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May, 2020

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IPAN's Public Statement

A People's Call for Healthcare not Warfare

**signed by 600 individuals and 40 supporting organisations
printed in The Saturday Paper on 9th May, 2020**

The statement reads:

"We the undersigned, call on the Australian Government to stop funnelling billions of dollars into offensive weapons for unjust U.S.-led wars, and invest instead in the health and safety of people and the environment.

On 23 March 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic ravaging the world, the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres called for a global ceasefire. The UN call highlights the disparity between the huge financial and technological resources invested in wars, and the under-funded and under-resourced public health systems desperately trying to control this deadly virus.

We call on the Australian Government to support the UN Secretary General's call.

COVID-19 has sharply exposed the dangerous and unsustainable priorities of our society. On the other hand, the vast majority of Australians are co-operating to control the virus. World-wide, there are desperate shortages in the supply of most basic safety and life saving equipment – ICU beds, ventilators, virus testing kits and personal protective equipment for front line health workers.

At the same time there are vast stockpiles of technologically advanced

military weaponry worth trillions of dollars, waiting to be used in endless profit-making wars.

Redirect military spending

The UN call for a worldwide ceasefire means little unless foreign military forces are sent back to their home countries. To that end we call on the Australian government to bring home our military forces from battle zones in the Middle East, Afghanistan and the Philippines, and to close the Pine Gap function that supports U.S. drone warfare. The hundreds of billions of our tax dollars are used to buy military equipment largely to support the U.S. military agenda around the world. Instead, huge expenditure is urgently needed here in Australia, for health and medical services and to address the climate crisis. Australia's immediate priorities should be providing support for millions of people facing unemployment, homelessness and poverty during the national disasters of coronavirus, the climate crisis, drought and bushfires – rather than supporting unjust U.S. led wars.

Prioritise people and environment

In spite of this difficult period of physical distancing, people are organising and helping each other and building social unity. We need to make sure we come out of these crises with a more humane, just and democratic society.

We need a society that prioritises the health, education and safety of people and the environment over war.

We need a society that builds Australia's self-reliant and diverse industries to manufacture and produce for the needs of the people, and an economy that's not based on multinational profit making.

We need a society that invests in our research scientists, the CSIRO and other public research institutions, not globalised corporations in search of profit.

We need a society that prioritises peace, justice and the health of people and the environment - an independent and peaceful Australia.

14 April,2020



**The IPAN Statement is still open for signatures
and donations**

Go to: https://ipan.org.au/healthcare_not_warfare/

With acknowledgement to Pearls & Irritations- 6 April,2020

Healthcare Not Warfare

by Sue Wareham

Australia should support the UN Secretary General's call for a global ceasefire. There are steps that our nation could take in the very short term and beyond to prioritise healthcare over warfare. We are spending vast sums on equipping ourselves for the next war while our frontline health workers struggle to find enough face masks to protect themselves and others. As even greater health threats loom, this is unsustainable.

The recent [appeal for a global ceasefire](#) amid the COVID-19 pandemic, by UN Secretary-General António Guterres, should be strongly supported. Guterres stated, "Our world faces a common enemy: COVID-19. The virus does not care about nationality or ethnicity, faction or faith...The fury of the virus illustrates the folly of war."

Wars not only destroy health directly, but they also destroy healthcare systems, facilities and health workers. War-ravaged communities are ill-placed to manage public health crises.

Healthcare not warfare must be our goal, now and in the post-COVID world. This pandemic has shown that cooperation rather than confrontation to address our common threats is possible.

Below are 6 steps that Australia could readily take to help achieve health for all.

READ ON



With acknowledgement to Pears and Irritations: 7th April,2020

The crisis is political too

by Alison Broinowski

The times have now changed. We have an unprecedented opportunity to take our troops out of the Middle East, the Philippines, and the South China Sea, and to assert our independence, or armed neutrality. By simply scrapping the French submarine contract, we could offset the debt our children will now face for coronavirus. We could put the money to better use saving, not destroying lives. By offering help to Indonesia as we did during the 2004 tsunami, we could build up more goodwill than the submarines can guarantee.

Into the global standoff, the UN Secretary-General has injected a plea for sense to prevail. Calling on member countries to 'end the sickness

of war and fight the disease that is ravaging our world', Enrico Guterres urged them to 'stop the fighting everywhere, now'. Pope Francis has joined him. For Australia, the proposal is well timed. Concern for our health and the economy need not prevent Australian politicians responding to it.

For Complete article **READ ON**

Italy and UK rely on help from Cuba, China, Venezuela to fight coronavirus- as U.S. steps up brutal sanctions

by Ben Norton

Italy requested doctors from China, Cuba, and Venezuela to contain the coronavirus, while Cuba rescued a ship of British citizens. Meanwhile, US sanctions worsen the toll of the Covid-19 crisis in Iran and Venezuela.

