



## **Report on Disarmament Education Activities July 2018-May 2020**

Soka Gakkai International (SGI) submits herewith a report on its disarmament education activities covering the period from July 2018 to May 2020 as an input to the 2020 Biennial Report of the Secretary-General on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education to be submitted to the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Between July 2018 and May 2020, the Soka Gakkai International (SGI) conducted a wide range of disarmament education activities, particularly focusing on raising public awareness of the dangers of nuclear weapons, including the showings of exhibitions, lectures, discussions and film screenings, often led by young people. SGI worked to promote the importance of disarmament education at the UN fora through its public statements and presentations at side events. SGI partnered with the government of Guyana and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons to organize a Caribbean forum on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to raise awareness among key stakeholders. Activities such as informational briefings to raise awareness on the threats of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, also known as fully autonomous weapons, were conducted. Additionally, SGI worked to reach out to those outside the disarmament community to raise awareness, through linkages with the SDGs, nonviolence, peacebuilding, etc.

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### **FULL REPORT**

What follows is a report on the SGI's disarmament education activities covering the period from July 2018 to June 2020:

#### **Promoting Disarmament Education at the UN Fora**

(Recommendations 1, 12, 32, 33)

SGI issued public statements to the General Assembly First Committee in [2018](#) and [2019](#), the [Third Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference in 2019](#), referring to the importance of disarmament education and encouraging member states to contribute to the Biennial Report of the Secretary-General on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education.

It has also engaged in various events at the UN to inform delegates and civil society of the urgency of disarmament, working with like-minded NGOs and governments. They include:

- **Side Event at the 2018 First Committee (6 October):** SGI supported a side event titled [“To Safeguard Future Generations—Multi-Faith Responses to the Threat of Nuclear Weapons”](#). The event was organized by the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security, and sponsored by the governments of Austria, Nigeria, Thailand and South Africa. Hayley Ramsay-Jones spoke on behalf of SGI on the panel of respondents, referring to the dignity of life, the link between structural violence, discrimination, physical violence and the manifestation of nuclear weapons, as well as the importance of peace and disarmament education.
- **Side Event at the 2019 First Committee (11 October):** The Austrian Mission and the “Appeal of the Hibakusha” hosted a side event, with the support of the SGI and Peace Boat, where Ambassador H.E. Jan Kickert of the Austrian Mission to the UN recognized the efforts of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and its partners as a driving force to make the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) more widely accepted and expressed his gratitude especially to the lifelong dedication of the hibakusha. Participants discussed the importance of disarmament education in raising awareness among the younger generations in Japan.

### Proposals on Disarmament Education

(Recommendations 4, 12, 22)

Since 1983 SGI President Daisaku Ikeda has been issuing annual peace proposals to share his thoughts and recommendations on a wide range of issues with the international community. Disarmament issues, particularly nuclear disarmament, have been most frequently, consistently and extensively discussed throughout the years.

During the reporting period, two proposals were published, in January 2019 and 2020, respectively. The 2019 document proposed that a fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (SSOD-IV) in 2021 (as a follow up to the 2020 NPT Review Conference) be convened and in that context highlighted SGI’s commitment to disarmament education: “Through activities such as holding symposiums related to a fourth special session, we will continue to amplify the voices of civil society calling for a world free from nuclear weapons.”

### Exhibition “Everything You Treasure – For a World Free from Nuclear Weapons”

(Recommendations 4, 12, 22, 29a)

The antinuclear exhibition “Everything You Treasure – For a World Free from Nuclear Weapons,” which was produced by SGI with the support of ICAN, has been shown in many countries and regions since 2012. The exhibition aims at raising public awareness on the issue of nuclear weapons, examining it from 12 different perspectives including humanitarian, environmental, economic, human rights, spiritual and gender.

As of May 2020, the exhibition has been showcased in 93 cities in 21 countries and in various languages including English, Japanese, Spanish, Malay, Chinese, German, Korean, French, Thai,

and Russian. During the period between 2018 and 2020, exhibition highlights included a showing at the 10<sup>th</sup> IPPNW North Asia Regional Conference which was convened in September 2018 in Ulanbaatar, Mongolia. Furthermore, in October 2019, the exhibition was held at the Library of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Elbasy in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, in celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the closure of the Semipalatinsk Test Site and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (CANWFZ).

