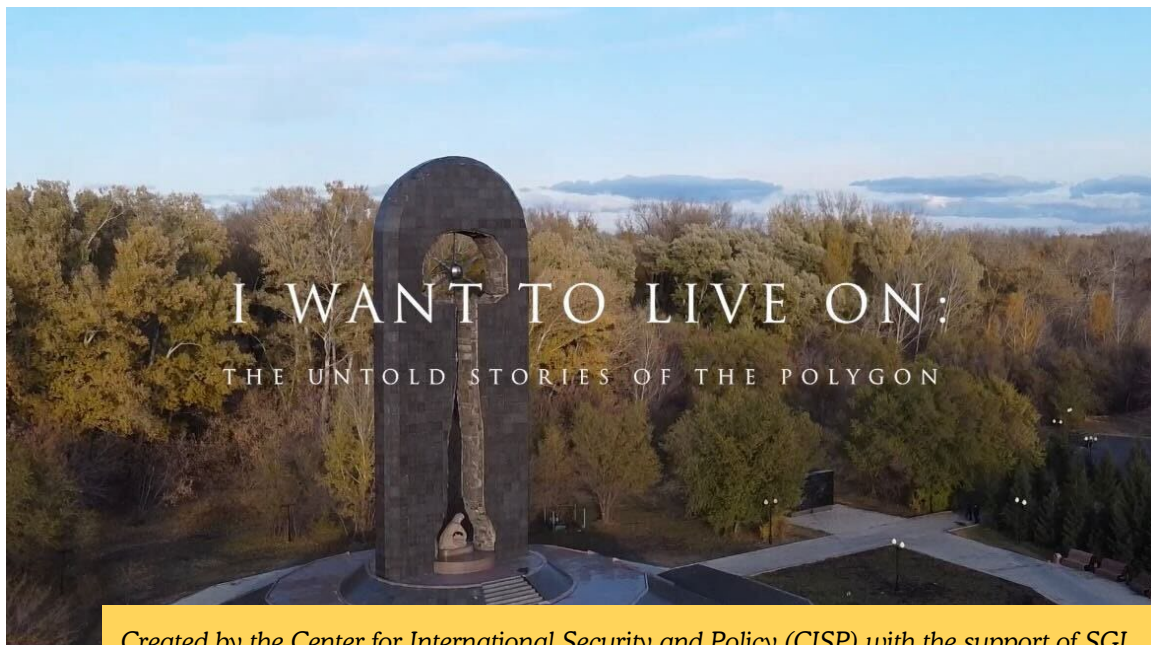
Delivering a Working Paper on *Peace and Disarmament Education*

Following up on the working paper presented at the First Meeting of States Parties (1MSP) to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), SGI submitted another working paper at the Second Meeting of States Parties (2MSP) entitled “*The Role of Peace and Disarmament Education in Advancing the Vienna Action Plan.*” This paper discussed how peace and disarmament education could support the implementation of the Vienna Action Plan, adopted at 1MSP, and explored the types of educational initiatives that could facilitate this goal.

August 2023 and November 2023, Austria and UN Headquarters

Organizing Side Events on the *Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Testing in Kazakhstan*

In collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan and the Center for International Security and Policy (CISP), SGI facilitated side events focused on the nuclear testing history in Kazakhstan. One event was held during the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 NPT Review Conference and another at the 2MSP to the TPNW. At these events, third-generation victims from Semey City, formerly known as Semipalatinsk, shared their testimonies. These events were attended by delegates from various nations, including nuclear-weapon states, as well as representatives from international organizations and civil society. Additionally, the documentary “*I Want To Live On: The Untold Stories of the Polygon.*” produced by CISP with the support of SGI, premiered at the side event held during the TPNW 2MSP.



Created by the Center for International Security and Policy (CISP) with the support of SGI, “*I Want To Live On: The Untold Stories of the Polygon*” sheds light on the Semipalatinsk Test Site, also known as the “Polygon,” which served as the Soviet Union's primary nuclear test site until 1991.

August 2023, Kazakhstan

Co-organizing the Regional Conference “Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia”

SGI collaborated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), CISP, and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) to host a regional conference in Astana, Kazakhstan. The conference, titled “Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia,” provided a platform for in-depth discussions on the humanitarian impacts associated with the development, testing, and use of nuclear weapons, as well as related international and regional legal frameworks, victim assistance, and environmental remediation. Representatives from the five Member States of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Semipalatinsk Treaty)—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan—were in attendance. An SGI representative delivered a presentation on the role of peace and disarmament education in promoting disarmament and universalizing the norms of the TPNW.