READ ON



Support from China to assist Italy in the coronavirus fight

IPAN urges Minister for Foreign Affairs to respond to U.N. call to stop supporting sanctions

Dear Minister,

The Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) wishes to draw your attention to the call on Wednesday 1st April from the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres referring to the global fight against the Corona Virus:

“Sanctions imposed on countries should be waived to ensure access to food, essential supplies and access to COVID-19 tests and medical support. This is the time for solidarity not exclusion.”

READ ON



**President Nicholas
Maduro's Letter to the
People of the United
States**

Caracas, April 5, 2020

An excerpt:

“We in Venezuela do not want an armed conflict in our region. We want brotherly relations of cooperation, exchange and respect.

We cannot accept war threats, nor blockades , nor can we accept the intention of installing an international tutelage that violates our sovereignty and disavows the progress made in the last year in the sincere political dialogue between the government and a large part of the Venezuelan opposition that wants political solutions not oil wars.

Based on the forthgoing, I call upon the people of the United States to stop this madness, to hold your officials accountable and to force them to focus their attention and their resources on urgently addressing the pandemic. I also ask, together with the end to military threats, the end to the illegal sanctions and blockade that restrict the access of humanitarian goods that are so necessary for the country today. I wholeheartedly ask you not to allow your country to be dragged once again into another unending conflict, another Vietnam, another Iraq, but this time closer to home.

The peoples of the United States and Venezuela are not as different as their lies intend us to believe. We are peoples seeking a more just, free and compassionate society. Let us not let the particular interests of minorities blinded by ambition to set us apart. We, as our leader Hugo Chavez once said, share the same dream. The dream of Martin Luther King is also the dream of Venezuela and its revolutionary government. I invite you to struggle together in order to make this dream come true.

No more criminal sanctions

We want peace”

Nicholas Maduro Moros

READ ON for complete letter



Cuban Health workers go to Italy to assist in fighting COVID-19

Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs Statement on COVID-19 pandemic

Extracts:

“Countries with more available resources should share them with most affected countries that are least prepared to cope with the pandemic. That is Cuba’s approach. The humble contribution of a small nation with limited natural resources and submitted to a long and brutal economic blockade. In the last few weeks, we have responded to

cooperation requests without hesitance to consider political coincidences or economic advantages. So far, 21 brigades of healthcare professionals have been deployed to join in the national and local efforts of 20 countries, that are added or strengthen existing medical collaboration brigades in 60 nations that have now joined efforts to combat COVID 19 in the countries where they were already providing services.

“It is common knowledge and widely substantiated that the economic blockade is the main obstacle for Cuba’s development, prosperity and for the wellbeing of Cubans. That harsh reality due solely to the obstinate and aggressive behaviour of the United States government does not prevent us from providing our help and solidarity. We don’t deny anyone our assistance, not even to the country that causes Cuba so much harm, if necessary.

Cuba is convinced that these times require cooperation and solidarity. Cuba pursues a politically unbiased international endeavor that seeks to develop and share the scientific research results and experiences of several countries in the prevention of the disease, the protection of the most vulnerable and social behaviour practices that will contribute to shorten the duration of the pandemic and slowdown the loss of lives. Cuba strongly believes the role and leadership of the United Nations and the World Health Organization are indispensable.”