## Organizing and Supporting Public Events Promoting Nuclear Disarmament

(Recommendations 2, 4, 12, 22, 26, 29a)

SGI organized and supported various events promoting nuclear disarmament held in various parts of the world, including the following:

- **Symposium on Gender Perspectives in Security Discourse (22 September 2018, Tokyo, Japan):** The Soka Gakkai Peace Committee, with support from the Embassy of Costa Rica, organized a symposium titled “Do They Really Protect Everything You Treasure? – Looking at Nuclear Weapons from Humanitarian and Gender Perspectives.” Ambassador Laura Esquivel Mora of Costa Rica delivered the keynote speech outlining why nuclear disarmament matters today, as any detonation of nuclear weapons would cause catastrophic humanitarian impacts and have a disproportionate effect on women and girls, partly as a result of ionizing radiation.
- **Peace Forum in the Philippines (1 September 2018, Manila, Philippines):** SGI Philippines organized a Peace Forum at the SGI Manila International Peace Center. The event was attended by over 250 participants, mainly consisting of university students and professors. The Forum was addressed by Mr. Morikawa, a Hiroshima a-bomb survivor, who shared his personal experience. The exhibition “From a Culture of Violence to a Culture of Peace: Toward a World Free From Nuclear Weapons” was on display from 1 to 30 September at the venue.
- **Event on Disarmament Education (24 September 2018, Tokyo, Japan):** The Japan NGO Network for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, an antinuclear NGO network of which the Soka Gakkai Peace Committee is a member, hosted an event on disarmament education with the support of the United Nations Information Centre at Meiji University in Tokyo. The panelists included Nobuharu Imanishi, Foreign Ministry Disarmament Chief, Masako Toki, Education Project Manager and Research Associate at Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, and Mitsuki Kudo, member of the Nagasaki Youth Delegation.
- **WILPF UK 2018 Annual Autumn Seminar (24 November 2018, London, UK):** During the event held under the theme of “TPNW the Need for the UK and Other Nuclear Armed-States to Sign, How and Why,” there were a number of presentations, followed by a workshop on how to conduct advocacy with parliamentarians and diplomats. Hayley Ramsay-Jones of SGI delivered a presentation titled “Gender, Race, Class and Nuclear Weapons: The Need for an Intersectional Approach.”

- **Peace Awareness Survey (April-June 2019, Chugoku Region, Japan):** The Student Division of the Soka Gakkai in Chugoku Region, which consists of the prefectures of Hiroshima, Okayama, Shimane, Tottori and Yamaguchi, conducted a survey on student attitudes toward peace and nuclear weapons, mainly targeting university and technical school students. In total 989 students responded to the survey carried out between 27 April and 30 June. Among other results, the survey showed that 52% of the students who responded believe that nuclear disarmament is possible.
- **Event on Peace and Human Rights (9 June 2019, Milan, Italy):** SGI-Italy hosted an event promoting peace and human rights, featuring a symposium, an exhibition and music performances at the SGI-Italy Milan Ikeda Peace Culture Center. The symposium on women's empowerment and the future of human rights was led by 27 experts including Maaike Beenes from PAX representing ICAN.
- **Symposium Commemorating the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (16 September 2019, Tokyo, Japan):** The Soka Gakkai Peace Committee, supported by Nihon Hidankyo, RECNA, Nagasaki University and All Nippon Renovation, organized a symposium inviting youth and experts from various perspectives to shed light on future endeavors toward a world free from nuclear weapons.
- **Grassroots Film Screening to Raise Awareness about Nuclear Weapons (2017-2020, Japan):** Since 2017, the Soka Gakkai Women's Peace Committee has held film screenings of documentaries introducing testimonials of hibakusha and survivors of war. Such screenings have been conducted to date at more than 25,000 venues across Japan, which were attended by 410,000 people from all walks of life. At the venues of the screenings, exhibition panels explaining the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons are set up, and participants are encouraged to sign the "Hibakusha Appeal" petition.

