



NC PEACE ACTION | PO BOX 10384 | RALEIGH NC 27605 | [WWW.NCPEACEACTION.ORG](http://WWW.NCPEACEACTION.ORG)

Dear Friends of NC Peace Action,

We thank you for your activism and support. With the on-going war in Ukraine and the U.S. unaudited military budget in extended bloat, our **advocacy for diplomacy instead of war** and militarism is more important than ever.

The good news is that we may be seeing **an end to the war in Yemen**. The momentum toward peace seems unstoppable, including not just a cease fire and negotiations for a permanent peace agreement but also ending the blockade. We need to remain vigilant of course.

The other good news is that the **Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) continues to gain support**. Forty years ago, the US Catholic Conference wrote *A Pastoral Letter on War and Peace*. calling for the whole world to summon the moral courage to say no to nuclear conflict and an arms race which robs the poor and vulnerable. and holds humankind hostage to the terror of nuclear weapons. The International Campaign against Nuclear Weapons [ICAN] is moving the whole world toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The TPNW now has 68 state parties and 92 signatories and is stigmatizing nuclear weapons and sparking divestment campaigns.

**NC Peace Action is part of the ICAN Cities Appeal** and has formed a coalition of local peace groups to encourage cities to a simple resolution in support of the TPNW which reads:

*“Our city is deeply concerned about the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world. We firmly believe that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this threat. Any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for people and the environment. Therefore, we support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and call on our governments to sign and ratify it.”*

NC Peace Action members have joined with others and **met with city councils** requesting they join hundreds of cities worldwide and pass resolutions supporting the TPNW. To date, Green Level, Durham, Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Asheville have passed resolutions. We are currently meeting with council members in Burlington, Chatham County, Gibsonville, Greensboro, Elon, Hillsborough, Mebane, and Raleigh, and will continue to expand this effort to other cities.

In Western Carolina, our members are active in Reject Raytheon Asheville in opposing the new Pratt Whitney military weapons factory located on land donated by the Biltmore family. On Valentine's Day, they organized a car caravan with signs on them to deliver people's subpoenas to the Asheville Chamber of Commerce and Biltmore Farms on behalf of the [Merchants of Death War Crimes Tribunal](#) for their complicity in aiding and abetting Raytheon's war crimes and crimes against humanity. On April 21, they delivered a people's indictment by video to Raytheon for its crimes.

**John Wester, the Archbishop of Santa Fe** has written a very significant pastoral letter advocating for nuclear disarmament and abolition of nuclear weapons, noting that the Los Alamos and Sandia nuclear weapons laboratories are located in his Archdiocese. Gradually all of these efforts are building a stigma to nuclear weapons and their manufacture.

To highlight the dangers of nuclear weapons, our newest Board member, Joe Cicero, organized **an event that connected the 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the two bombs accidentally dropped over Faro, NC** and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons' entry into force.

Three [TV stations covered](#) the demonstration and our issues which the media usually ignores.



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We co-hosted **a zoom meeting with Seth Shelden of ICAN** who was part of the effort that got New York City to sign on to the Resolution and agree to divest public funds from nuclear weapon producers.

This year an anonymous doner provided two \$500 stipends which made it possible **to hire two student interns to be trained in organizing** by our part-

time staff, George Friday. Stephanie Hassan, a graduate student in Peace and Conflict Studies at UNCG has been a highly effective intern this spring semester. She has written on the nuclear bomb that was dropped by accident near Goldsboro in 1961 and the early Black protests over nuclear bombs in articles that were published in her University department and in the Greensboro News and Record. In April, she organized a debate with high schoolers from several churches about nuclear weapons; they were well coached and all in the audience could be proud of their efforts. Stephanie Hassan is now working on the ICAN Cities Appeal in Greensboro.

In January, NC Peace Action **co-sponsored a virtual webinar with Prof. Neta Crawford, Co-director of the Cost of War project** at Brown University. She discussed findings in her new book *The Pentagon, Climate Change and War* giving evidence of how military spending and war harm our environment, human communities worldwide, and play a dominant **role in global warming.**

We joined with others this April in continued **support of a Recommitment to Moral Mondays and the Poor People's Campaign.** We will be in D.C. this June too for the annual convening of this group which has so profoundly uncovered the roots of poverty, racism, environmental degradation, moral collapse and militarism.

We depend on your donations to continue our good work. Please [donate today!](#)

With your dollars, we can hire more interns and give our Coordinator, George Friday, more time to expand her organizing, to speak on college campuses, build coalitions with other groups, and to fundraise. Please be as generous as you are able.

### **NC Peace Action 2023 Intern program 2023**

We have had wonderful, brilliant interns since we started our internship program 4 years ago. We've had interns from the Western part of the state, the Triangle and the Triad.

Our most recent intern, Stephanie Hassan, is a graduate student at UNCG School of Peace and Conflict studies. She was beyond exceptional and an absolute pleasure to know and work with!

The following is an excerpt of her summary of work, including photos from the event they organized.

*Excerpt from Stephanie Hassan Project Summary (edited)*

During my internship period, I participated in a variety of activities, including:

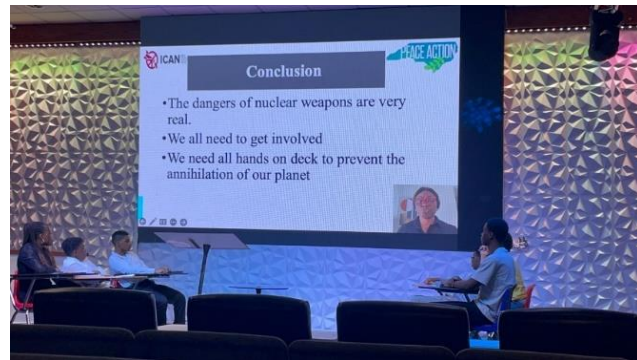
Grassroots organizing: I was involved in outreach efforts, helping to educate the public on the dangers of possessing nuclear weapons even if they aren't used. I facilitated a public education forum in form of a teens debate between two churches on the topic of nuclear weapons. I also worked with ICAN to raise support for the ICAN resolution going before the Greensboro city council.

Policy advocacy: I researched likely allies in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

Public education: This involved working with community churches to organize a teens debate to raise awareness about the dangers nuclear weapons pose to humanity and the environment.

Throughout the internship period, I worked closely with Ms. George Friday and Ms. Anne Cassebaum gaining valuable skills in communication, collaboration, and problem-solving. I also networked with other individuals in Chicago meeting with Chicago Peace Action.

We appreciate the support that we received to continue offering internships and have received stipends of \$500 per semester for those interns.



Thank you for your support of Peace in 2022 that allowed us to accomplish so much. Will you continue your support of Peace in 2023 to accomplish even more?

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