Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Last month the Middle Powers Initiative hosted an historic conference in Pugwash, Nova Scotia commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Pugwash organisation co-founded by Albert Einstein, Bertrand Russell and Joseph Rotblat. The conference warned that ‘As long as nuclear weapons exist, they will one day be used’ and declared therefore that ‘all States should affirm the goal of the complete abolition and elimination of nuclear weapons through a multilaterally-verified instrument - a Nuclear Weapons Convention - and work towards making such a convention a reality.’

The book being launch today in the New Zealand Parliament - Securing our Survival: The Case for a Nuclear Weapons Convention – discusses how such a convention could be achieved. It includes the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention outlining the legal, technical and political elements for achieving a nuclear-weapons-free world, demonstrating that nuclear abolition has moved from being a pipe-dream to a practical, achievable goal.

When William Wilberforce started his campaign to oppose the slave trade, he did not accept mere steps to make the trade more humane or reduce the numbers of slaves. He called for its abolition. Nuclear weapons, like slavery, are inhumane, illegal and immoral and must be abolished, not merely reduced in numbers. The Nuclear Weapons Convention shows us how this can be done. It should be promoted in parliaments around the world in order to move governments to enact the will of the people for a world finally free from the threat of nuclear catastrophe.

Yours truly,

Senator Emeritus Douglas Roche O.C.
Chair of the Middle Powers Initiative
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