Regional Conference “Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia”

October 2022, UN Headquarters

Panel Discussion on Humanitarian Disarmament Education at UNGA First Committee Side Event

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF), Reverse The Trend: Save Our People, Save Our Planet (RTT), SGI, and the Permanent Mission of Kiribati to the UN co-sponsored a hybrid side event during the UN General Assembly's First Committee session. The event focused on the theme of "humanitarian disarmament education." A representative from SGI participated in the panel discussion, highlighting key aspects of the working paper titled "Including Peace and Disarmament Education in Implementing Universalization Obligations Under Article 12." This paper, co-authored with the International Disarmament Institute of Pace University, was submitted to the 1MSP to the TPNW.

Enhancing Youth Engagement for *Peace and Nuclear Abolition*

Recommendations 2, 4, 13, 22, 23, 29a, 29b

Throughout its history of advocating for peace and nuclear abolition, SGI has consistently placed youth at the forefront of its movements across various countries and regions. During the covered period, young members spearheaded a range of events and initiatives aimed at empowering their peers to address the issue of nuclear weapons and to contribute to the creation of a more just and sustainable future. Key activities included:

March 2024, Japan

Organizing the *Future Action Festival*

The Future Action Festival took place at the National Stadium in Tokyo, Japan, on 24 March 2024. It was organized by the organizing committee which consisted of six members representing youth-centric organizations including the SGI Youth in Japan. This event was part of the lead-up to the upcoming Summit of the Future, scheduled for September 2024 at the UN headquarters in New York. The festival sought to elevate public consciousness regarding nuclear disarmament and the climate crisis and to foster solidarity among Japanese youth to address these global challenges. The festival attracted some 70,000 youth and was live-streamed to over 500,000 viewers. In preparation, the organizing committee conducted a youth awareness survey from November 2023 to February 2024, targeting individuals aged 10 to 49, with a total of 119,925 participants. The insights gathered were integral to the formulation of a joint statement, which was subsequently presented to the Rector of the United Nations University in Tokyo.



The Future Action Festival, held in March 2024 Tokyo, Japan, attracted some 70,000 youth and was live-streamed to over 500,000 viewers. The festival sought to elevate public consciousness regarding nuclear disarmament and the climate crisis and to foster solidarity among Japanese youth to address these global challenges. © Seikyo Shimbun

In addition, this festival was officially confirmed as an off-site event to the 2024 Civil Society Conference held from 9-10 May in Nairobi, Kenya, which provided preliminary discussions and data ahead of the Summit of the Future. During the conference, the joint statement was handed over to Dr. Felipe Paullier, Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs of UN Youth Office. The survey outcome was also showcased at the conference. The festival is mentioned on the [youth section of the Summit of the Future website](#).

June 2022 and November 2023, Austria and United States / hybrid

Supporting the Organization of Youth Meetings of States Parties to the TPNW

SGL has actively supported the initiatives led by Youth for TPNW, including the Youth Meetings of States Parties (Youth MSP) to the TPNW. As a member of the Youth for TPNW's steering committee, an SGL representative played a key role in planning and coordinating the Youth MSP and its accompanying pre-MSP programs, which coincided with the First and Second Meetings of States Parties to the TPNW. During these Youth MSP sessions, participants had the invaluable opportunity to hear firsthand testimonies from Hibakusha in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and to broaden their perspectives on nuclear abolition. Notably, at the 1st Youth MSP, SGL facilitated a workshop on grassroots educational activities in collaboration with Senzatomica. This youth-led effort not only motivated numerous attendees to participate in the subsequent TPNW MSPs but also contributed to enhancing youth engagement in nuclear abolition efforts at local, national, and international levels.



Youth MSP participants in New York
(Credit: ICAN | Darren Ornitz)

September 2022 and August 2023, Japan

Holding the Youth Summit on the Renunciation of War

Since 1989, the Soka Gakkai Youth Division in Japan has annually convened the Youth Summit on the Renunciation of War, a forum dedicated to exploring practical steps towards peacebuilding. For the first time in several years due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the summit was conducted in person, drawing student and youth leaders of the organization from across Japan. The [latest summit](#), held in Okinawa on 19-20 August 2023, provided participants with profound insights into the atrocities of war and nuclear weapons. The attendees visited several significant historical sites, including the Soka Gakkai Okinawa Training Center. This site, formerly one of the four U.S. Mace B missile launch locations during the U.S. occupation, has been preserved as a poignant historical reminder.

