

Bishops' letter on UN Nuclear Weapons Treaty

13/11/2020

More than 30 bishops, including the archbishops of Canterbury and York, have put their names to a letter on the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The letter is [published in The Observer](#) today. Here is the full text:

Dear Sir,

As bishops of the Church of England, we warmly welcome and applaud the recent ratification, by the required number of member states, of the United Nations' Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and we rejoice that the Treaty will therefore come into force on January 22, 2021.

For so many of the nations of the world to speak clearly of the need to ban these weapons of mass destruction is an encouraging and hopeful sign. We commit ourselves to pray and to work so that this ratification will indeed help to see an end to nuclear weapons in the future.

We very much regret that the UK, together with other nuclear states, has not yet signed the accord. We call on the UK Government to do so, and thereby to give hope to all people of goodwill who seek a peaceful future.

We echo the UN Secretary-General who "commends the States that have ratified the Treaty and salutes the work of civil society, which has been instrumental in facilitating the negotiation and ratification of the Treaty."

Accordingly, we renew our support for the work of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, together with sister organisations and agencies in each nation, whose advocacy and commitment continues to make such a difference.

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

Steven Cottrell, Archbishop of York

+ 28 other bishops of the Church of England