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HOUSE OF COMMONS
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Elizabeth May

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Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition
Toronto, ON

August 6, 2020

Re: The United Nations' Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Dear members of the Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition,

It is my great honour today to write in wholehearted support of the United Nations' Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (UNPNW).

The Green Party of Canada is the only political party with a commitment to developing a culture of peace and non-violence. It is one of our six core Green values. My own life has been impacted from an early age by the call for disarmament. As a child of the Cold War, I was deeply influenced by my mother who was a key organizer in the push to ban nuclear weapons testing in the 1950s.

Canada's refusal in 2017 to sign on to the UNPNW was deeply disappointing. As a result, our losing the bid for a seat on the United Nations Security Council in June was unsurprising. How can we purport to be a country of peacekeepers when we refuse to stand with the international community in calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons?

As we reach 75 years since the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it is essential that we look at current events and policies with increased vigilance. Canada is not innocent in the tragedy that occurred in the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and we must never forget the role our country played in that cataclysmic loss of life.

I will continue to push the government to sign and ratify the UNPNW. Thank you for the work that you do.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth May, O.C.
Member of Parliament
Saanich-Gulf Islands
Parliamentary Leader of the Green Party of Canada

