

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War IPPNW

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL'S DUTY TO RESPOND TO THE EXISTENTIAL THREATS TO LIFE ON
EARTH

Dr. Kati Juva & Stella Ziegler

Co-President - International Student Representative



WORLD
MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION



IPPNW -

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

- Founded in 1980
- Nobel Peace Prize 1985
- Affiliates in over 40 countries
- Including Russia and North Korea
- Active student chapter



Goal – to prevent nuclear war

- Raising the awareness of the humanitarian and environmental consequences of nuclear weapons
- Promoting the UN treaty on the Prohibition on Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)
- Working with WHO to get them to renew their report on the consequences of nuclear war on health and health services (previous report from 1987)
- Working with many other organisations (WMA, IFMSA, ICRC etc.)

Humanitarian impacts of Nuclear Weapons

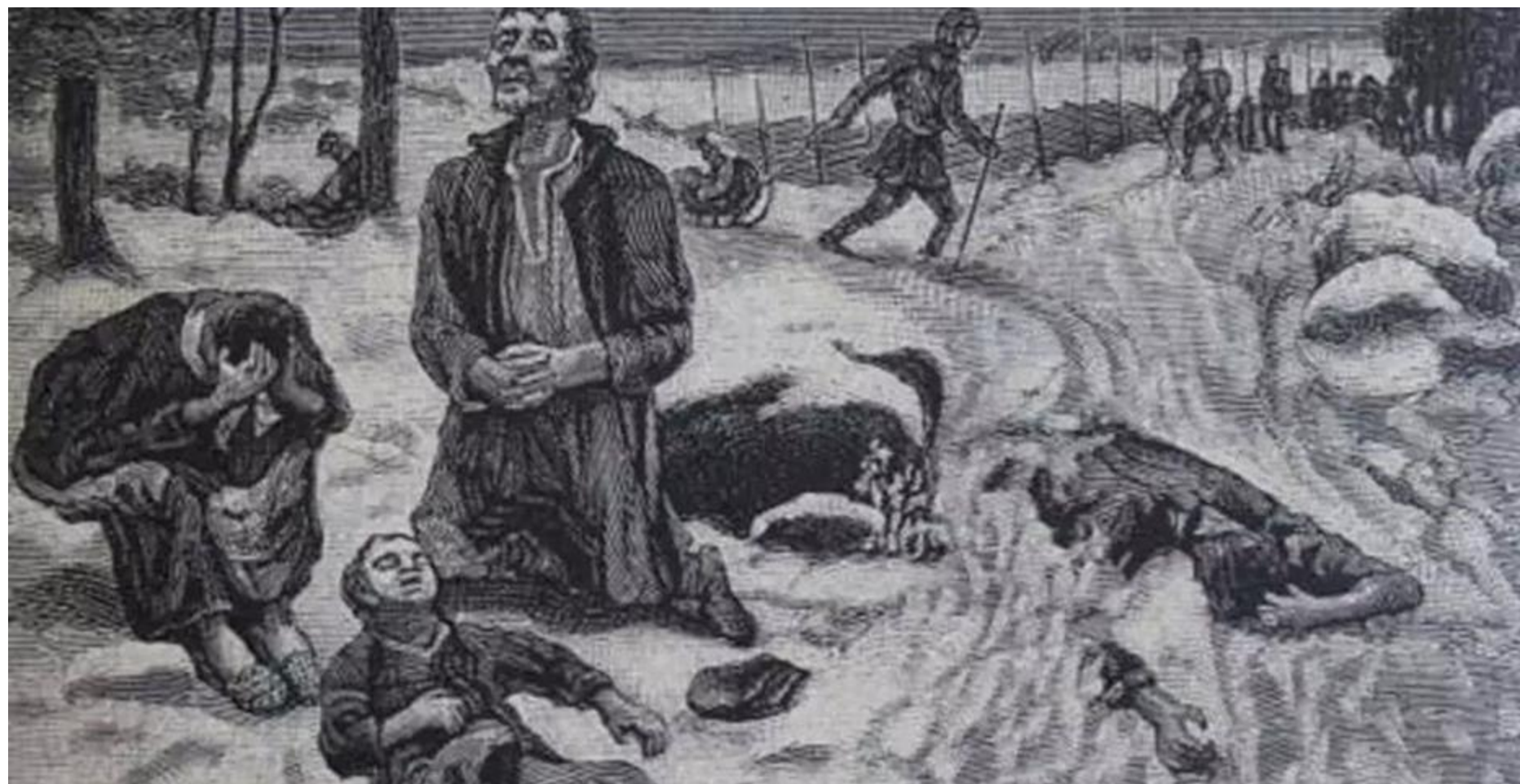


Hiroshima 6.8.1945



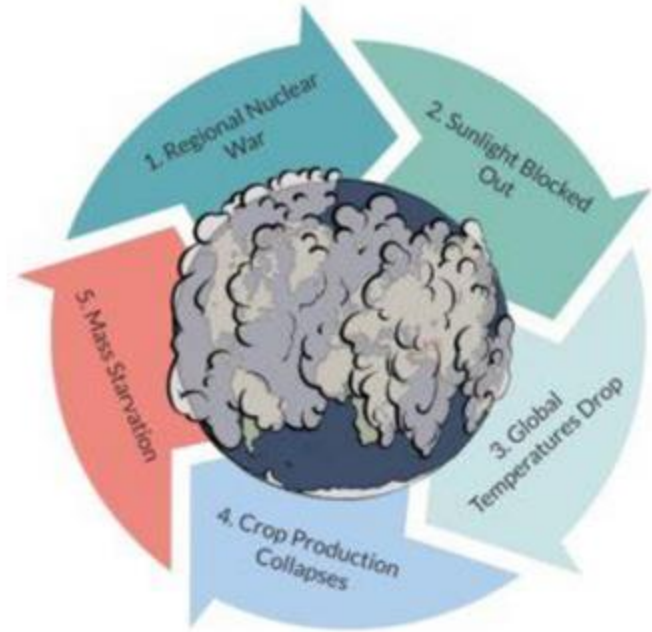
Nuclear Winter

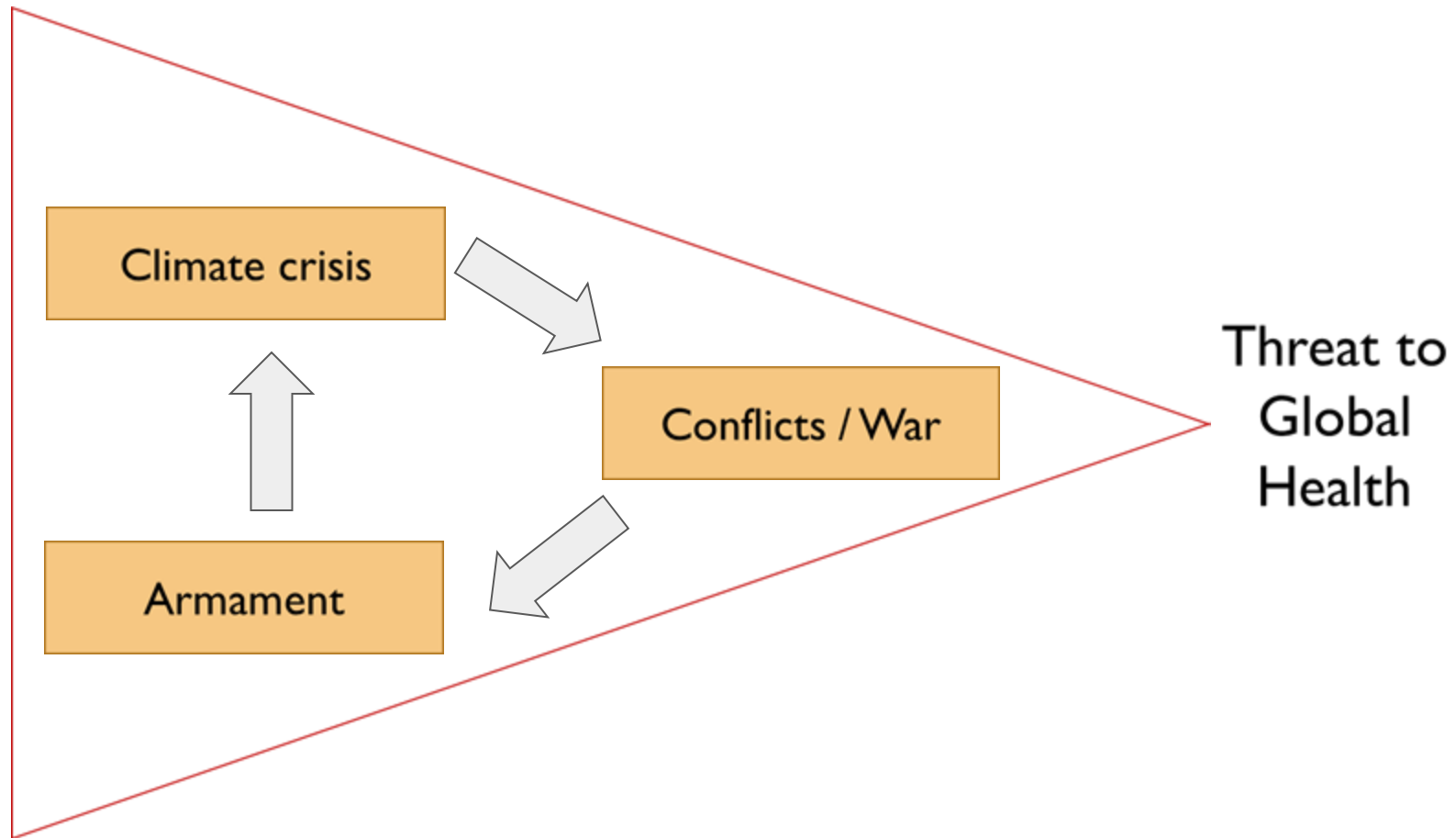
- Regional nuclear war between India and Pakistan
- 250 Hiroshima size “small” 15kt warheads
- Less than 2 % of world nuclear arsenals
- Over 50 million immediate casualties, large areas contaminated with radioactivity
- Enormous amounts of soot and dust into the atmosphere
- Temperature drop 4°C