August 2023-Ongoing, Japan

Engaging in the Initiative to Meet Hibakusha and Listen to Their Testimonies

The Youth Conference of the Women's Peace Committee of Soka Gakkai in Japan has initiated a program enabling its members to meet with Hibakusha and hear their testimonies. This initiative aims to preserve and pass on the experiences of Hibakusha to younger generations. Across Japan, members of the Youth Conference in each prefecture and region have organized discussions with Hibakusha residing locally, facilitating a deeper understanding and transmission of their historical experiences.

August 2023, Austria / hybrid

Organizing a Side Event “In Discussion with Global Youth: Inheriting the Experiences of Hibakusha” During the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 NPT Review Conference

In collaboration with other organizations, SGI co-hosted the side event *“In Discussion with Global Youth: Inheriting the Experiences of Hibakusha”* as part of the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference. This event featured a hybrid format, allowing for the inclusion of online participants from various countries and regions. During the session, attendees heard *testimony* from Ms. Keiko Ogura, who had previously shared her experiences with the leaders at the G7 Hiroshima Summit. Following her testimony, youth representatives from diverse regions and backgrounds engaged in a vibrant exchange of ideas on how to enhance awareness of nuclear disarmament issues among the younger generations.



Participants listened to the testimony of testimony from Ms. Keiko Ogura at the NPT Preparatory Committee side event.



Participants of the Hiroshima G7 Youth Summit (Credit: ICAN)

April 2023, Japan

Co-Sponsoring the Hiroshima G7 Youth Summit

In the lead-up to the G7 Hiroshima Summit, SGI representatives attended the Hiroshima G7 Youth Summit, held at Hiroshima University from April 25 to 27, 2023. Organized by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), the summit was co-sponsored by SGI

and other civil society organizations. The summit gathered 50 young leaders from 19 countries in Hiroshima—a city with a direct history of nuclear devastation. This setting provided a poignant backdrop for the participants to understand the grave impacts of nuclear weapons and to foster a global network of youth dedicated to nuclear disarmament.

September-October 2022 and August-September 2023, Japan

Conducting the *Peace Awareness Survey “Piece for Peace”*

Building on an annual survey tradition initiated in 1994 by the Student Division in the Chugoku Region, the Soka Gakkai Student Division in Japan conducted a nationwide peace awareness survey during the fall of 2022 and 2023. Comprising college students, the division crafted a survey that included questions concerning the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the TPNW, and personal contributions to peace efforts. In 2022, a total of 1,734 students responded to the survey, and the number increased to 2,533 participants in 2023.

July-August 2022 and 2023, Japan

Holding Various Events to *Inherit Hibakusha Testimonies*

In Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a series of events, including Peace Forum and Peace Walk, were organized to provide opportunities for the public—particularly children and young people—to hear firsthand testimonies from Hibakusha. Given that the average age of Hibakusha is now over 85, these events played a crucial role in enabling many young individuals to learn about the history of the atomic bombings and the enduring hardships faced by the survivors.

Exhibition: “*Everything You Treasure – For a World Free from Nuclear Weapons*”

Recommendations 4, 12, 22, 29a

Since its inception in 2012, the antinuclear exhibition “Everything You Treasure – For a World Free from Nuclear Weapons,” produced by SGI in collaboration with ICAN, has been displayed in numerous countries and regions. The exhibition is designed to elevate public awareness about nuclear weapons by exploring the issue through twelve diverse lenses, including humanitarian, environmental, economic, human rights, spiritual, and gender perspectives.



Opening ceremony of the “*Everything You Treasure—For a World Free From Nuclear Weapons*” exhibition © Seikyo Shimbun

As of May 2024, this impactful exhibition has reached over 90 cities across 21 countries and has been presented in multiple languages, including English, Japanese, Spanish, Malay, Chinese, German, Korean, French, Thai, and Russian. Notable presentations during the reporting period included a *showing in Kazakhstan*, co-organized by SGI and the CISP (September 2022), where a second-generation victim of nuclear testing near the Semipalatinsk Test Site shared insights on the environmental and health repercussions of nuclear tests at the opening ceremony. *Another notable showing* occurred at the University of Cologne, Germany (April-July 2022), where student volunteers led the introduction of the panels. Additionally, the exhibition was featured at an event in Mexico (February 2023) commemorating the 56th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco).

