

Hamburg Declaration



At the beginning of this year 2023, Europe and the world are facing a series of very deep crises. We, as physicians from across Europe, are united in our belief that war cannot be the means whereby political goals are accomplished.

The effects of a nuclear war in Europe on humankind and indeed the possible widespread destruction of life on Earth would grossly exceed any political justification. Therefore, no leader has the moral right to use nuclear weapons under any circumstances.

We stand together with all the European people who share our firm belief that military action on our continent must come to an end without delay, and that diplomatic solutions must be sought and accomplished. This must be supported by the implementation of international common security structures.

We denounce the concept of nuclear deterrence as this puts civil societies at an unacceptable risk of nuclear annihilation, by accident or by malign political will.

We demand that all nations possessing nuclear weapons renounce any 'first use' of nuclear weapons.

In order to avoid any accidental nuclear war and its attendant risks, we urge all nuclear weapon states and all NATO member states to de-alert all their nuclear weapons.

We applaud all the states which have signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Most of them are outside Europe. We therefore recommend that all non-nuclear European countries follow the progressive example of those states by signing and ratifying the TPNW without further delay.

We insist that the nuclear weapon states start preparing to fulfil their disarmament obligations under the NPT to fully abolish their nuclear arsenals and make way for the ratification of the TPNW.

We reaffirm our decades-long commitment within the global IPPNW movement to work together as physicians and health workers across all borders to prevent nuclear war and its consequences on the health of people the world over, thereby achieving a peaceful Europe and a peaceful world.

We encourage physicians and health workers to join our global IPPNW movement in our effort to end the nuclear weapon era.

*IPPNW European Regional Meeting
Hamburg, 22/01/2023*