Nuclear Famine

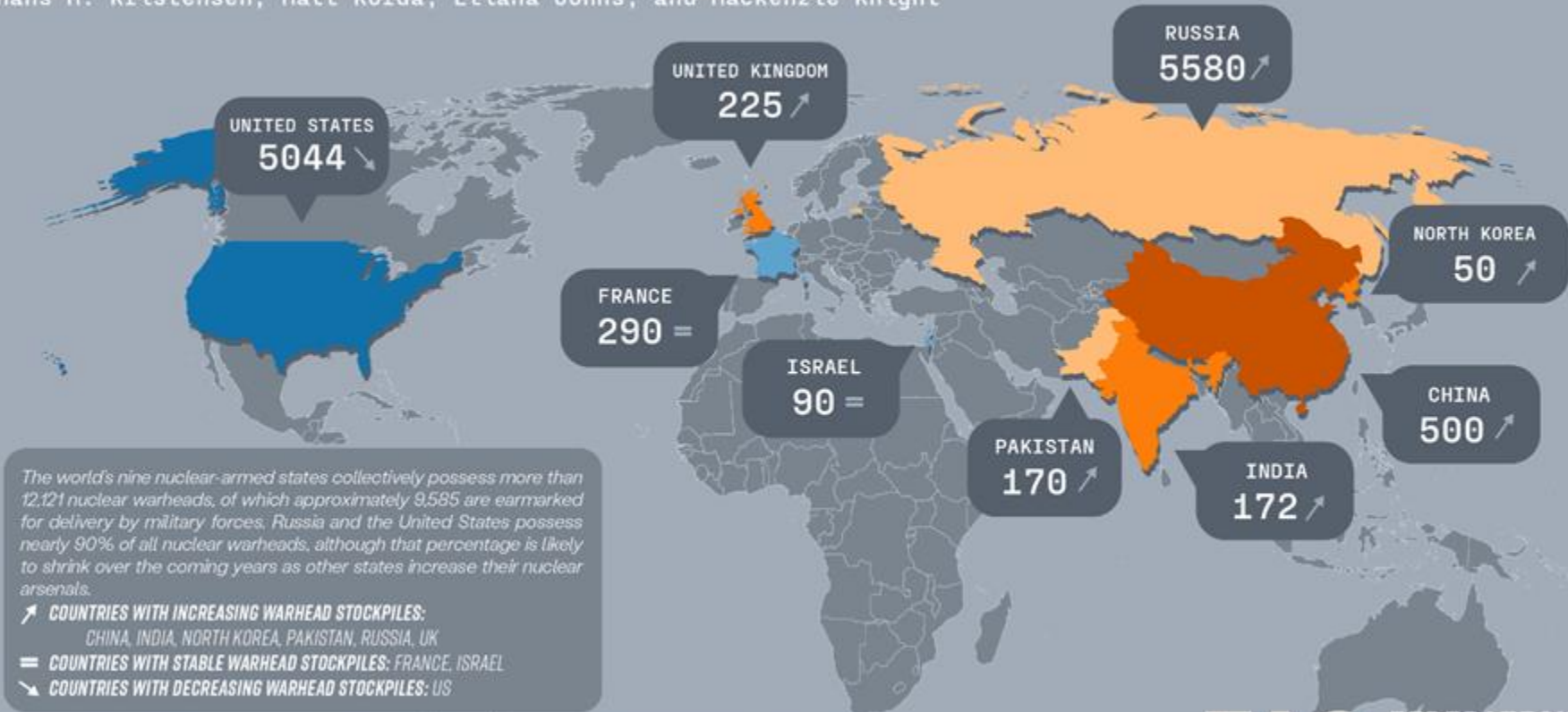
- Nuclear winter can last 10 years
- Food production drops dramatically
- After 2 year 926 million people without food
- Not to mention epidemics, conflicts etc.





