

**What are nuclear
weapons and how do
we get rid of them?**

Christian CND



WHAT ARE NUCLEAR WEAPONS?



- Nuclear weapons are extremely powerful explosives.
- The bombs get their energy from either splitting atoms or joining the particles inside them together
- When a nuclear weapon is detonated it releases huge amounts of radiation which can cause illness and environmental damage for decades after detonation.
- Nuclear weapons are in the process of becoming illegal under international law, but several countries still possess them

WHO HAS NUCLEAR WEAPONS?



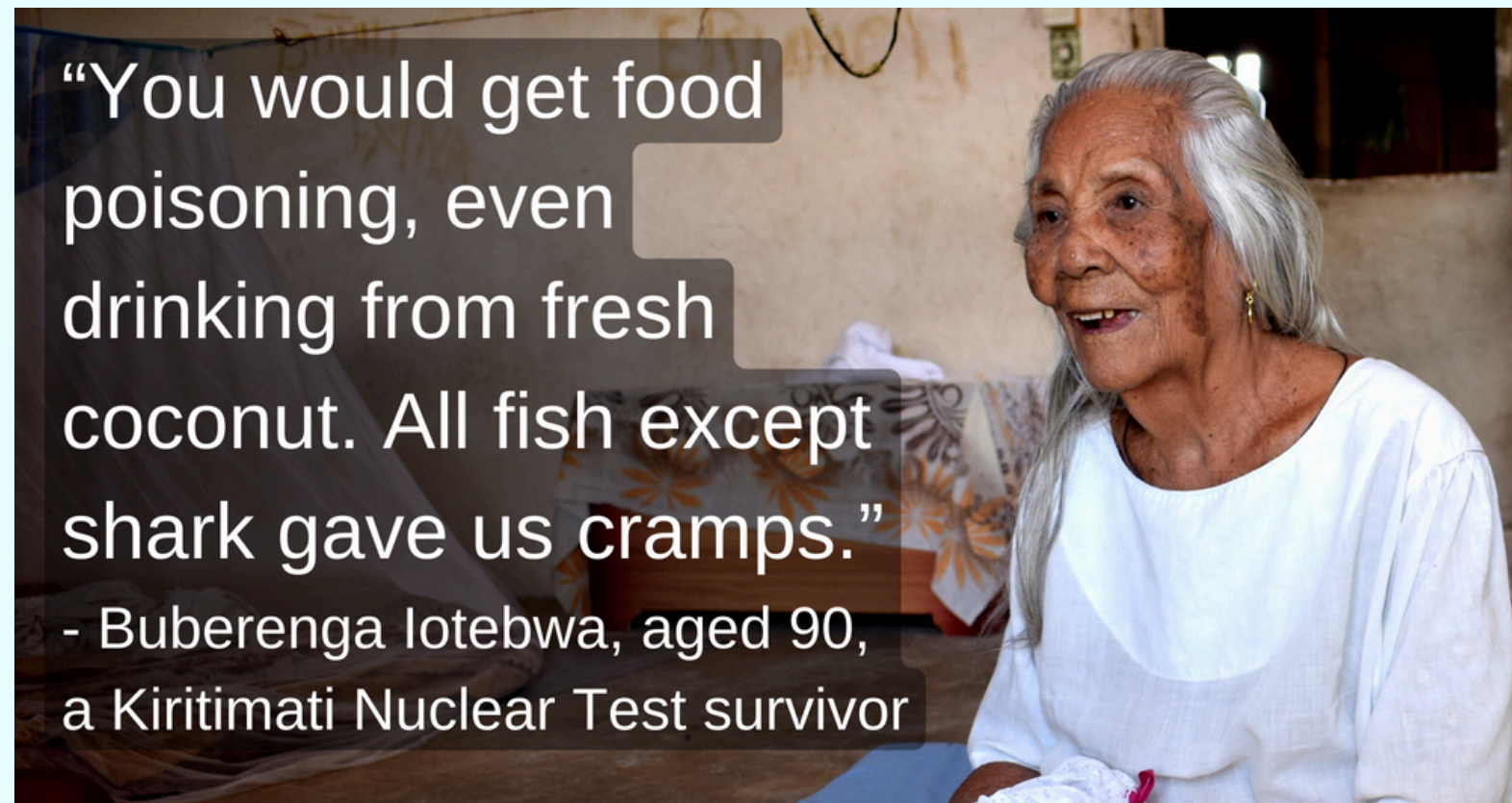
NB - several countries don't have their own nukes but host them on behalf of other countries

WHEN HAVE THEY BEEN USED?



