



New York Office:

220 East 49th St, New York, NY 10017, USA

Phone: +1 929 216-3653

Prague Office:

Lipanska 4, Prague 3. Czech Republic 130 00

Phone: +420 773 638 867

www.nuclearweaponsmoney.org

info@nuclearweaponsmoney.org

New York City: Thank you for divesting from fossil fuels. Time to divest from nuclear weapons

An open letter to the NY City Council from Move the Nuclear Weapons Money, a global campaign to cut nuclear weapons budgets, end investments in the nuclear weapon and fossil fuel industries, and re-invest in socially responsible and impact investment for a peaceful and sustainable world.

Dear New York City Councillors,

The organisations and individuals endorsing **Move the Nuclear Weapons Money** listed below* commend the New York City Council for your decision in 2018 to divest the NYC \$189bn pension funds from fossil fuel companies within five years.

We call on the Council to adopt draft [Resolution 976](#) which would enjoin New York City to divest also from nuclear weapons companies, and [Initiative 1621](#) to reaffirm New York City as a nuclear weapons-free zone and establish an advisory committee to implement this status.

The nuclear weapons corporations have vested financial interests in increasing the massive \$100 billion nuclear weapons budget, and they are stimulating a dangerous nuclear arms race that could lead by accident, miscalculation or intent to a catastrophic nuclear war. Public funds should not be invested in weapons which pose such a risk to humanity.

Indeed, such investments run counter to international law and to emerging investment practice which considers Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) guidelines in investment decisions.

The threat or use of nuclear weapons have been affirmed as illegal by the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** in 1996 and as a violation of the Right to Life by the **United Nations Human Rights Committee** in 2018. To reach these decisions, the ICJ and Human Rights Committee applied law that is binding on all countries including the United States.

In addition, the United Nations has adopted a **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** which is supported by most non-nuclear countries in the world, and which prohibits actions which aid the production of nuclear weapons.

In light of the above, the **UN Global Compact** in September 2017 adopted new guidelines for investment which would exclude investments in 'companies involved in the sale, production, manufacturing, possession, distribution and/or transport of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.' Over 12,000 financial institutions in 160 countries are members of the UN Global Compact.

A number of federal, state and city governments, as well as other financial institutions and investors globally, have already taken the step to divest funds under their management from the 26 companies that have a significant involvement in the nuclear weapons industry. We call on New York City to join them.

Yours sincerely

Rose Asaf

NYC Coordinator for CODEPINK

Jude Beecher

Actress/Producer, Beecher Productions

Racquel Borromeo

Classical pianist, Co-founder Duo Dimeo

Jacqueline Cabasso

North American Coordinator, Mayors for Peace

Susanna Choe

Co-founder, Peace Accelerators

Walter Goodman

New York City War Resisters League

Arnold Gore

New York Citizen

Holger Güssefeld

World Future Council

Jeffery Huffines

Senior Advisor, UN2020. CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Sally Jones

Chair, Peace Action New York State

Rev. Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson

Executive Director, Fellowship of Reconciliation USA, Executive Pastor of the Concord Baptist Church of Christ, Brooklyn

Nydia Leaf, Ms.Ed.

Granny Peace Brigade, NYC

John Liebmann

Member of the All Souls Nuclear Disarmament Task Force

Dr. Mary Lutz

Prof. Emeritus, the City College of New York

Linda Novenski

Member of Veterans for Peace, Chapter 34, NYC

Rosemarie Pace

Pax Christi Metro New York

Michele Peppers

The Ribbon International Committee

Margaret Perkins and Monica Weiss

On behalf of the steering committee for 350NYC.org

Guy Quinlan

President, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy Chair, All Souls Nuclear Disarmament Task Force

Shazia Z. Rafi

President, AirQualityAsia

Betty A. Reardon

Founding Director, Emeritus, International Institute on Peace Education.

Christopher Salata

Co-founder, Peace Accelerators

Xander Schultz

Entrepreneur

Yasmeen Silva

Beyond the Bomb

Robert Smith

President, ICV Group, Inc.

Chrissy Stonebraker-Martinez

Co-Director, InterReligious Task Force On Central America and Colombia.

UN Representative, International Fellowship of Reconciliation

June Tano

The Ribbon International

Rick Ulfik

Founder and Board Chairman, We, The World

Alyn Ware

Member, World Future Council

Global Coordinator, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament

Monica Willard

United Religions Initiative (URI) United Nations NGO Representative

Dennis Wong

Co-founder, Rotarian Action Group for Peace

* Individuals and organisations are either New York City based or have strong membership in New York City.