

Nuclear Weapons Myths and Facts

Below are seven myths and fact collected by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). This information was offered in one of the organization's booklets entitled *I Can Imagine a World Without Nuclear Weapons*.

Myth: Nuclear weapons are no worse than other weapons.

Fact: They are the only weapons capable of destroying the entire planet in a matter of hours. A single nuclear bomb, if dropped on a city, could kill millions of people.

Myth: Nuclear weapons no longer pose any real threat.

Fact: There are still 26,000 nuclear weapons worldwide. Each directly threatens global security and human survival, and thousands are ready to be launched within minutes of an order.

Myth: It's ok to have nuclear weapons.

Fact: No country can be trusted with nuclear weapons. And so long as any country has them, others will want them. Nuclear weapons threaten rather than enhance security.

Myth: It's unlikely that nuclear weapons will be used again.

Fact: Unless we get rid of all nuclear weapons, they will be used again – intentionally or by accident – and the effect will be catastrophic. Abolition is necessary and achievable.

Myth: Nuclear weapons are a deterrent to terrorists.

Fact: Terrorist groups and suicide bombers are not rational and cannot be deterred by counter threats. Further nations with nuclear weapons are the most attractive targets for terrorists.

Myth: Nuclear weapons can be used legitimately.

Fact: Any use of nuclear weapons would kill indiscriminately. It would cause long-term and widespread human and environmental harm through radioactive fallout.

Myth: People don't care about nuclear disarmament.

Fact: Recent opinion polls show that the overwhelming majority of people across the globe believe that nuclear weapons should be banned and eliminated without further delay.