



# 2025 SPRING ISSUE

A secure world without war. A just world at peace.

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HIROSHIMA SURVIVOR  
& RESISTANCE TO  
TRUMP IS EVERYWHERE

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## POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Many people in Canada are wondering what can we do to make a difference and what to do with their votes.

In this moderated panel discussion, we'll be asking our invited speakers:

*"What do political leaders and ordinary people in Canada need to do to ensure true peace, security, and justice for all?"*

We will share information, tips, and strategies for engaging with the federal election process.

APRIL 9, 7:00 PM  
AMBROSE UNIVERSITY  
150 AMBROSE CIRCLE SW  
ACADEMIC BUILDING  
ROOM A2210



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## DEAR PRIME MINISTER, PLEASE ADDRESS THE NUCLEAR THREAT TO LIFE ON EARTH: a letter from a Hiroshima survivor

Setsuko Thurlow  
February 21, 2025



“I am a survivor of the atomic destruction of Hiroshima, a crime against humanity made possible in part by Canada’s crucial contributions to the Manhattan Project. What I saw, through a terrified and bereaved child’s eyes, was nothing less than the beginning of the end of the world. I have told the story of my miraculous escape from Hell countless times because I have never lost hope in the capacity of humanity to save itself from the worst of its inventions.”

View the full letter in the Hill Times [here](#).

## RESISTANCE TO TRUMP IS EVERYWHERE — INSIDE THE FIRST 50 DAYS OF MASS PROTEST

Rivera Sun  
March 13, 2025



Highlighting the importance of the many nonviolent resistance tactics that have been taking place in the States since Donald Trump was sworn into office, “showing that resistance is not futile. In fact, it may be crucial”. Offering a hopeful perspective and ultimately encouraging us to continue to organize and scale up.

To view the full analysis, click [here](#).

## **PLOUGHSHARES CALGARY IS SEEKING A NEW TREASURER**

We are looking for an experienced Treasurer to join our team at Ploughshares Calgary Society, a non-profit dedicated to building a culture of peace through education, advocacy, and social justice. As a volunteer position (5-10 hours per month), this opportunity is perfect for an accountant or bookkeeper skilled in QuickBooks, who is eager to make a difference.

In this role, you'll oversee our financial records, create and manage budgets, and ensure transparency in our operations. Your support will be vital in helping us fulfill our mission. Non-profit experience is considered an asset.

If you're passionate about financial stewardship and social impact, we invite you to apply by emailing [office@ploughsharescalgary.ca](mailto:office@ploughsharescalgary.ca)  
References and a police check will be required.

## **CALL TO ACTION - SEEKING EDUCATOR AMBASSADOR**

Our organization is seeking a motivated and dedicated Ambassador to assist the Educators for Peace & Justice in their work to create peace and justice in our lives, classrooms, and communities. As a volunteer position, you'll be responsible for promoting educational resources, leading and supporting our network of peacemakers, teachers, and volunteers, and ultimately assisting with the creation and dissemination of valuable tools for teaching and learning.

Whether you're a student in an education program, an educator, or someone with a passion for peace and justice and its connection and relevance to education, we'd love for you to join our team!

Applications and inquiries can be sent via email to  
[office@ploughsharescalgary.ca](mailto:office@ploughsharescalgary.ca)

## **TPNW states agree the ban is the alternative to reckless nuclear deterrence and proliferation as Third Meeting of States Parties draws to a close**

Third Meeting of States Parties to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) concluded at UN Headquarters, delivering a powerful political declaration against nuclear weapons, challenging nuclear deterrence, and implementing key decisions that bolster the Treaty's process.

To view the full article, click [here](#).

For more information, view the **TPNW Policy Overview and Recommendations Brief**, A comprehensive paper providing an overview of implementation, recommendations, and the period prior to the first TPNW Review Conference.

To view the full briefing paper, click [here](#).

## **Canada must resist Trump's flawed vision of peace through strength**

Trump's foreign policy is based on peace through strength and the assumption that military deters adversaries and ensures stability. History has shown the contrary, that the military buildups provoke countermeasures, intensify arms races, and deepens instability, rather than deterring conflict.

