



# *NIHON HIDANKYO*

*(Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations)*

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The Most Honourable Andrew HOLNESS  
Prime Minister  
Jamaica

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## **Appeal to Signatory Countries of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to Ratify**

72 years after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the long-held desire of Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivor/s) was achieved with the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in New York on July 7, 2017. We offer our most heart-felt appreciation for your esteemed country's vote, which made possible the adoption of this treaty. At the time of its adoption, although there had been progress toward achieving a world without nuclear weapons on both national and civic levels, it was hard to find common understanding due to the prioritization of national interests and suspicions.

74 years have passed since the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and we Hibakusha, who escaped the war with our lives, felt as though we had come to the end of the road. Eleven years after the war's end, we vowed, "to save humanity from its crisis through the lessons learned from our experiences, while at the same time saving ourselves." Since the founding of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Associations (Hidankyo), we have been wholly committed to the activism of total nuclear abolition. However, it is reported that even now there exist as many as 15,000 nuclear weapons in the world. There is no guarantee that at any moment these will not be used somewhere.

Within 1945, 210,000 people died unbearably torturous deaths with just two nuclear bombs. Today, there are nuclear weapons whose strength would cause several thousand times more casualties. If used, it would mean the demise of all humankind. It would also mean the obliteration of the earth by humans. We absolutely cannot allow a third bomb to be used.

In order for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to come into effect,

ratification by 50 countries is necessary. Currently, 20 countries have ratified it. For not just humans, but all living creatures, we Hibakusha—calling for the abolition of all nuclear weapons—pray for the treaty's earliest ratification. We are demanding that especially the Japanese government sign and ratify the treaty since Japan is the only country with nuclear bomb victims.

Your esteemed country has already signed the treaty. Now you can help make an important step forward by moving the treaty towards taking full effect. We humbly ask that you add your country's ratification signature.

Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Associations (Hidankyo)