



13th January, 2016

Olav Njolstad,

Secretary Nobel Committee, Nobel Institute, Oslo, Norway.

Dear Mr. Njolstad,

I am writing to nominate Rebecca Johnson for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Dr. Rebecca Johnson, is a lifelong campaigner for peace, human rights and disarmament, who played an inspirational role in mobilising civil society in the 1980s and 1990s, helping to achieve first the 1987 Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty and then the 1996 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

As a committed and creative practitioner of nonviolent action, she developed cooperative approaches for disarmament and peacebuilding, combining grassroots campaigning with citizens diplomacy. A former teacher, she dedicated five years (1982-87) to living at the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp, England, and campaigning against the deployment of the new generation of nuclear-armed cruise missiles. Rebecca was not only a peace activist, but also a tireless educator, who raised awareness of the suffering that nuclear testing caused to Pacific islanders and indigenous people from Nevada and Kazakhstan. In 1983 she joined a ground-breaking lawsuit that made a valiant but unsuccessful attempt to prevent the deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles, developing many of the arguments that later fed into nuclear weapons cases in other courts, including the International Court of Justice. When the INF Treaty was signed in 1987 Rebecca moved from the Greenham Peace Camp and began campaigning with renewed energy on ending nuclear testing. Twenty-five years after the IF Treaty prohibited cruise missiles, Rebecca was recognized by Icelandic parliamentarians for the role she and the Greenham Common Women played in creating the conditions for the 1986 Reykjavik Summit on the INF Treaty.

In 1985, Rebecca broadened her campaigning at Greenham to protest against cluster munitions, and promote disarmament by the UK, especially through co-founding the Aldermaston Women's Peace Campaign – which continues to be active in monitoring and opposing nuclear weapons production and the transporting of warheads on public roads. In these and other activities and publication, Rebecca has been at the forefront of civil society initiatives calling for the UK to stop plans to modernize and replace the Trident nuclear weapons and join multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations to prohibit and eliminate all nuclear weapons.

As the Greenpeace coordinator for a nuclear test ban from 1988, Rebecca highlighted the humanitarian, security and environmental impacts of nuclear weapons and brought people from Pacific, Kazakhstan,



Nevada and other test sites together with governments and scientists to end nuclear testing. She organized protests at nuclear test sites and mobilised many activists and parliamentarians in successful efforts to persuade relevant states to undertake moratoria on testing, and use that to build momentum for the Conference on Disarmament to negotiate the CTBT. Dubbed by some diplomats as ‘the NGO ambassador’ Rebecca’s work with civil society, governments and diplomats on the CTBT and the 1995 NPT Review Conference was largely behind the scenes but has now become well known. Her book on these negotiations, ‘Unfinished Business’ was published by the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and is used by the CTBTO as a gift to new ambassadors to the CTBT, as it illustrates the importance of multilateralism and partnerships between governments and NGOs, as well as detailing how the treaty was accomplished. She continues to work with the CTBTO, UN, parliamentarians and diplomats to encourage entry into force of this and other disarmament treaties.

During the 1990s she also volunteered with ‘Women’s Aid to Former Yugoslavia’ to provide aid to women and refugees suffering sexual and military violence during the destructive wars there, making a point of working with women peacemakers and civilians on all sides of the conflicts. She co-founded groups in London such as Women against War crimes, which became the London chapter of the wider Women in Black network of women engaging in practical work to promote nonviolent solutions to violence and war.

While working on the CTBT, Rebecca founded the Acronym Institute of Disarmament Diplomacy in order to train and mentor young people to become more active in promoting disarmament, with particular emphasis on increasing the role of women in peace and security work, and of integrating scientific and academic analysis with grassroots activism and advocacy work for a range of disarmament treaties and UN peace and human rights measures. From 1996 she published ‘Disarmament Diplomacy’ a small but influential journal promoting initiatives for disarmament and peace around the world. When that ceased in 2009, she became a featured writer on the OpenDemocracy online news service, with many insightful articles on issues relating to disarmament, women’s security and peacebuilding, and preventing violence against women and children.

Although she became a well-respected writer and teacher on disarmament and arms control, Rebecca never abandoned her roots in nonviolent activism for peace, human rights and justice, working particularly to empower women and support women. Disappointed after her strategies with the New Agenda Coalition to obtain consensus agreement among NPT states for the Thirteen Steps to Nuclear disarmament in 2000 came to naught, Rebecca moved to Scotland in 2006-8, as co-organizer of Faslane 365, a grassroots initiative to mobilise groups of people from all walks of life and all parts of the world to demonstrate their opposition to Trident renewal with nonviolent peace actions at the Faslane nuclear base.

To promote disarmament, she organized and spoke at hundreds of further meetings and actions around Britain and internationally and published analyses and books, including ‘Worse than Irrelevant’ and ‘Trident and International Law’ advocating nuclear disarmament rather than Trident replacement and ‘Decline or Transform’ on the need to strengthen the NPT with additional disarmament measures.

From 2009, Rebecca took the lead in civil society efforts to reframe nuclear disarmament as a humanitarian imperative, serving for some years as the Co-Chair of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and giving civil society’s closing statement at the ground-breaking Oslo Conference on the Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons in March 2013. Stepping down as Co-chair in 2014 to pave the way for younger leadership, Rebecca has continued to serve on ICAN’s International Steering Group,



while also serving as vice president of the UK's Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and a co-organiser of Action AWE (Atomic Weapons Eradication).

In her continuing activism with Women in Black, Rebecca's decades of experience and passion for peace, the empowerment of women and nonviolent solutions to conflicts shine through. She served as a juror for the session of the Courts of Women against Violence and War held in Bangalore, India, in November. Rebecca's life has been dedicated to building peace and promoting collective, multilateral agreements for disarmament and security. For this she continues to image, create and implement practical ideas and solutions, raising awareness through her outreach, speeches and writing, while also developing strategies for civil society, parliamentarians and governments to achieve new and more effective agreements, with emphasis now on banning and eliminating nuclear weapons for all.

For all these reasons, I think Dr. Rebecca Johnson's lifetime of work epitomises the kind of person Alfred Nobel intended the Nobel Peace Prize to honour, and I have no doubt that she would be an inspiring recipient who would view the prize as a responsibility and spur to work even harder for peace, human rights and justice in the world.

Peace,

Yours sincerely,



Mairead Maguire, Nobel Peace Laureate

