



National Centre for
Peace and Conflict Studies

in association with



New Zealand



Youth Peace ESSAY AWARD

We are constantly confronted by images of violence but rarely by images of peace. Peace can only come about if we visualise it and make it happen at all levels of society. This essay competition is aimed at eliciting youth's voices in the creation of a more just and peaceful world. To this end the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (University of Otago) and Soka Gakkai International-New Zealand conduct the Aotearoa/New Zealand Youth Peace Essay Award. We invite young people in New Zealand between the ages of 17-25 to take part in this peace essay award by expressing your thoughts on various peace-related issues at local, national and global levels.

Theme of 2017: From a Nuclear Free New Zealand to a Nuclear Free World

It is 30 years since the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament, and Arms Control Act was passed in 1987. The act prohibited the development of all nuclear and biological explosive devices and established New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone which prohibited the entry into New Zealand of any nuclear powered or armed ship. The United Nations has also made various efforts to ban the development, production, possession and use of nuclear weapons, including this year's pathbreaking Treaty prohibiting Nuclear Weapons .

Such nuclear free campaigns are not just against a class of weapons; they are also aimed at transforming attitudes toward violence. In this sense, Mr Daisaku Ikeda writes that: "The real enemy that we must confront is the ways of thinking that justify nuclear weapons: the readiness to annihilate others when they are seen as a threat or as a hindrance to the realisation of our objectives.

What does this quotation mean in the context of Aotearoa/New Zealand? Your essay can be in the form of either a personal reflection, a proposal for action, or an academic essay. You can choose any topic relevant to the set theme. A few examples might be:

- Are nuclear free zones still relevant to the 21st Century?
- Why should youth in Aotearoa/New Zealand care about nuclear weapons or any other weapon of mass destruction?
- What are the deeper philosophical issues lying behind the debates on nuclear disarmament?
- What more can people in Aotearoa/New Zealand do to bring about a nuclear free world?

Award:

1st place – A certificate and prize of \$800

2nd place – A certificate and prize of \$500

Highly commended awards – A certificate and a gift prepared by NCPACS

Youth Peace ESSAY AWARD

To Enter the Contest:

- 1) Essays must be 2,000 words or less, excluding title and any references.
- 2) Academic essays should have standard formatting, including a title, introduction, body, and summary/conclusion. Informal essays that reflect people's personal experiences will also be accepted.
- 3) Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx), Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced.
- 4) Page numbers in footer, starting with first page.
- 5) If necessary, use footnotes.
- 6) Participants are expected to submit a separate cover page that includes name, affiliation, and email address. A student's personal information including name should appear only on a cover page, in order to ensure that all essays are reviewed anonymously.
- 7) Entries must be original work, unpublished, and not under consideration for publication elsewhere.
- 8) Individuals may not submit more than one essay. Submissions of entries authored by multiple individuals will not be considered.

Deadline: 4 December 2017

If you are submitting your essay by post, mail stamped on this date will be accepted.

Submission:

Submissions can be made either by post or via email.

Post

Rosemary McBryde
The National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies
518 Castle Street
PO Box 56, Dunedin 9054
New Zealand

* Write 'Aotearoa/New Zealand Youth Peace Essay Award' on the envelope

Email

An email attaching the electronic file of the essay can be sent to:

peaceandconflict@otago.ac.nz

*All entrants retain the copyright for the pieces they submit, but by entering Aotearoa/New Zealand Youth Essay Award, each contestant consents that their submissions may be published or publicised by the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Otago, and/or SGI-New Zealand.



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