### Faith-Based Initiatives for Raising Public Consciousness

(Recommendations 12, 29b)

Faith communities offer opportunities for people to reflect on their values and ways of thinking. As such, they play an essential role in raising public awareness and helping shift their perceptions about nuclear weapons – an important aspect of disarmament education. For this reason, the SGI has worked with other faith groups and individuals to continuously call for the abolition of nuclear weapons. During the reporting period, the Faith Communities Concerned about Nuclear Weapons, which SGI helps coordinate, issued statements at the General Assembly First Committee in [2018](#) and the NPT Preparatory Committee in [2019](#).

### Beyond the Disarmament Community

(Recommendations 2, 4, 6, 12, 22, 26, 29a)

SGI has made efforts to reach out to people outside of the disarmament communities to inform them of the urgency of disarmament, its connection with other issues, and the importance of disarmament education. Examples include the following:

- **Presentation at the KIN convening (15-19 August 2018, London, UK):** Hayley Ramsay-Jones of SGI attended the first convening of [KIN](#), a new initiative aiming to create a safer space bringing black activists and organizers together to collaborate, strategize and support each other's work, to conduct a workshop about ICAN and the race dimension of nuclear weapons, with the hope of introducing a broader and more diverse public to the issue of nuclear disarmament. Ramsay-Jones spoke about nuclear weapons and intersectionality, decolonizing disarmament and what civil society can do.
- **The 2nd World Forum on Urban Violence and Education for Coexistence and Peace (5-8 November 2018, Madrid, Spain):** ICAN launched the newly created "ICAN Cities Appeal" which can be endorsed by towns and cities worldwide, especially those in countries that have not yet signed and ratified the TPNW. SGI helped to organize a workshop with the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, social injustice issues, and intersectionality. SGI also worked with ICAN to display the exhibition "Everything You Treasure – For a World Free of Nuclear Weapons" at the venue.
- **Article on Youth Engagement in Nuclear Disarmament (31 July 2019):** An article by Anna Ikeda of SGI, "[Youth Engagement in Nuclear Disarmament: Rethinking Peace and Security](#)," was published on the website of the Agency for Peacebuilding (AP), an Italian NGO whose mission is to promote conditions that can enable the resolution of conflict, reduce violence and contribute to a durable peace across Europe, its neighborhood and the world. As part of its work in support of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, as defined by UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015), AP published a series of articles in 2019 on the topic of "What works in promoting the participation of young people in peacebuilding." The article explored how participation and agency of youth can be promoted in nuclear disarmament, drawing from the analysis conducted for a [thematic paper](#) on SGI's initiatives for nuclear abolition, which was submitted to the UN in 2017 in contribution to the [UN Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security](#).
- **Workshop at the 68th UN Civil Society Conference (28 August 2019, Salt Lake City, USA):** SGI co-sponsored a workshop titled "Cities Must Save Themselves from the Nuclear Weapon Threat," organized by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. Anna Ikeda of SGI moderated the workshop and [spoke](#) about the connection between the SDGs and nuclear weapons, and the role of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in advancing the SDGs.
- **Interview on Nonviolence Radio (25 October 2019):** Anna Ikeda of SGI was invited to join Nonviolence Radio, which is hosted by the Metta Center for Nonviolence's Stephanie Van Hook and Michael Nagler and airs every other Friday at 9:00 am PST. During the [30-minute interview](#), Ikeda discussed various themes related to nuclear disarmament, including its connection with nonviolence and climate action, the activities of ICAN, and how individuals can get involved.
- **Engaging with the Education Community:** SGI has also made efforts to present the importance of disarmament education in the education community. Presentations have been made at the Soka Education Conference hosted by Soka Education Student

Research Project at Soka University of America (Aliso Viejo, CA) in 2018 and 2020, and the International Conference on Ikeda/Soka Studies in Education hosted by the DePaul University Institute for Daisaku Ikeda Studies in Education in 2018.

