

educating about the nuclear age

Nuclear disarmament is not a radical idea. In fact nearly every government in the world has signed the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty calling for nuclear disarmament. Key figures, including politicians, military officials, and celebrities in those eight countries which possess nuclear weapons have made calls for total disarmament. Polls conducted around the world have shown that the majority of people see nuclear disarmament as a necessity.

Increasingly calls from around the world are being heard demanding real energy alternatives, an end to uranium mining and a halt on the production of more nuclear waste until a viable solution to the waste problem can be found.

The nuclear industry is deadly. Every stage of the nuclear cycle brings with it destruction and waste. Why then has this industry continued to exist despite unrelenting opposition to its practices? What is the greatest hindrance activists face when trying to educate about the nuclear age?

One key factor is fear.

The fear associated with the nuclear industry and their ultimate weapon, the nuclear bomb, has brought with it much misinformation. This has polarized politics and debate to such an extent that, at times, it has seemed impossible to sort fact from fiction.

In talking to anti-nuclear activists, many list fear as one of the key reasons they first became involved in the struggle against this deadly industry. Most of them will agree that the way they overcame this fear was to act, to inform themselves and others, and to demystify the monster that has overshadowed us for too long.

Another reason the nuclear industry has been able to maintain its stronghold on the world is that people see it as “too big”. Although at times the figures may seem overwhelming and the problems associated with it daunting, there are many practical and realistic contributions that individuals can make to effect the change necessary to see an end to this industry.

The first of these is education.

This means educating both yourself, as an individual member of society, and educating others.

The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom through the Reaching Critical Will project will continue to find new ways to bring practical education resources to activists for use in the broader community. Educators for Social Responsibility in New York have initiated a project called “The Nuclear Weapons Education and Action Project”, to further address these issues. In addition, many of the groups listed later in this booklet have excellent resources on educating against the nuclear industry.

We hope that by providing you with some basic background information you will feel empowered to pass this knowledge on and thereby spread the word that this destructive industry is nearing the end of its day.



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