For Complete statement **READ ON**



IPB Petition: Invest in Healthcare Instead of Militarisation

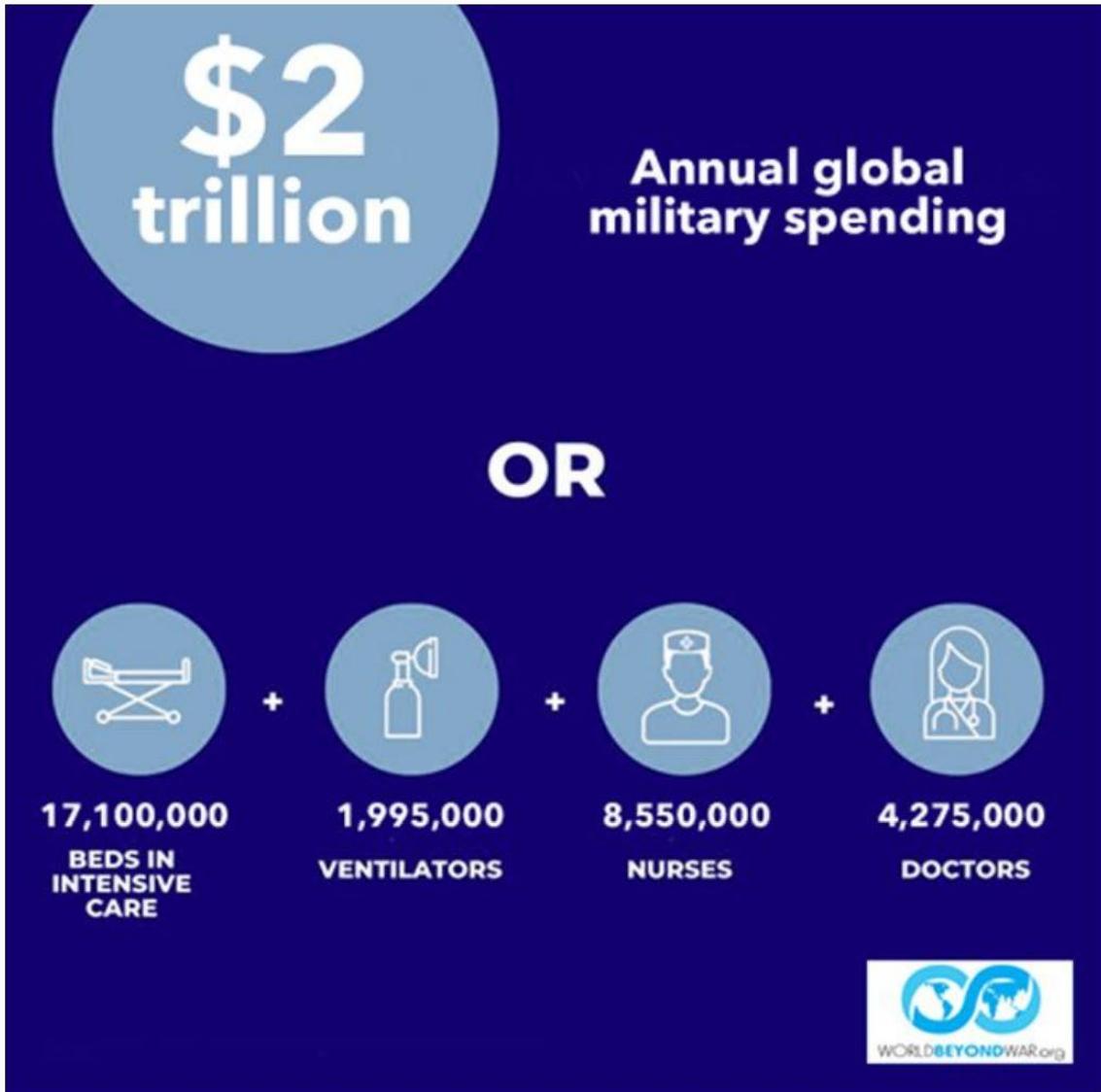
We, the signatories, call on the world leaders meeting at the General Assembly of the United Nations*, to dramatically reduce military spending in favour of healthcare and all social and environmental needs.

**Signatures will be brought to the United Nations General Assembly on the 1st day of the next session opening on September 15th 2020*

We are calling the world leaders, meeting at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2020, to act for a culture of peace. A peaceful path means that we need a global strategy, a global social contract, and global cooperation to ensure planet-wide support for people. This will be the human solidarity of the 21st century – for and with the people.

Sign the petition and spread the message here.

READ ON



The U.S. ASKS NOT to Cut Defence Spending Due to COVID-19

The U.S. ambassador to the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** Kay Bailey Hutchison Wednesday asked the members of the alliance not to cut spending on defence despite the economic impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is causing.

Acknowledgement to New Matilda: March 27, 2020

Work on Workers' Terms: Building Immunity

Through A Coronavirus Recession

By Alison Pennington

As the global pandemic sees business shed hundreds of thousands of jobs, Alison Pennington outlines an urgent case for government to provide wage subsidies, guaranteed incomes, and an expansion of public jobs.

READ ON

Will Australia acquire B21 Nuclear Bombers ?

Thomas Mahnken, CEO of the Centre for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments (CSBA) think tank has called for renewed US support to accommodate a potential Australian request to participate in and acquire a fleet of the next-generation B-21 Raider bombers to support maximise the strategic impacts of America's defence expenditure and investment.

A key focus of this is the planned retirement of the Cold War-era B-1 Lancer aircraft and the planned retirement of the B-2 Spirit stealth bombers following the planned introduction **and nuclear certification** of its successor, the B-21 Raider, planned at the earliest for later this decade, but more realistically in the 2030s.