## Promoting Youth Participation

(Recommendations 4, 13, 29a, 29b)

- **Youth Nuclear Peace Summit (9-11 October 2019, Winnipeg, Canada):** SGI-Canada co-organized a [Youth Nuclear Peace Summit](#) at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, together with the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and other organizations. Ninety high school students from 20 schools gathered. They discussed the human, environmental, economic, political, and legal costs of the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
- **Youth Event during the 2019 First Committee (11 October 2019):** The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and Peace Boat co-organized an event titled [“Youth Champions for Securing Our Common Future.”](#) The event was part of UNODA’s “#Youth4Disarmament” initiative, aimed at connecting young people with experts to learn about today’s international security challenges, the work of the United Nations, and how they can become involved. The event was held onboard Peace Boat. Hideaki Yanashima of SGI spoke on a panel on nuclear weapons, as a partner of ICAN.
- **Peace Forum “21st Century Youth: A Youthful Solidarity for Peace” (24-25 October 2019, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia):** The event was hosted by the University of Malaya (UM) Academy of Islamic Studies, co-hosted by its Centre for Civilisational Dialogue, and Centre for Internship Training and Academic Enrichment (CITrA) and Soka Gakkai Malaysia. Some 500 students attended the event at which Dr. Wendy Yee Mei Tien, Director of CITrA, spoke on SGI’s 2019 Peace Proposal. Other speakers included Dr Dzulkifli Abdul Razak, Rector of the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) and second-generation hibakusha. The “Everything You Treasure” exhibition was also on display.
- **Tūmanako - Children’s Art Exhibition for Peace (2018-2020, New Zealand):** [Tūmanako](#) is an annual exhibition of children’s art supporting an inclusive Aotearoa where all lives are celebrated and supporting a nuclear-free world. Each year local children will express in art their hopes and dreams for a peaceful world to thrive in. The resulting exhibition will display artworks of children and youth aged 18 years old and under--exhibitions are now being held in locations all over New Zealand. SGI-New Zealand assisted events at various cities in 2018, 2019 and 2020.
- **World Conference 2020: Youth Assembly (2 May 2020):** SGI was one of the initiating organizations of the [Youth Assembly](#), where young participants joined an online panel discussion which discussed nuclear war, the climate crisis, and racial and economic justice, as originally planned, with a specific focus on how to build movements in the era of COVID-19 and beyond.

- **Launch of SOKA Global Action 2030 (February 2020):** The Youth Division of the Soka Gakkai in Japan launched an initiative called SOKA Global Action 2030, with the following three objectives: 1) abolish nuclear weapons and renunciation of war; 2) strengthen ties of friendship within Asia; and 3) promote the SDGs. In Nagasaki, where this year marks the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing, members of the Future Division have been collecting stories of the hibakusha. In Okinawa, youth conducted a peace awareness survey including questions on the Battle of Okinawa.
- **Youth Summit for the Renunciation of War (2018 and 2019):** The Youth Division of the Soka Gakkai in Japan held a Youth Summit for the Renunciation of War in Nagasaki in August 2018 and Okinawa in September 2019 where participants learned about the tragedy of war and nuclear weapons, and reports of youth peace activities were shared. In conjunction with the 2018 Summit, a “peace walk” was conducted by the members of the Future Division (elementary through high school students) and their parents, and they visited the sites impacted by the atomic bombing in 1945.
- **Supporting the Youth Network “Amplify”:** SGI continues to support [Amplify](#), an international network of youth dedicated to nuclear abolition, launched in 2016.

### Promoting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) through Informing Key Stakeholders

(Recommendations 1, 2)

SGI has conducted briefings and bilateral meetings to inform the delegates in New York and Geneva on the importance of the Treaty and the urgency of its entry into force, as a partner organization of ICAN.

On 19 and 20 June 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guyana and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), in partnership with SGI, convened a **Caribbean Regional Forum on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** to take stock of the Treaty from a regional perspective, and to canvas progress for the early signature and ratification by all countries in the region. The Forum was attended by representatives from 10 countries out of the 14 CARICOM member states, as well as those from civil society and the International Committee of the Red Cross. SGI actively took part in the [Forum](#) through moderating and speaking at sessions, preparing reference materials, as well as supporting logistical and organizational aspects, from the planning stages.

