OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN THE STRUGGLE FOR WOMEN AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS

THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

AUGUST 6 - SEPTEMBER 10, 2017
PEACE MUSEUM VIENNA
Founder of GEN BAKU NO HI, Yuko Gulda regularly brings together artists to call for a ban of nuclear weapons at UN - Vienna. Gulda advocates through her music.

Gulda’s passion for this movement started with her family. Through meaningful conversations with her husband, Gulda decided to make a change in the world. This sparked the BE HUMAN campaign to support Vietnamese children. Soon, this evolved into Gen baku No Hi, a day to remember the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Successes on this front have resulted in a dedicated milestone at Cherry Blossom Park and being recognized as an Ambassador for Peace.

“I BELIEVE THAT IT IS MY GENERATION’S DUTY TO PASS THE EARTH ONTO YOU WITHOUT HARMING IT... ”
Nuclear weapons are the most destructive, most cruel, and most inhumane weapons that mankind has ever developed. The victims of nuclear weapons explosions are mainly civilians. The Hiroshima Bomb killed more than 118,000 people on August 6, 1945.

The explosive power of current nuclear weapons is several hundred times larger than that of the Hiroshima Bomb. In addition to the local mass murder and devastation, a nuclear war can also create nuclear famine in other parts of the world. Nuclear terrorism and accidental nuclear war are other imminent threats.

Whereas chemical and biological weapons, antipersonnel landmines, cluster munitions and even the use of small dum-dum – bullets are prohibited under international humanitarian law, we are still missing a treaty which prohibits nuclear weapons.

The "International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War” (IPPNW) have been warning of these dangers and advocating for nuclear abolition for four decades.
In 1984, Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford was just like you. She had decided to attend a presentation on the threat of nuclear war. The lecture was presented by Helen Caldicott, another significant Doctor in our presentation today (see her poster). She was in disbelief that the world could be in such an irrational state, or that in 1984 there were 60,000 nuclear weapons. Furthermore, leaders at that time were threatening mutual assured destruction in the event of an attack. Therefore, she began speaking and writing through the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, & its Canadian affiliate.

Motivated by this experience, Ashford returned to school to study how to best communicate the message of peace and eventually earned a PhD in Peace Education. Then, she continued on to lecture in 40 countries about her award winning book, be honored with the Queen's Medal twice, and to speak at two TEDx events on the dangers of nuclear armament. Ashford believes that physicians have a unique role in bringing this issue to the attention of world leaders as well as their own patients.