

## Getting to Zero

There are more than nuclear weapons 23,000 in the world – enough to destroy the world hundreds of times over. The greatest nuclear threat today is that a terrorist could get a hold of a nuclear weapon and use it to kill hundreds of thousands of people. Terrorist groups like al Qaeda have pledged to acquire a nuclear weapon and use it. Nuclear weapons sit in countries involved in bitter regional conflicts, countries with weak central governments and countries in close proximity to terrorists. Having thousands of weapons and hundreds of tons of loose nuclear materials scattered across the globe only makes that goal more realistic. Meanwhile, the U.S. and Russia keep thousands of nuclear bombs ready to launch on a moment’s notice. If even one of these weapons were to be launched – through accident or miscalculation – the consequences would be catastrophic.



We face many threats in the world, but world leaders now recognize that the largest threat comes from nuclear weapons themselves. The only way to remove this danger is to seek a world without nuclear weapons. The United States, the United Kingdom and many partner nations can lead on this issue, taking bold action towards disarmament and nonproliferation that erase the threat of these deadly weapons.

### How Can We Get to Zero?

A series of important steps must be taken to work toward without nuclear weapons:

- Change U.S. nuclear policy to reduce the threat of accidental use and minimize the role of nuclear weapons in America’s security plans in the forthcoming **U.S. Nuclear Posture Review**.
- Bring into force the **New START treaty** between the U.S. and Russia to continue disarmament between these two nations, followed quickly by negotiations for a new treaty seeking deeper reductions – perhaps to 1,000 total weapons each.
- **Bring the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty into force**, first by ratifying the treaty in the U.S. Senate and then by encouraging remaining holdout nations to follow suit.
- **Eliminate short-range, “tactical” nuclear weapons**.
- Persuade countries to **strengthen national legislation** to stop the spread of materials and technologies for use in nuclear weapons.
- Promote safety by **establishing a regime to secure and control all fissile material**.
- Negotiate a **Fissile Materials Cutoff Treaty** to halt production of fissile materials in order to stop nations from getting the materials to make nuclear bombs.
- Pursue **multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations** between the U.S., Russia, Britain, France and China to reduce each nation’s arsenal to below a few hundred, then gradually lower.
- **Address the hard cases** of India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea, using all aspects of international power to convince them to reduce and give up their arsenals.
- Negotiate a verifiable **treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons**, with each state dismantling the last of its nuclear arsenal.

### How Can You Help?

There are simple ways to get involved in the campaign to eliminate nuclear weapons.

- **Tell your friends and families** why this issue is crucial to global security. Encourage them to visit [www.ploughshares.org](http://www.ploughshares.org) and [www.basicint.org](http://www.basicint.org) and to send articles from these sites and other news outlets to their friends and families.
- **Contact your representatives** and encourage them to support arms control and nonproliferation legislation and initiatives.
- **Donate** to organizations that work to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.

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