Estimated Global Nuclear Warhead Inventories, 2024

Hans M. Kristensen, Matt Korda, Eliana Johns, and Mackenzie Knight



The world's nine nuclear-armed states collectively possess more than 12,121 nuclear warheads, of which approximately 9,585 are earmarked for delivery by military forces. Russia and the United States possess nearly 90% of all nuclear warheads, although that percentage is likely to shrink over the coming years as other states increase their nuclear arsenals.

↗ **COUNTRIES WITH INCREASING WARHEAD STOCKPILES:**

CHINA, INDIA, NORTH KOREA, PAKISTAN, RUSSIA, UK

= **COUNTRIES WITH STABLE WARHEAD STOCKPILES:** FRANCE, ISRAEL

↘ **COUNTRIES WITH DECREASING WARHEAD STOCKPILES:** US

Numbers show estimated total nuclear warhead inventories, which include stockpiled warheads for use by military forces, warheads held in reserve, and retired warheads in queue for dismantlement. Of the 9,585 warheads in global military stockpiles, about 3,904 are deployed on ballistic missiles and at bomber bases. Approximately 2,100 warheads on ballistic missiles are on alert and can be launched on short notice.

A moment of historic danger:
**It is *still* 90 seconds to
midnight**

2024 Doomsday Clock Statement

Science and Security Board
Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

Editor, John Mecklin

January 23, 2024



Elimination of
Nuclear Weapons
is an urgent
medical,
humanitarian and
public health
imperative!



What role health professionals must play:

We have the duty to ...

- protect
- prevent
- treat
- advocate
- promote
- educate
- research

153 Journals worldwide call for health professionals to work to prevent nuclear war

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Reducing the risks of nuclear war

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Reducing the risks of nuclear war

The role of health professionals

Kamran Abbasi,¹ Parveen Ali,² Virginia Barbour,³ Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo,⁴ Marcel G M Olde Rikkert,⁵ Andy Haines,⁶ Ira Helfand,⁷ Richard Horton,⁸ Bob Mash,⁹ Arun Mitra,⁷ Carlos Monteiro,¹⁰ Elena N Naumova,¹¹ Eric J Rubin,¹² Tilman Ruff,⁷ Peush Sahni,¹³ James Tumwine,¹⁴ Paul Yonga,¹⁵ Chris Zielinski¹⁶

