Sample letter to editor [in nuclear weapon states]

Dear Editor,

Nuclear weapons may not seem to be an issue of great importance these days, when there is more general concern about climate change and the economic crisis. However, nuclear weapons are directly related to both of these issues—their manufacture, waste products, and especially their use has severe and unacceptable environmental and humanitarian consequences. Furthermore, the amount of money spent on nuclear weapons every year is unconscionable, especially during the economic crisis.

As of March 2012, the nuclear weapon possessors—China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, France, India, Israel, Pakistan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—are estimated to possess approximately 19,500 nuclear weapons and to collective spend one hundred billion dollars per year on their nuclear weapon complexes. All of them have plans to modernize—upgrade and/or extend the lives of—their nuclear weapons.

At the same time as they commit billions of dollars to their nuclear weapon arsenals, most of these states are simultaneously making significant cuts in their social welfare systems, such as health care, education, and childcare. This arguably constitutes a violation of human rights, as adequate resources are critical to the realization of such rights. And the continued possession and upgrading of nuclear weapons will only lead to further, not less, proliferation.

Our government must cease its plans to invest billions of [dollars/pounds/etc] in the modernization of nuclear weapons. Our country should be actively seeking multilateral nuclear disarmament, not reinvestment in a new arms race.

Sincerely,

[Your Name Here]
Sample letter to editor [in non-nuclear weapon states]

Dear Editor,

Nuclear weapons may not seem to be an issue of great importance these days, when there is more general concern about climate change and the economic crisis. However, nuclear weapons are directly related to both of these issues—their manufacture, waste products, and especially their use has severe and unacceptable environmental and humanitarian consequences. Furthermore, the amount of money spent on nuclear weapons every year is unconscionable, especially during the economic crisis.

As of March 2012, the nuclear weapon possessors—China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, France, India, Israel, Pakistan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—are estimated to possess approximately 19,500 nuclear weapons and to spend one hundred billion dollars per year on their nuclear weapon complexes. All of them have plans to modernize—upgrade and/or extend the lives of—their nuclear weapons.

At the same time as they commit billions of dollars to their nuclear weapon arsenals, most of these states are simultaneously making significant cuts in their social welfare systems, such as health care, education, and childcare. This arguably constitutes a violation of human rights, as adequate resources are critical to the realization of such rights. And the continued possession and upgrading of nuclear weapons will only lead to further, not less, proliferation.

Our government should call on those states with nuclear weapons to cease their plans to modernize nuclear weapons and to spend their resources on human and environmental needs instead. It should also take the lead in demanding multilateral nuclear disarmament now, through the negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention.

Sincerely,

[Your Name Here]
Sample letter to parliamentarians [in nuclear weapon states]

Dear Representative,

As of March 2012, the nuclear weapon possessors—China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, France, India, Israel, Pakistan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—are estimated to possess approximately 19,500 nuclear weapons and to spend one hundred billion dollars per year on their nuclear weapon complexes. All of them have plans to modernize—upgrade and/or extend the lives of—their nuclear weapons.

At the same time as they commit billions of dollars to their nuclear weapon arsenals, most of these states are simultaneously making significant cuts in their social welfare systems, such as health care, education, and childcare. This arguably constitutes a violation of human rights, as adequate resources are critical to the realization of such rights. And the continued possession and upgrading of nuclear weapons will only lead to further, not less, proliferation.

Our government must cease its plans to invest billions of [dollars/pounds/etc] in the modernization of nuclear weapons. Our country should be actively seeking multilateral nuclear disarmament, not reinvestment in a new arms race.

I look forward to your positive response to this letter, and to hearing from you what steps you have taken to prevent the modernization of nuclear weapons.

Sincerely,

[Your Name Here]
Sample letter to parliamentarians [in non-nuclear weapon states]

Dear Representative,

As of March 2012, the nuclear weapon possessors—China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, France, India, Israel, Pakistan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—are estimated to possess approximately 19,500 nuclear weapons and to spend one hundred billion dollars per year on their nuclear weapon complexes. All of them have plans to modernize—upgrade and/or extend the lives of—their nuclear weapons.

At the same time as they commit billions of dollars to their nuclear weapon arsenals, most of these states are simultaneously making significant cuts in their social welfare systems, such as health care, education, and childcare. This arguably constitutes a violation of human rights, as adequate resources are critical to the realization of such rights. And the continued possession and upgrading of nuclear weapons will only lead to further, not less, proliferation.

Our government should call on those states with nuclear weapons to cease their plans to modernize nuclear weapons and to spend their resources on human and environmental needs instead. They should also take the lead in demanding multilateral nuclear disarmament now, through the negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention.

I look forward to your positive response to this letter, and to hearing from you what steps you have taken to prevent nuclear weapon modernization.

Sincerely,

[Your Name Here]