



Pax Jubilee 2025 Declaration

For a Peaceful Asia-Pacific Region Without Nuclear Weapons

Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Aug 6 and 9, 2025



Background

- The Pax Jubilee 2025 Declaration has been jointly prepared by Pax Romana, the Pax Christi Movement, and the International Young Theologians Collective (IYTC) as a way of embodying the spirit of the Pilgrim of Hope during the Jubilee Year 2025. It also commemorates the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with the aim of raising awareness and mobilizing Catholics—particularly bishops, organizations, and young people—in the Asia-Pacific region to work towards a world free of nuclear weapons.
- The Declaration is the fruit of a series of consultations and initiatives held in 2024 associated with the Partnership for a World without Nuclear Weapons (PWNW) and the Catholic Peace Forums convened in Nagasaki, Rome, and Geneva.
- The Declaration, along with the list of signatories, will be publicly launched on 16 July 2025, marking the anniversary of the first atomic bomb test conducted in New Mexico, USA, in 1945.
- It will also be solemnly presented during memorial Masses in Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6 and 9 August 2025, respectively.

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Pax Jubilee 2025 Declaration

For a Peaceful Asia-Pacific Region Without Nuclear Weapons

1 June 2025

We, the undersigned Catholic bishops, organisations, groups and individuals, united in faith and hope, declare this Jubilee Year 2025 as a call to build an Asia-Pacific region free of nuclear weapons, based on reconciliation, justice and lasting peace.

As we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we remember the devastating toll of war and nuclear weapons. These anniversaries urge us to seek healing, reconciliation and a future free from the threat of nuclear devastation.

We also remember:

- The 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the Pacific War, and the founding of the United Nations in 1945, underscoring the importance of multilateralism, preventive diplomacy, and global cooperation for peace.
- The 80th anniversary of the liberation of colonised and occupied countries and territories such as the Korean Peninsula and Indonesia in 1945, renewing efforts for peace and reunification.
- The 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and South Korea in 1965, a sign of reconciliation between colonised and colonising countries,
- The 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War in 1975, a reminder of the cost of the conflict and the need for justice for the victims and reconciliation.

Echoing Pope Francis' messages in Nagasaki and Hiroshima in Nov. 2019 and during the first meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in 2022 "The use of nuclear weapons, as well as their mere possession, is immoral."

We call on all governments, particularly the nuclear-armed states — including the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States), as well as other nuclear-possessing countries such as India, Pakistan, and Israel — to ratify, if they have not yet done so, and to fully implement all existing treaties and agreements on nuclear weapons[1], including: [1] Multilateral Treaties on Disarmament Deposited with the UN Secretary-General https://treaties.un.org/pages/Treaties.aspx?id=26&subid=A&clang=_en

- The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), adopted in 2017;
- The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), adopted in 1996;
- The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), adopted in 1970.

We, the undersigned Catholic bishops, organisations, groups and individuals, united in faith and hope, declare this Jubilee Year 2025 as a call to build an Asia-Pacific region free of nuclear weapons, based on reconciliation, justice and lasting peace.

We reaffirm the vital role of the United Nations in upholding international peace and security, and call for strengthened preventive diplomacy to promote demilitarization, disarmament, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts across the Asia-Pacific region, grounded in the principles of common security and the rule of international law.

True and lasting peace requires the courageous redress of historical injustices. In a spirit of truth, justice, and reconciliation, we commit ourselves to:

- Honestly acknowledging past wrongdoings among nations—including colonialism, unjust wars, and illegal occupations—as a foundation for healing and reconciliation;
- Encouraging and actively participating in local and international efforts to advance common security and a world free of nuclear weapons, including through A Partnership for a World Without Weapons (PWNW) [1] Partnership for a World Without Nuclear Weapons (PWNW) <https://pwnw.org/>
- Promoting intercultural and interfaith dialogue to prevent violence, foster mutual understanding, and build bridges of trust across communities;
- Supporting intergenerational dialogue and empowering young people to take leadership in promoting peace and nonviolence, particularly in the lead-up to the Seoul World Youth Day (WYD) in 2027 [2]; World Youth Day (WYD) Seoul 2027 <https://wydseoul.org/en>
- Advocating for restorative justice and reconciliation processes that heal the wounds of history and lay the groundwork for sustainable peace among peoples and nations.

As followers of Christ, the Prince of Peace, we pledge to work for a region free of nuclear weapons and war, where reconciliation and justice are the foundations of peace. We invite all Catholics and people of good will to endorse this Pax Jubilee 2025 Declaration as a witness to the Gospel call for peace in our time.

May the peace of Christ guide us toward a reconciled and peaceful future.

Initial Signatories: (1 June 2025)

List of Catholic Bishops, Organizations, Groups and Individuals

Bishops -*By Order of Japan, South Korea and Other Countries*

Japan

- The Most Reverend Peter Michiaki Nakamura, Archbishop of Diocese of Nagasaki, Japan
- The Most Reverend Alexis Mitsuru Shirahama, Bishop of Diocese of Hiroshima, Japan.
- The Most Reverend Daisuke Narui, SVD, Bishop of Diocese of Niigata, Japan
- The Most Reverend Michael Goro Matsuura, Bishop of Diocese of Nagoya, Japan

South Korea

- The Most Reverend Peter Kang U-il, Bishop Emeritus of Diocese of Jeju Island / Co-president of Pax Christi Korea (PCK), Jeju Diocese, South Korea
- The Most Reverend Peter Lee Ki-heon, Bishop Emeritus of Diocese of Uijeongbu / Adviser to the Pax Christi Korea (PCK), South Korea

Bangladesh

- The Most Reverend Gervas Rozario, Bishop of Diocese of Rajshahi, Bangladesh

Indonesia

- The Most Reverend Pius Riana Prapdi, Bishop of Diocese of Ketapang, Borneo, Indonesia / Charmain of Youth Commission of Indonesian Bishop Conference
- The Most Reverend Vinsensius Setiawan Triatmojo, Bishop of Diocese of Tanjungkarang, Indonesia

Philippines

- The Most Reverend Leopoldo Corpuz Jaucian, SVD. DD, Bishop of Diocese of Bangued, Philippines / President of Board of Trustees, Pax Romana IMCS Asia Pacific
- The Most Reverend Antonio Ledesma, SJ. Archbishop Emeritus of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao / Co-President of Pax Christi Pilipinas, Philippines

Vietnam

- The Most Reverend Joseph Do Manh Hung, Bishop of Diocese of Phan Thiet / Secretary General of Catholic Bishops' Conference of Vietnam, Vietnam

Organizations and Groups

- International Youth Training Center (IYTC)-Pax Romana Laudato Si' Center-Chiangmai, Thailand
- Pax Romana International Catholic Movement of Intellectual Affairs (ICMICA) Asia
- Pax Romana International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS) Asia Pacific
- Pax Christi Korea (PCK)
- Pax Christi USA
- Pax Christi Australia
- Pax Christi Victoria, Australia
- Human Rights Office of Candy, Sri Lanka

Individuals

