

# Two Minutes to Midnight: What We Can Do to Prevent Nuclear War

A Conference Organized by Goucher Peace Studies and Prevent Nuclear War/Maryland  
November 17, 2018  
Goucher College

## 10 to 11:20 a.m. – Plenary

Welcome and goals of conference, introduction of speakers: Gwen Dubois, Seble Dawit

Daryl Kimball: *“Nuclear Risks and Risk Reduction in the Age of Trump”*

Ira Helfand: *“The growing risk of nuclear war and what we can do about it: Back from the Brink”*

## 11:30-12:30 First Breakout Session

### (a) **“Nuclear Modernization” and the New Arms Race: Who Profits?** *Discussant: Daryl Kimball*

The U.S. is slated to spend at least \$2.8 trillion to “upgrade” the nuclear weapons complex. This workshop will examine details of the so-called “modernization,” including the new types of weapons that are being developed, what the trade-offs are, who profits, and how “modernization” and the arms race make us all less safe. How can we address the “real world” arguments and what can we do to roll back this plan and abolish nuclear weapons?

### (b) **Uranium Trafficking: The Inextricable Link Between Nuclear Power and Nuclear Weapons**

*Discussant: Paul Gunter and Linda Pentz Gunter*

Uranium enrichment for nuclear power, with further enrichment, creates the fissile material for nuclear weapons. We also explore the environmental injustice issues around exposure to uranium mining, weapons testing and disposing of radioactive waste from the nuclear industry.

### (c) **Organizing with Students** *Discussant: Vince Intondi*

Developing youth leadership is critical to the future of the anti-nuclear weapons movement. This workshop will develop specific plans to engage youth at Goucher and other colleges in the Baltimore area in nuclear weapons abolition.

### (d) **Creative Organizing** *Discussant: Max Obuszewski*

Because creativity is an essential part of being an effective activist, this workshop will include brainstorming to come up with unusual ideas and figure out how to implement them.

## 12:30-1:15 Lunch

## 1:15 - 2:20 Second Plenary Session

**Vince Intondi:** *"The Intersection of Race and Nuclear Weapons"*

**Ray Acheson:** *"The Role of Americans in the Effort to Abolish Nuclear Weapons"*

## 2:25 – 3:15 Work Groups: Developing our Plan for the Coming Year

### (a) Congress

Examine the bills relevant to Back from the Brink that are currently in Congress and how Congress could support the Ban Treaty. We will come up with a plan to try to ensure that every Maryland senator and representative supports *all* of these bills and that at least two members of the delegation publicly endorse the ban treaty. [Facilitator: Charlie Cooper; resource: Paul Kawika Martin; scribe: Lucy Duff]

### (b) City and County Resolutions

Explore how to get resolutions passed by county and city councils throughout Maryland. Resolutions, such as the one passed by the Baltimore City Council in August, are powerful ways to pressure members of Congress, as well as serving an educational purpose for the general public. We will develop a plan to increase the number of cities and counties in Maryland that pass such resolutions. [Facilitator: Gwen DuBois; resource: Mel Hardy, Jay Levy; scribe: Tony Langbehn]

### (c) The MD General Assembly

A resolution was introduced in the Maryland General Assembly last winter addressing the president's authority to unilaterally start a nuclear war, but the resolution was defeated in the Rules Committee. We hope for an expanded resolution to be introduced in the next legislative session. We will develop a strategy to try to ensure its passage. [Facilitator: Mike Keller; resource: Del. Pamela Queen; Samantha Blake, WAND; scribe: Richard Ochs]

## 3:20 – 4:00 Closing Plenary: Report Back from Work Groups– A Nuclear Abolition Plan for Maryland

*Discussant: Gwen Dubois and Jean Athey*

**Cosponsors:** *Anne Arundel Peace Action, Peace Action Montgomery, Maryland United for Peace and Justice, National Lawyers' Guild/MD, Prince George's Peace and Justice Coalition, Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility, Baltimore Peace Action, Baltimore Quaker Peace and Justice Committee, Popular Resistance/MD, Howard County Peace Action, Bethesda Friends Meeting, Baltimore Nonviolence Center, Progressive Democrats of America/MD, Frederick Friends Meeting, Institute for Race, Justice, and Civic Engagement, Annapolis Friends Meeting, BYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee, Jonah House, Sandy Spring Friends Meeting, American Solidarity Party of Maryland*

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