In January 2023, the science and security board of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* moved the hands of the doomsday clock forward to 90 seconds before midnight, reflecting the growing risk of nuclear war.¹ In August 2022, the UN secretary general, António Guterres, warned that the world is now in "a time of danger not seen since the height of the Cold War, when the world was underlined by growing nuclear armed states."^{2,3} As the world's public and

The health community has had a crucial role in efforts to reduce the risk of nuclear war and must continue to do so in the future.² In the 1980s the efforts of health professionals, led by the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), helped to end the cold war arms race by educating policy makers and the public on both sides of nuclear war. This was recognised when the 1985 Nobel peace prize was awarded to the IPPNW.¹⁰ In 2007, the IPPNW launched the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which grew into a global civil society campaign with hundreds of millions of members. A pathway to nuclear disarmament was the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2017, for

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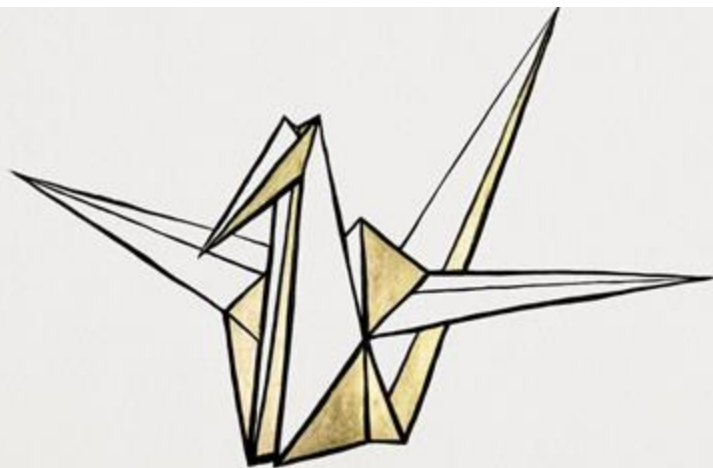
A powerful international norm stigmatising nuclear weapons

The grassroots movement of atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, also known as Hibakusha, is receiving the Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again. The extraordinary efforts of Nihon Hidankyo and other representatives of the Hibakusha have contributed greatly to the establishment of a nuclear taboo.



Nihon Hidankyo

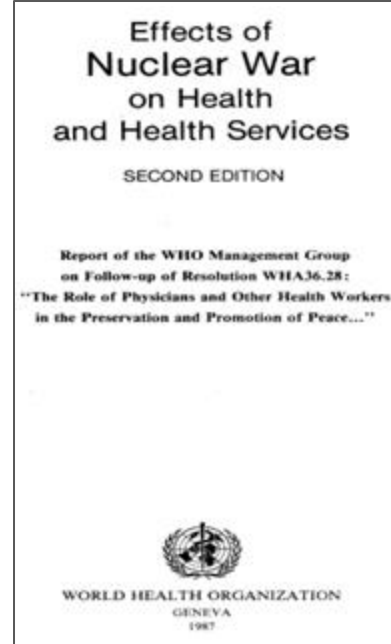
The fates of those who survived the infernos of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were long concealed and neglected. In 1956, local Hibakusha associations along with victims of nuclear weapons tests in the Pacific formed the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organisations. This name was shortened in Japanese to Nihon Hidankyo. It would become the largest and most influential Hibakusha organisation in Japan.



What's there to do?



TPNW



WHO report



Engagement

Engagement & Youth Power

International & national student activities



Partner Organisations



21 January 2021

International health and humanitarian organizations welcome the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

On the eve of the historic Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entering into force, we celebrate this essential step towards preventing the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and a big win for planetary health.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Council of Nurses (ICN), International Federation of Medical Student Associations (IFMSA), International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) and World Medical Association (WMA) welcome this first comprehensive international prohibition of nuclear weapons, the most damaging weapons of mass destruction, and the latest to be comprehensively banned.

**No health system in the world could carry the
consequences of nuclear war!**

**We have to eliminate nuclear weapons before they eliminate
us!**

We have to prevent what we cannot treat!

Thank you for your attention!

Dr. Kati Juva & Stella Ziegler
IPPNW Co-President
International & German Student Representative

juva.kati@gmail.com - ziegler@ippnw.de



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