To view the full article, click [here](#).

## **Denuclearization and the Golden Dome**

Arctic security briefing papers by Ernie Regehr. While Trump's denuclearization statements align with long-standing global disarmament goals, his advocacy for missile defense creates a paradox, as missile defense systems could escalate arms races rather than promote disarmament. Without comprehensive defense capabilities, missile defense systems incentivize adversaries to increase their nuclear arsenals, undermining global efforts toward nuclear disarmament.

To view the full briefing paper, click [here](#).

## **Canada Announces Global Partnership Goals**

Canada, as chair of the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction initiative for 2025, set the priorities of developing strategies to reduce risk and expanding engagement with states outside of the multinational initiative.

To view the full article, click [here](#).

## **Resistance is alive and well in the United States**

Research shows the sheer frequency of marches, protests, and other powerful forms of resistance taking place in the United States.

To view the full analysis, click [here](#).

## **Statement by the International Peace Bureau on the Recent Violence in Syria's Coastal Regions**

The International Peace Bureau (IPB) is highly concerned about the recent rise in violence in Syria's coastal areas. This increase in conflict endangers the region's delicate stability and emphasizes the immediate need for global cooperation to safeguard vulnerable groups and foster enduring peace.

To view the full statement, click [here](#).

## **Get Ready for the Next Nuclear Age**

The Trump administration's weakening of key international alliances and security commitments could lead former allies to pursue nuclear weapons. As the global nonproliferation regime unravels, countries may seek independent deterrence, potentially sparking a new wave of nuclear proliferation.

To view the full article, click [here](#).

## **'Tipping Point' Feared in Sudan as Atrocities Mount**

Escalating violence and human rights abuses in Sudan as the country faces nearly two years of civil war. The United Nations Human Rights Office issued a report calling for an expanded arms embargo and other measures to protect the people caught in the crossfire. The situation is at a tipping point and calls for international support as the crisis deepens.

To view the full article, click [here](#).

## **Europe needs a new Nuclear Forces Reduction Treaty rather than a Eurobomb Statement**

Due to the risk of nuclear weapons, there is an urgent need to create a new Nuclear Forces Reduction Treaty in Europe.

To view the full analysis, click [here](#).



APR  
**9**

**Political Engagement for Peace and Justice:**

**your role in the 2025 federal election and beyond!**

150 Ambrose Circle SW, Academic Building, Room A2210

Free. 7:00 PM. Information and optional registration [here.](#)

APR  
**10&11**

**WEBINAR- Common Security Conference 2025:**

**Redefining Security for the 21st Century**

Online Webinars

More information and registration can be found [here.](#)

MAY  
**12**

**ONLINE COURSE- Unarmed Civilian Defense Instead of War**

May 12 - June 22

More information and registration [here.](#)

MAY  
**21**

**Stopping Wars: The Untidy Path to Ceasefire  
with James Smith**

Parkdale United Church (2919 8 Avenue Northwest Calgary, AB)

Free. 7:00 PM. [Eventbrite tickets coming soon.](#)

JUNE  
**11**

**Ploughshares Calgary Society's Annual General Meeting**

Parkdale United Church (2919 8 Avenue Northwest Calgary, AB)

Free. 7:00 PM. **Details to follow.**

AUG  
**9**

**Lantern Peace Festival**

13th Annual Festival (Devonian Gardens, 317 7 Ave SW 4 floor)

Free. 2 - 4PM. Details to follow. Stay up to date [here.](#)

AUG  
**10**

**Building A Culture of Peace Exhibition**

Calgary Central Library Performing Hall

Free. 1:30 - 4:30PM. Details to follow. Stay up to date [here.](#)

By Trudy Govier

Lorraine Kinsman is the former principal of Eric Harvey School, the first peace school in Calgary and a model for follower peace schools. She is now CEO of the Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth, an organization dedicated to pursuing the integration and wellbeing of refugee and immigrant children in Calgary. With great energy and passion, Lorraine emphasized belonging when she spoke about her work to the Ploughshares group this past November.