Organizing and Supporting Public Events Promoting Nuclear Disarmament

Recommendations 2, 4, 12, 22, 23, 29a, 29c

SGI has actively organized and supported a range of events aimed at promoting nuclear disarmament. Notable among these initiatives is the support for the exhibition “Portraits of the Hibakusha – 80 Years Remembered,” created by 80,000 Voices and Patrick Boyd. This exhibition, featuring holographic portraits of survivors from the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, offers a powerful glimpse into the personal impacts of nuclear warfare. A selection of these portraits was displayed at the United Nations Headquarters in New York during the 2MSP to the TPNW. The full exhibition later took place in Tokyo, Japan, from March to May 2024. In total, approximately 20,000 people visited the exhibition. Visitors to the exhibition were profoundly moved by the stories of the Hibakusha, gaining a deeper understanding of the devastating consequences of nuclear weapons and the importance of preserving and sharing these experiences with future generations.



Faith-Based Initiatives for Raising Public Consciousness

Recommendations 12, 29b

Faith communities are pivotal in offering spaces for individuals to reflect on their values and worldviews. They are instrumental in elevating public consciousness and reshaping perceptions about nuclear weapons, thereby contributing significantly to disarmament education. In recognition of this role, SGI has collaborated with various faith groups and leaders to advocate for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Notable efforts include:

September 2023, Germany

International Meeting of Religions and Cultures in Dialogue

Hosted by the Community of Sant'Egidio, an Italian Christian lay organization, the 37th edition of *"The Audacity of Peace"* brought together representatives from Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, and other religious traditions from over 40 countries. Among the attendees were representatives from SGI. During a session titled "A World Free from Nuclear Weapons Is Possible," an SGI representative highlighted the organization's commitment to a nuclear-free world, grounded in the Buddhist respect for the dignity of life. The representative emphasized how SGI's efforts foster a culture of peace through grassroots activities, aimed at broadening the disarmament dialogue and inspiring individuals to recognize their potential as agents of change in promoting peace.

August 2022, Malaysia

Interfaith Conference on the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

Hosted at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), the interfaith conference entitled *"National Implementation and the Role of Youth"* convened representatives from various universities and non-governmental organizations to discuss and promote youth advocacy for nuclear disarmament. During a panel focused on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, a representative from Soka Gakkai Malaysia (SGM) presented an overview of both SGI's and SGM's contributions to nuclear disarmament. These efforts include organizing exhibitions, engaging in interfaith dialogues, conducting seminars, producing documentaries, and participating in radio interviews.



Interfaith conference on the TPNW at International Islamic University Malaysia
(Credit: Soka Gakkai Malaysia)

Raising Awareness of the Threats of Autonomous Weapons Systems

Recommendations 1, 2, 4, 17, 22, 23, 29b

As a member of Stop Killer Robots (SKR), a coalition advocating for a legally binding framework to regulate autonomy in weapons systems (AWS), SGI has actively contributed to heightening awareness about the dangers and ethical concerns associated with AWS. Key initiatives include:

Supporting the Creation and Launch of the “Automated by Design” Exhibition

In partnership with Stop Killer Robots and Amnesty International, SGI supported the work of Identity 2.0, a creative studio at the nexus of digital rights, technology, and identity. This studio was commissioned to develop "Automated by Design," an impactful and engaging exhibition. This exhibition elucidates the concept of autonomous weapons, places them within the broader context of digital dehumanisation and automated harm, and bolsters SKR's mission to spearhead the development of new international legislation governing weapon system autonomy. Premiering alongside the 2023 UN General Assembly First Committee, the exhibition was launched on 13 October 2023 near UN Headquarters, attended by diplomats, UN officials, and civil society members. Over 60 individuals attended the launch. The exhibition also played a significant role at the international conference, “Humanity at the Crossroads: Autonomous Weapons Systems and the Challenge of Regulation,” held on 29-30 April 2024 at the Hofburg Palace in Vienna. It facilitated deeper insights among attendees from diverse sectors—including states, the United Nations, the ICRC, international and regional organizations, academia, think tanks, industry, and civil society—into the digital harms propelled by AI technology. Additionally, the exhibition microsite offers a digital counterpart to the in-person exhibition experience.