ICAN NEWSLETTER

Since 1945, health workers have been at the forefront of campaigns to eliminate nuclear weapons. The founding of ICAN by the Medical Association for Prevention of War in 2006 is no exception. Today, the campaign for Australia to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is still championed by health professionals, who know that the only cure for nuclear war is prevention, and prevention requires abolition. ICAN's partners in Australia include the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation and the Health and Community Services Union.

As today is World Health Day, we particularly pay tribute to the important work of all health workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The dramatic and rapid changes occurring almost daily remind us that radical change is possible, that government priorities can shift, and that cooperation triumphs over competition. The tragedy of massive nuclear spending is writ large as nuclear-armed states struggle to contain the virus. As a nation that claims a benefit from nuclear weaponry, Australia is implicated in the prioritising of these abhorrent weapons over public health.

While the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty has been unavoidably delayed, this will not delay global efforts to stigmatise, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons. With 81 signatories and now 36 states parties (congratulations, Namibia!), the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is on track to enter into force within 12 months. Enjoy some more good news below and keep well.

Marcus, Ruth, Margie, Sue and Tilman
The doctors of ICAN Australia

IPAN's Letter to Minister for Defence

In line with the call by the United Nations for a global ceasefire, IPAN urges the Minister to cancel Australia's participation in RIMPAC war exercises with the U.S. in Hawaii because of the need to curb the spread of corona virus and calls for HMAS Parramatta to be recalled from operation with the U.S. in South China Sea because of its

unnecessary and provocative nature.

READ ON

You are invited to join IPAN's campaign to encourage the Minister to take these actions.

DETAILS

Acknowledgement to The Australian

Underwater: subs plan soaks up extra \$10bn by Ben Packham

The estimated cost of Australia's future submarine program has hit nearly \$90bn — a rise of nearly \$10bn in just five months.

The forecast is a massive 12 per cent increase on the \$80bn figure disclosed by Defence in November, and it doesn't include the whole-of-life cost of about \$145bn of sustaining the boats.

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IPAN Petition

No War on Iran

Bring our troops in Iraq home now

Please sign and pass on via your contacts & social media- its on the way to 1,500 signatures; help it get there.

SIGN HERE

MILITARY SPENDING COSTS US THE EARTH

ARTWORK BY ESCIE



@DemilitarizeDay

Global Campaign on Military Spending





RAISING PEACE

WILPF & IVP & IPAN

September 20/21, 2020

Invitation and date claimer

International Volunteers for Peace (IVP) and The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF, NSW) both celebrate their centenaries this year. They have joined with the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN), to hold a series of events to mark those centenaries and draw attention to the United Nations International Day of Peace (21 September).

UN Secretary General Guterres has said "The fury of the (COVID-19) virus illustrates the folly of war". However, all levels of Australian government remain conspicuously indifferent to the IDP.

In contrast, WILPF(NSW), IVP and IPAN plan a celebration of successful peace initiatives that includes a Peace Fair on Sunday September 20, when all groups with an interest in peace, in any of its manifestations, are invited to set up a display or stall. This will be an opportunity for new connections to be made and new initiatives to arise.

This is a 'date claimer' intended to kindle your interest. If your group would like to get involved, to book a space or to collaborate with planning, please make contact soon. A suitable venue has been provisionally booked.

Pending coronavirus updates, planning is going ahead.

WILPF contact Margot Pearson (wilpf.nsw@wilpf.org.au)

IVP contact Rita Warleigh (rita.warleigh@gmail.com)

IPAN contact Nick Deane (homishdu@yahoo.com.au)



RAPID Public Response Arrangements

to any imminent major military conflict, invasion or war

In the event of an imminent major military conflict, military invasion or war actually breaking out, IPAN organisations in the following states, urge everyone to rally :

In Melbourne, outside the State Library in Swanston St, Melbourne, from 5pm that evening- bring banners and placards - family and friends

In Adelaide, on Parliament Steps at 4.30 pm that evening – bring banners and placards – family and friends.

In Newcastle, at the Clocktower, Hamilton, 4.30pm that evening- bring banners and placards and tell family and friends

In Canberra, on the median strip at the corner of London Circuit and Northbourne Ave.

In Brisbane, at King George Square, 5 pm

Voice is produced and edited by the Media Group of the IPAN co-ordinating committee. It is produced for IPAN affiliates to:

**provide a medium for communication of their campaigns and activities*

**provide a medium for discussion of issues central to IPAN's objectives*

**provide affiliates with details of co-ordinating committee activities, media releases, lobbying activities and other actions taken on behalf of IPAN*

** provide information on issues/events relating to IPAN's objectives*

Contributions to Voice, in information or comment, should be emailed to :

ipan.australia@gmail.com and limited, if possible to 200 words.

The Media Group takes editorial responsibility for choice of content and is responsible to the

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