

*The U.S. Province of the School Sisters of St. Francis, in collaboration with other communities in the Leadership Conference of Women Religious-Region 9, have signed on to the following statement promulgated by the Nuclear Ban Treaty Collaborative's statement:*

**Statement on the Existential Threat of Nuclear Weapons  
and on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

The power to initiate a global apocalypse lies in the hands of the leaders of nine nations. As 122 nations of the world indicated when they adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in July 2017, this is unacceptable.

As concerns about the threat of nuclear weapons re-enter the public consciousness, it is important to know that humankind is not without an answer to the nuclear threat. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which entered into force on January 22, 2021, provides a clear pathway to the elimination of the nuclear threat.

We call on all nuclear armed states to take immediate steps to:

- Engage the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons,
- Attend the First Meeting of States Parties, and
- Sign, ratify and implement the Treaty.

We also call on the U.S. media to recognize the existence of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and to include the Treaty in discussions, articles, and editorials regarding the nuclear threat and methods available to address it.