



The Hon Anthony Albanese MP

Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

The Hon Penny Wong

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

24 July, 2025

Dear Prime Minister and Foreign Minister,

As the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki approaches, I write on behalf of the Uniting Church in Australia Assembly to urge your Government to take the long-overdue step of signing and ratifying the *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons* (TPNW).

These anniversaries are a solemn reminder of the catastrophic consequences of nuclear warfare. In 1945, two cities were destroyed and more than 200,000 lives were lost. Survivors continue to bear the physical and emotional scars of those events, and their testimony continues to call the world to peace.

For more than four decades, the Uniting Church in Australia has rejected the use, proliferation and threat of nuclear weapons in the strongest possible terms. Our national Assembly has consistently declared that these weapons are morally indefensible and fundamentally incompatible with the Gospel of Christ, which calls us to be peacemakers and reconcilers in a world where violence and enmity threatens human life and God's creation.

We believe that reliance on weapons for peace and security can never achieve a just and lasting peace.

Australia now has an historic opportunity to be on the right side of history. The *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons* provides a clear legal and moral framework to advance global nuclear disarmament. Australia has been left behind by the more than 90 signatories to the Treaty, including many of our neighbours in the Pacific who have endured the toxic legacy of nuclear testing.

In the Pacific, nuclear disarmament is not an abstract policy question. It is a matter of justice, health and survival. Australia has a particular responsibility to

President: Rev Charissa Suli **General Secretary:** Andrew Johnson

I pay respect to the Traditional Custodians of the land, past, present and future.

Uniting Church in Australia National Assembly

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listen to our regional neighbours, to honour our shared history and stand with them in building a future free of nuclear threats.

We acknowledge with thanks your personal and public commitments to a world without nuclear weapons. We urge you now to translate those commitments into action by immediately signing and ratifying the Treaty, and offering leadership in international disarmament efforts for the sake of the whole creation.

In the name of peace, and in remembrance of the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we ask you to act now with courage and conviction. The future of our common humanity depends on it.

Grace and peace,

Rev Charissa Suli

President

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