- Hiroshima and Nagasaki – August 1945
 - More than 300,000 died either directly in the bombing or as a result of it - that number is still going up today.
- Survivors (Hibakusha) have been at the forefront of the campaign to achieve global nuclear disarmament.
- "Bombs ended the war"
 - Japan was already set to surrender
 - America wanted to display their capability ahead of the coming Cold War with the then Soviet Union

WHEN HAVE THEY BEEN USED?



- Thousands of tests carried out around the world, from the American desert to Siberia to Pacific Islands.
- UK carried out 45 tests in the 1950s and 60s.
- Many of those affected by the tests continue to struggle to receive compensation to this day.

UK NUCLEAR WEAPONS



- Trident - 225 warheads
- Number had been coming down for 30 years since end of Cold War but in March 2021 announced an increase of 45%
- Trident made up of 4 submarines, one of which is always on patrol at sea.
- Each has capacity for 40 nuclear warheads, each 8x more powerful than those used against Japan in 1945.
- Instructions are written for the sub commander by the PM – the first job they do on taking office – on how to act in the event Britain is destroyed by nuclear weapons.

ARGUMENTS FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS

- Efficiency
- Detachment
- Deterrence
- Utilitarianism
- Defence
- Status and power

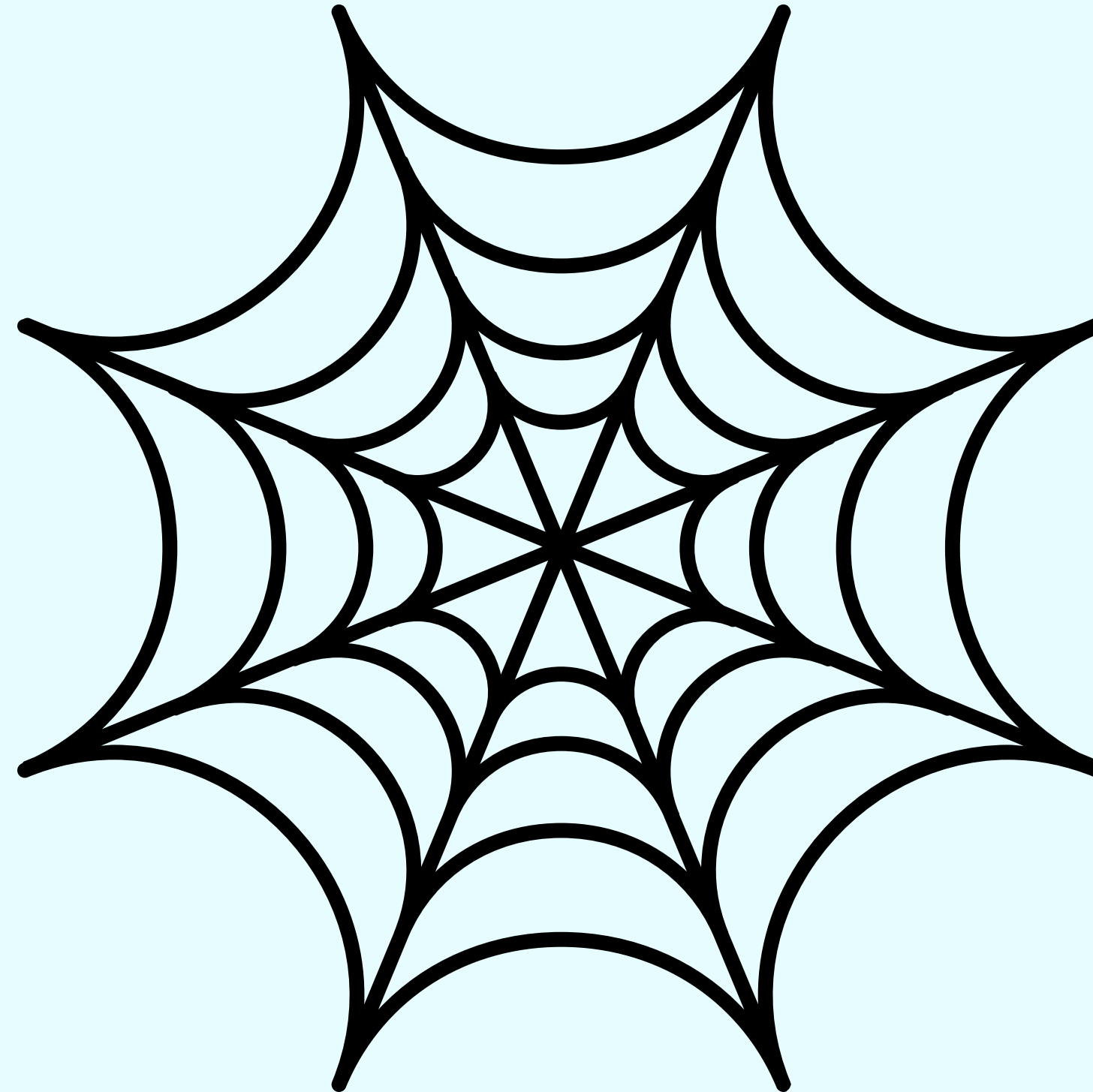
ARGUMENTS AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS

