



# European Bureau for Conscientious Objection

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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### **EBCO celebrates the entry into force of the Nuclear Ban Treaty**

### **Nuclear weapons now illegal under international law!**

Brussels, 23 January 2021

*"After decades of lobbying and campaigning, it's now a reality! Nuclear weapons have now become illegal under international law. This is a ground breaking step towards a world free of nuclear weapons!"*, Alexia Tsouni, EBCO president stated today.

Nuclear weapons have always been more immoral than other weapons, because they target the civilian population, and because a nuclear war means the end of life on our planet. Now they are also illegal in all respects under international law, with the entry into force of the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 22 January 2021.

EBCO celebrates this landmark agreement, which was adopted at the United Nations in 2017 with the overwhelming support of the international community. It is the first globally applicable treaty that categorically prohibits the most destructive, inhumane instruments of war ever created. It is also the first to put in place a framework for verifiably and irreversibly eliminating nuclear weapons, and for assisting the victims of their use and testing.

More info in the booklet of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN):  
[https://www.icanw.org/how\\_the\\_treaty\\_works](https://www.icanw.org/how_the_treaty_works)

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EBCO was founded in Brussels in 1979 as an umbrella structure for national associations of conscientious objectors in the European countries to promote the right to conscientious objection to preparations for, and participation in, war and any other type of military activity as a fundamental human right. It enjoys participatory status with the Council of Europe since 1998 and is a member of its Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations since 2005. It provides expertise and legal opinions on behalf of the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe. It is involved in drawing up the annual report of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament on the application by the Member States of its resolutions on conscientious objection and civilian service, as determined in the "Bandrés Molet & Bindi Resolution" of 1994. It is a full member of the European Youth Forum since 1995.