When asked how she would interpret this and why she thought it was so important she explained that humans are “hard-wired” so as to make us need to belong. We are creatures who need to be in a community where we have our place and are cared for there.

The first five years of life are especially important for attachment, which is needed for our concept of self and for conducting life in a social world. Governments can enable refugees and immigrants to enter our country, but it is not governments that can establish community and the needed sense of belonging. When people come to a new country with culture, traditions, and language different from what they have known before, there are many challenges. Newcomers seek a better life, and a better life presupposes a social world. Obviously a sense of belonging is not guaranteed.

Children entering the school systems have many needs and The Bridge Foundation seeks to help the most vulnerable. Recently a \$100,000 grant from the United Way of Calgary helped to finance after-school programs in hockey, soccer, music, and drama. Peace education is a major theme, with an emphasis on empathy, altruism, problem solving, and conflict resolution.

Through activities, there are opportunities to build relationships. Contact and intermingling help to establish common goals and a sense of belonging. Children may have special needs and challenges due to adverse experiences in refugee camps and war zones. For instance, a boy from Ukraine was reluctant to enter a room due to his experience in an underground bunker from which exit was difficult. Lorraine organizes and co-ordinates the after-school activities but also attends some sessions, because she values hands-on experience-- both to gain a realistic sense of what is happening and for her own satisfaction and enjoyment.

So far as belonging is concerned, there are unsatisfactory alternatives to sports and arts. A child or teenager could get a sense of belonging from participating in a criminal gang. These do exist in Calgary and they seek to recruit, with some strategies aimed at children as young as nine or ten. For example, children may be led to deliver packages and then told that their picture has been taken and they will be in trouble if they do not cooperate further. With some Eastern European gang members in Calgary, Ukrainian newcomers share a common language (Russian). At the junior high level, the Bridge Foundation offers specific teaching about gangs’ strategies and activities and how to stand up for oneself and avoid them.

Due to her energy and passion, I found it inspiring to talk with Lorraine Kinsman about her work. Her approach to a problematic situation is practical and memorable. Ask yourself: ‘how could we make this better?’ Think of something and do it.

For her life’s work Lorraine adds this: **‘the hope is in the children.’**



## The Intersection of Art & Activism Persists:

### ARTISTS AGAINST THE BOMB (AATB)

is an exhibition of posters that call for universal nuclear disarmament. The project is comprised of several artists in collaboration with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). They presented a walking exhibition as part of Nuclear Ban Week 2025. ([WEBSITE](#))

This project is organized by **Pedro Reyes** an artist whose large-scale projects address social and political issues such as nuclear weapons and gun culture. ([WEBSITE](#))

## Denmark Aims to Promote Peace Amid Radical Power Shifts Globally

Leading the United Nations Security Council in March 2025, Denmark is focusing on peace, stating that peace operations are an indispensable tool for conflict management and resolution. Denmark's presidency will prioritize impartiality, inclusivity, and conflict resolution. ([PassBlue](#))

## Climate Change & the Progress We've Made

"It's not an adventure we need to start, it's an adventure that has made great strides." ([See the full video by Simon Clark](#))



Click to view these notable sources from the video:

[A new era for nuclear energy beckons as projects, policies and investments increase.](#)

['Energy independent' Uruguay runs on 100% renewables for 10 straight months.](#)

[World Energy Investment 2024: Overview and key findings](#)

[Introducing the world's biggest 'round the clock' solar project](#)



## How Finland Won the War on Homelessness (Mostly)

"The result of a sustained, well-resourced national strategy, driven by a 'housing first' approach, which provides people experiencing homelessness with immediate, independent, permanent housing, rather than temporary accommodation." ([The Progress Playbook](#))



## **LINGUAHIROSHIMA**

### **HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI: A MULTILINGUAL BIBLIOGRAPHY**

LinguaHiroshima provides a comprehensive database of multilingual publications on the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings.



This enables global access to vital information, supporting the goal of worldwide awareness and nuclear disarmament.