- Cruelty
- Killing power
- Creating power imbalance
- Cost
- Poor military tactics
- Environmental damage
- Holes in deterrence theory

WHY ARE NUCLEAR WEAPONS RELEVANT TODAY?



HOW DO NUCLEAR WEAPONS LINK TO OTHER SOCIAL ISSUES?



ABOUT CHRISTIAN CND

- The Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
- We are an anti-nuclear weapons organisation
- We educate Christians about nuclear weapons, provide a space for Christians to campaign on these issues, and act as a Christian voice in the wider disarmament movement
- We're non-denominational



WHY DOES CHRISTIAN CND OPPOSE NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

- **Jesus's message of peace** - We believe that nuclear weapons go against Jesus's teachings about peace.
- We believe we're called to love our neighbours and our enemies, not nuke them
- **Sanctity of life** - We believe life is a sacred gift from God. Nuclear weapons actively damage life.
- **Earth is God's Creation**, and we are called to steward it. Nuclear weapons cause such horrendous environmental damage.
- Building the Kingdom of God



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

- **Matthew 5:9** - “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”
- **Romans 12:17-18** - “Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.”
- **Matthew 26:52** - “Put away your sword,” Jesus told him. “Those who use the sword will die by the sword.”
- **Isaiah 2:4** - “He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more.”



WHAT DO CHURCHES SAY?



- Many smaller denominations (Quakers, URC, Baptists, Methodists, Church of Scotland & Unitarians) have long-standing policies opposing nuclear weapons and are supportive of the Nuclear Ban Treaty
- Church of England passed a motion in 2018 at Synod calling on the government to engage with the Ban Treaty – since then leading Bishops including Canterbury and York have called on government to sign
- Pope Francis has been supportive of the Treaty and recently clarified Catholic teaching so that the possession, as well as use of nuclear weapons is immoral

**HOW DO WE GET
RID OF THEM?**

POLITICAL CHANGE

- UN Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
 - UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
 - No First Use
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- Political parties
 - Petitions
 - Protest
 - International collaboration