“Automated by Design” exhibition explores the spectrum of digital dehumanization, and situates autonomous weapons systems in the broader context. (Credit: Alex Bitar)

Promoting the *Digital Dehumanisation Campaign*

On 7 December 2022, SKR launched the *Digital Dehumanisation Campaign (DDC)* to heighten public awareness about the risks associated with digital dehumanisation. This process involves reducing individuals to mere data points, which are then used to make impactful decisions or take actions that adversely affect their lives. The DDC was marked by the release of six pieces of fact-based video content aimed at educating the public, lobbyists, and lawmakers. Hosted by a SGI representative, the video series delved into the nature of digital dehumanisation, its implications for individuals and society, and strategies for countering this emerging threat.

Beyond the *Disarmament Community*

Recommendations 2, 4, 12, 23, 26, 29a

SGI has proactively reached beyond disarmament communities to raise awareness about the critical need for disarmament, its interconnections with other global issues, and the value of educational efforts in this field. Key initiatives include:

May 2022, October 2022, and August 2023, Japan

Holding Film Screenings on *Disarmament and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*

As part of the SDGs Cinema Series, the Soka Gakkai Peace Committee in Japan organized online and in-person film screenings. The series included: 1) *The Vow From Hiroshima on 18 May 2022*; 2) “Immoral Code” on 29 October 2022; and 3) “8:15 From Father to Daughter,” which was screened in person for the first time on 26 August 2023. Following the last screening, a panel discussion featured high school and college students who discussed their initiatives, including a “nuclear abolition” card game and a peace awareness survey aimed at students and youth across Japan.

March 2023, UN Headquarters

Discussing Technology Risks and Potential for Gender Equality at CSW67

During the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), SGI hosted a parallel event titled “*Women’s Leadership for Human-Centered Technology*,” co-sponsored by Stop Killer Robots (SKR), the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York, and the Footage Foundation. The panel addressed the dual nature of technology, highlighting its potential dangers when



Side event on technology risks and gender equality introduced the concerns about autonomous weapons systems to the CSW community.

misused, as well as its capacity to serve as a catalyst for positive change. The session included a viewing of a [video interview series on digital dehumanisation](#) hosted by a SGI representative. Following this, an SKR representative discussed the concerning trajectory of autonomous weapon systems. She emphasized the inherent risks and biases in technology, cautioning that without strict controls, machines could autonomously make lethal decisions.

August 2022, New Zealand

Co-Hosting Peace Symposium

Te Ao o te Rongomaraeroa, the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (NCPCS) at the University of Otago, along with SGI New Zealand (SGINZ), jointly hosted a [Peace Symposium](#) at the Auckland University of Technology (AUT). The event was themed "Envisioning Peace in a Time of Uncertainty." During the panel discussion, young peace activists presented their perspectives and initiatives. Representatives from SGINZ highlighted the global impact of grassroots peace efforts and stressed the critical importance of fostering mutual understanding and support during uncertain times.

Additional Resources

Proposals for Urgent Conflict Resolution and Nuclear Disarmament

- April 2023: [SGI President Urges G7 Leaders Toward “No First Use” of Nuclear Weapons at Hiroshima Summit](#)
- January 2023: [SGI President Issues Statement on Crisis in Ukraine and Calls for No First Use of Nuclear Weapons](#)
- July 2022: [SGI President Calls on States to Commit to “No First Use” of Nuclear Weapons in Advance of NPT Review Conference](#)

Interfaith Statements

- December 2023: TPNW 2MSP, [At the Second Meeting, States Parties to the TPNW Commit to Strengthen Norms Against Nuclear Weapons, Address Past Harms](#)
- September 2023: CARICOM Conference, [The Caribbean Community Holds a Regional Conference Exploring the Human Impacts of Autonomous Weapons Systems](#)
- August 2022: NPT Review Conference, [SGI Joins Faith Organizations in Statement to the Parties of the NPT](#)
- June 2022: TPNW 1MSP, [SGI Actively Participates in Historic First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW](#)

*All interfaith statements delivered at past conferences can be accessed [here](#).

Initiatives Related to No First Use

- August 2023: *SGI Participates in the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 NPT Review Conference*
- May 2023: *G7 Research Conference Held at Soka University*
- August 2022: *NPT Side Event Explores No First Use and Other Short-Term Measures to Avoid Nuclear War*

About Soka Gakkai International

The Soka Gakkai is a global, community-based Buddhist organization with a membership of over 12 million people around the world that promotes peace, culture and education centered on respect for the dignity of life. The Soka Gakkai International (SGI) as a non-governmental organization has been in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1983. The SGI Office for UN Affairs operates in New York and Geneva, representing the SGI at the UN.

Contact: contact@peacesgi.org