### Raising Awareness of the Threats of Fully Autonomous Weapons

(Recommendations 1, 2, 29(b))

As a member of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots (the Campaign), SGI has worked to raise awareness on the issue of fully autonomous weapons and promoted their preemptive ban both inside and outside the UN. Such efforts include the following:

- On 7 March 2019, during the 40<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council, Hayley Ramsay-Jones of SGI spoke at a side event titled “State Duty to Protect – Corporate Responsibility to Respect.” Ramsay-Jones spoke about the weaponization of technology, in particular, fully autonomous weapons, the inherent biases programmed into algorithms and the ethical and human rights dilemma that they pose. She also gave an overview of the Campaign and the need for negotiations to begin on a preemptive ban treaty on fully autonomous weapons.
- On 28 March 2019, during the 24th session of the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGEPAD) under its theme “Data for Racial Justice.” Hayley Ramsay-Jones and Anna Ikeda of SGI convened a briefing meeting with representatives of the WGEPAD and representatives of the Campaign to help raise awareness of fully autonomous weapons and the potential for the data and algorithms used in these weapons to be biased on the grounds of race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and other factors. At the end of the week the WGEPAD delivered their draft report, which included some of the concerns on algorithmic bias and the weaponization of artificial intelligence discussed in the briefing. The WGEPAD report was submitted to the Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly in the 2019 sessions.
- On 29 March 2019, during the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems established by the High Contracting Parties of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (GGE-CCW), Hayley Ramsay-Jones and Anna Ikeda of SGI convened a briefing meeting with representatives of the Caribbean Community (The Bahamas, Haiti, Jamaica and Guyana) and the Campaign, to raise awareness in the regional group of the dangers of fully autonomous weapons, why it is important for the region, the developments and challenges at the CCW, and the overall goals of the Campaign.
- Hayley Ramsay-Jones of SGI participated in a UN expert workshop on the impact of new information technologies on racial equality, convened on 16-17 October 2019 by E. Tendayi Achiume, the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law. The meeting was sponsored by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Promise Institute for Human Rights at UCLA School of Law, and the UCLA Center for Critical Internet Inquiry. Ramsay-Jones spoke about the current global landscape of racism and examined how racism reinvents itself, the various ways new information technologies can be racist, the dangers of weaponizing these technologies, and the cultural, social, political and economic impact of killer robots on marginalized groups. Inputs from the workshop will inform the Special Rapporteur’s report, to be finalized in 2020.
- On 12 November 2019, Hayley Ramsay-Jones of SGI worked with the Co-chair of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Campaign to organize a closed-meeting on fully autonomous weapons. The meeting was attended by member states of SIDS and non-High Contracting Parties to the CCW; in total, 25 participants were in attendance including 18 different government representatives. The meeting was moderated by the Co-chair of SIDS, and the speakers included a tech expert, representatives of the



Campaign's steering committee, and Ramsay-Jones who spoke about algorithmic bias. In addition the Campaigns publication titled "Key Elements of a Treaty on Fully Autonomous Weapons" was (pre)launched and discussed. The closed-meeting aimed to raise awareness amongst states who typically have not been engaged with the issue of fully autonomous weapons due to resource restrictions and/or, not being High Contracting Parties to the CCW, and thus have been absent from previous discussions.

### Contributing to Civil Society Capacity-Building

(Recommendations 29(a), 29(b))

- SGI supported the 2019 **Humanitarian Disarmament Forum** as a co-sponsor, and it will co-host the 2020 Forum along with the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots. Every Forum has sought to substantively explore a cross-cutting challenge and collectively identify solutions including practical measures. The overarching goal has been to educate and energize activists from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and global NGO coalitions working to advance humanitarian disarmament and protect civilians from armed violence.
- Hayley Ramsay-Jones of SGI wrote a new chapter on intersectionality and racism for the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots [Campaigner's Kit](#), updated in February 2020.

### Media as a Non-Formal Education Tool

(Recommendations 4, 17, 22)

Organ newspapers of various Soka Gakkai organizations, including the *Seikyo Shimbun* of the Soka Gakkai in Japan, often carries articles related to disarmament, including interviews with experts and reports of SGI's activities in the field.

SGI also partners with International Press Syndicate (INPS) in implementing a joint media project "[Toward A Nuclear Free World](#)" with the aim of raising and strengthening public awareness of the urgent need for non-proliferation and ushering in a world free of nuclear weapons.

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### About Soka Gakkai International (SGI)

The SGI is a community-based Buddhist organization with more than 12 million members in 192 countries and territories. It has been in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 1983. The SGI is headquartered in Tokyo, and there are UN offices in New York and Geneva.

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