FINANCE



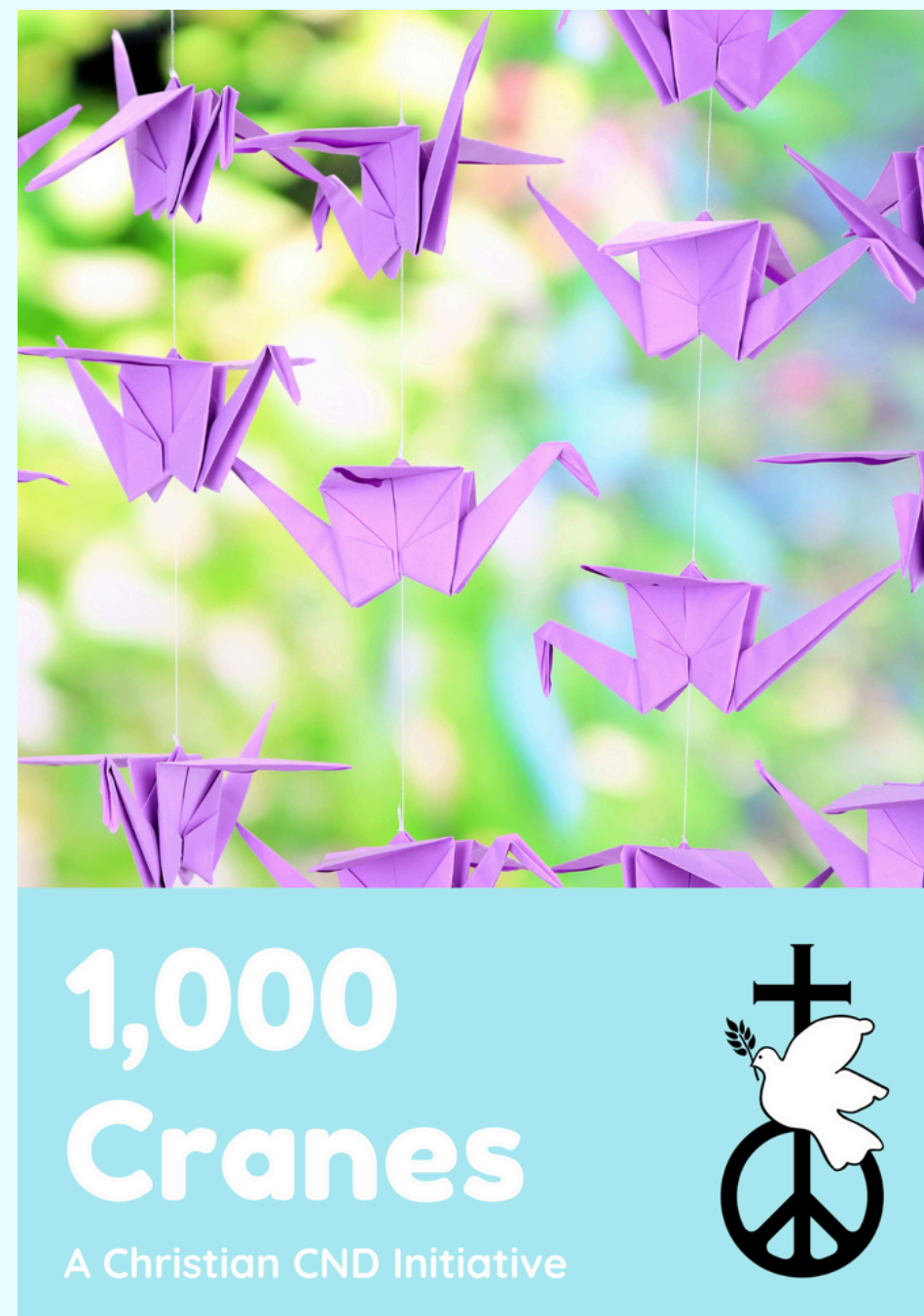
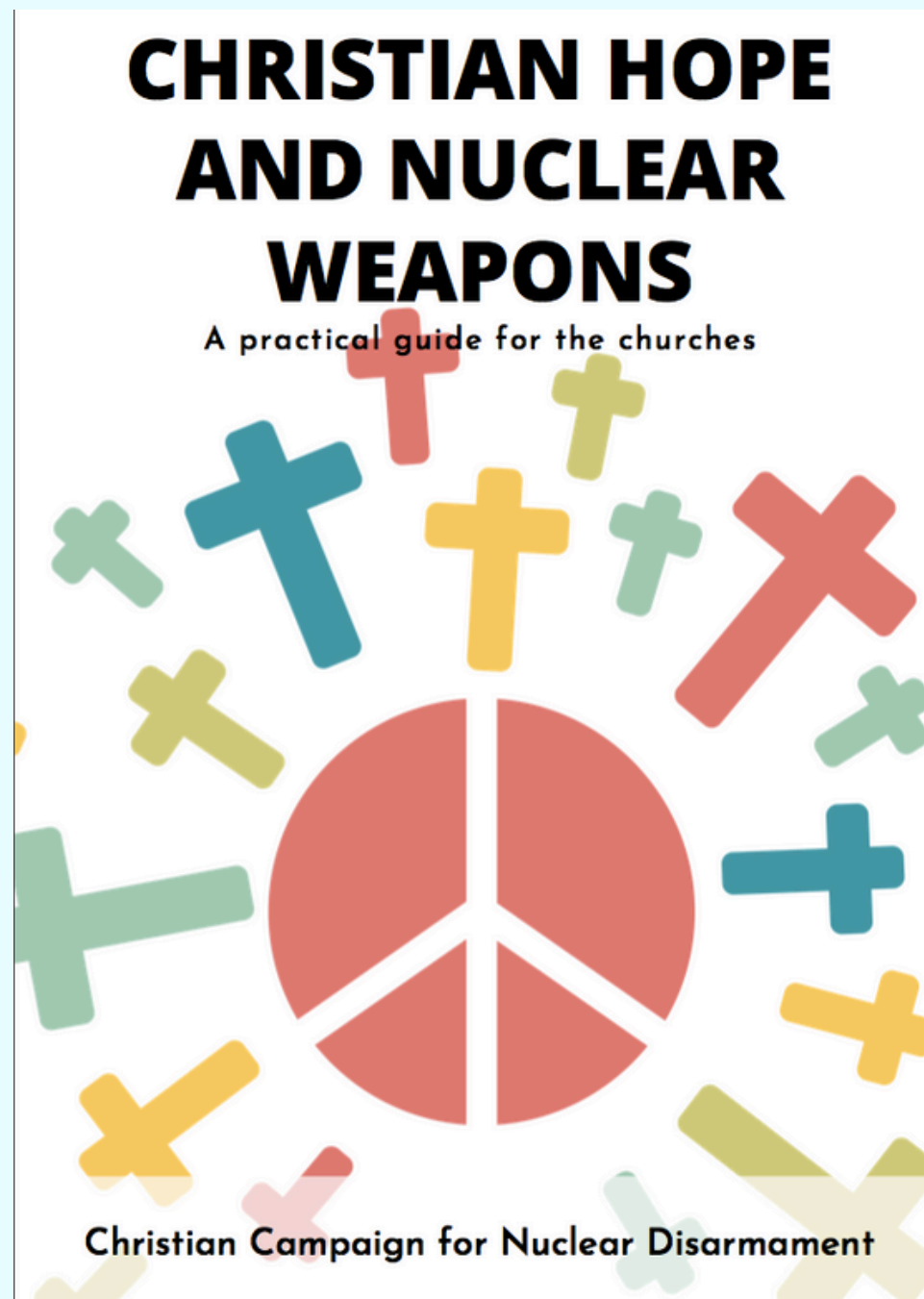
- Divestment
- Financial policy changes
- Banking ethically
- Donating to peace work

EDUCATION

- Peace Education
 - Nuclear Education
 - Campaigns
-
- Talking to people
 - Making cultural changes



RESOURCES



OTHER ORGANISATIONS



Campaign for
Nuclear Disarmament



ICAN 2017
NOBEL
PEACE
PRIZE



Network of
Christian Peace
Organisations

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