Learn more about LinguaHiroshima [here](#).

## **DIRECT, STRUCTURAL, AND CULTURAL VIOLENCE**

### **BY HARVARD ONLINE**

This 2 minute video provides an overview on Johan Galtung's triangle of violence.

Watch the video [here](#).

## **2025 UKRAINIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE LIVESTREAMS**

This international and interdisciplinary conference took place in March of 2025, and is dedicated to the ethics and politics of hope in contemporary Ukraine.

To view the full schedule including recorded events, click [here](#).



## **WOMEN'S VOICES FOR A WORLD FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

Sponsored by Voices for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons, wise and riveting women speakers on the topic of nuclear disarmament

To view the recorded panel, click [here](#).

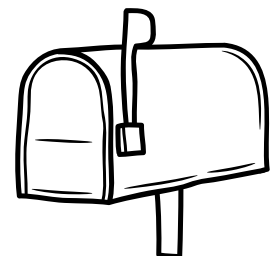
## **MAILING LISTS:**

Project Ploughshares maintains the Peace-I mailing list for Canadian discussions of general peace issues including emerging crises, and the Abolition-I list as a forum for information sharing and discussion on matters related to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts in Canada and abroad.

Anyone interested is welcome to join using the links below:

Subscribe to the Peace-I mailing list [here](#).

Subscribe to the Abolition-I mailing list [here](#).

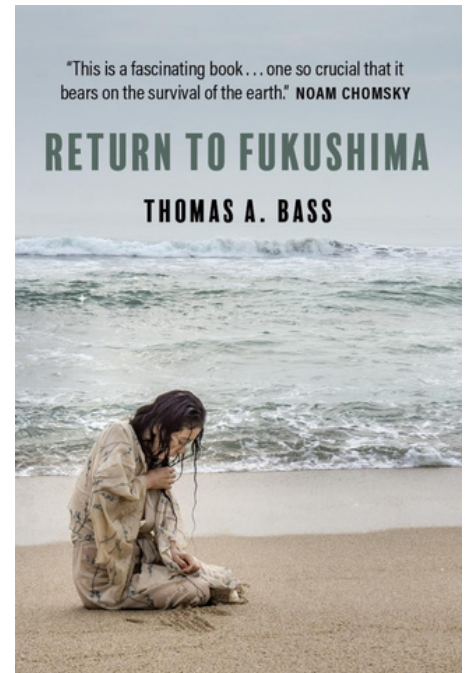


## RETURN TO FUKUSHIMA - UPCOMING RELEASE JUNE 6

Fukushima is an ongoing nuclear disaster. The four reactors that melted down and exploded in 2011 are still deadly. Over 100,000 people remain displaced, their homes frozen in time, eerie ghost towns where slippers sit undisturbed at doorsteps and tables are set for absent guests.

But grassroots efforts are reviving Fukushima, propelled by the ingenuity of local farmers and entrepreneurs, citizen scientists, artists, and immigrants from around the world who are intrigued by starting new lives in the red zone.

In 2018 and again four and a half years later, Thomas Bass travelled to Fukushima. The difference was dramatic: The place had been cleaned up and reopened. Gradually, people are learning to live with radioactivity, decontaminate their fields, monitor their food, and prepare for the next wave set to wash over this seismically precarious part of the world. After seven years of research, including travels to Chernobyl, Bass gives us a remarkable account of how Fukushima's Argonauts of the Anthropocene are guiding us into our atomic future.



## DON'T BUY A BOMB - DOCUMENTARY (2024)

This 27-minute-long documentary provides an exclusive look at the 6-year judicial battle in which CAAT (Campaign Against Arms Trade (UK) took the UK government to court over the unjust arms sales to Saudi Arabia. This dispute earned a Nobel Peace Prize nomination.

It showcases the harsh realities of the war in Yemen, providing a mosaic of perspectives and sharing the untold voices of civilians who have lost their lives due to these international politics and arms sales. Ultimately, it reminds us of the need for accountability and justice.

Watch the full documentary [here](#).

