Peace Voter 2020

With the U.S. President vetoing Congress's War Powers Resolution to withdraw support for the war in Yemen, spending a record $738 Billion on the military, allowing talks with North Korea to collapse, reneging on a number of international agreements, and, as a New Year’s surprise, bringing us to the brink of all-out war with Iran, the world needs every peace-loving person in this country to get involved to reverse course.

Peace Action’s “Peace Voter 2020” campaign is being launched to elect a Congress and President who will work for a nuclear-free world that resolves international conflict through cooperation and diplomacy. As part of this campaign, Peace Action New York State is committed to support the following Peace Voter Tool Kit activities: sending out and collecting candidate questionnaires, briefing candidates on Peace Action issues, organizing and/or participating in voter registration drives, organizing and/or co-sponsoring candidate debates and forums, bird-dogging candidates to elicit positions on issues they don’t want to address, creating and publishing voter guides and voting records (with certain restrictions), endorsing candidates (this particular tool can only be done by 501(c)4 organizations, such as Peace Action New York State), and organizing and/or participating in Get Out the Vote efforts (e.g., robo calls, transportation, phone canvassing, etc.)

As a Peace Action New York State member (please join or renew your membership today), you can join the Peace Voter Campaign as an individual or as part of your local group. Contact the office at info@panys.org. Help bring us back from the brink!
Winter 2019-2020

Take Action TODAY

Iran - Tensions with Iran are at an all-time high, after Trump’s recent assassination of General Soleimani. Congress has not authorized any military action and must re-assert its constitutional authority over the use of military force. Because this situation is unfolding rapidly, please check panys.org and our social media, and subscribe to email alerts for the most current information on the best ways to take action.

AUMF - The 2001 and 2002 Authorizations of Military Force (AUMFs) are still being used to justify war across the Middle East. Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) has been vocal about repealing the AUMFs since they began and has now proposed H.R.1274 to repeal the 2001 AUMF, and H.R.2456 and S.J.Res.13 to repeal the 2002 AUMF.

North Korea - Peace talks between the U.S. and North Korea fell apart, and the state of diplomacy moving forward is unclear. However, South Korea continues to be a vocal advocate for peace. Working as part of Korea Peace Now New York, we are calling on our Representatives to support legislation to declare a formal end to the Korean War (H.Res.152).

Nuclear Disarmament - In the past year the United States withdrew from the INF (Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces) treaty and announced a $1.7 trillion nuclear expansion plan. There are several bills restricting the use and development of nuclear weapons, but we are most focused on H.R.669/S. 200 (no-first-use), H.R.1086/S.401 (hold the LYNE-Low-Yield Nuclear Explosive-Act), and H.R.4904/S. 2727 (SANE Act).

For more information on how to take action, visit https://www.panys.org/current-actions/.

Destination NYC for the April 24-26th World Conference, Rally, and March

Peace Action NYS is honored to be part of the organizing committee of a World Conference on Disarmament, Peace, Climate & Justice taking place at Riverside Church on April 24-25, 2020, followed by a Rally and March on Sunday, April 26th. On the eve of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference at the United Nations, thousands of movement leaders, activists and analysts from around the world will be gathering in New York in order to:

• Demand nuclear weapons abolition, prevent and end wars, reverse climate change, economic and social justice;

• Build the intersectional & international movements we need to prevail.

Confirmed speakers include Walden BELLO, Focus on Global South, Former Senator (Philippines), Oleg BODROV - Coalition for a Clean Baltic (Russia), Sharan BURROW - General Secretary Int’l Trade Union Confederation (Australia), Noam CHOMSKY - Renowned scholar and critic (U.S.A.), Beatrice FINN - Executive Director ICAN, Recipient of Nobel Peace Prize, Michael KLARE - Five College Peace & World Security Program (U.S.A.), and Setsuko THURLOW - ICAN – Nobel Peace Prize Recipient (Hiroshima & Canada).

Registration: https://worldconference2020.org/registration/
To Volunteer: JGerson@afsc.org
For more information: worldconference2020.org or email info@panys.org
Organizing on Campus Turf  
Student Programming Updates

**Peace Action New York State currently has 27 student chapters across the State.** This semester, our student chapters have focused on **skill building, membership growth, and community engagement.** Several different campuses have held menstrual product drives to benefit local schools or women’s shelters. Campuses also had a huge emphasis on tabling and letter writing this year focusing on issues ranging from reducing the Pentagon budget to supporting the Kurds in Syria. Many chapters also participated in the international youth-led climate strike on their campuses, drawing connections between the climate crisis and the negative environmental impacts of nuclear weapons, and providing information about the Green New Deal.

With support from the A.J. Muste Institute and Puffin Foundation, our fourth annual Student Peace Conference was held from October 4th-6th this year where we had 37 students from 15 different campuses attend. A Ploughshares Foundation Women’s Initiative grant helped us launch our Campus Incubator Project to help further engage students in anti-nuclear activism at the conference. The weekend included a nonviolent direct action training by Amnesty International, a letter writing and lobby visit training by Action Corps NYC, a keynote speech by Reece Chenault, a nuclear activism panel as part of our launching of the Campus Incubator project, and a strategic planning session where campuses planned their action steps moving forward. All the students who attended walked away feeling energized and reinvigorated to be peace activists on their campus, this became obvious as their plans turned into action over the following weeks. For example, following the fantastic nuclear activism panel that included Ray Acheson from Reaching Critical Will, Colleen Moore from Beyond the Bomb/Global Zero, and Catherine Killough from Women’s Cross DMZ, many campuses have held events surrounding nuclear activism including letter writing, film screenings, and awareness events. Even more campuses are planning on holding events around nuclear activism during the Spring semester.

For more information on our student organizing program, email emily.rubino@panys.org or deseri.tsepetis@panys.org.

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*Attendees of the Fall 2019 Student Peace Conference at Macaulay Honors College*
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Welcome back Deseri Tsepetis, our new Programs Associate and Long Island Organizer!

I first got involved with Peace Action New York State as a Peace Voter Fellow in the summer of 2018. Now a graduate of Loyola University Maryland with a degree in Global Studies and a minor in Spanish, I’m returning to PANYS as the Programs Associate and Long Island Organizer. I’m excited to continue my voter and community engagement work in collaboration with the Long Island Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives, and I look forward to expanding PANYS’ student organizing network across the state. I believe the power and passion of students working for peace cannot be underestimated, and I hope that this collaborative position will allow me to engage more young people in the peace movement throughout New York.

Welcome Ashleigh Crowther, our incoming Administrator!

I first connected with the peace movement as a teenager, in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks. Witnessing my country’s eager descent into endless war was formative in shaping my worldview and politics for years to come. It informed my decision to get my bachelor’s degree in Journalism at NYU, and it’s what led me to a career in the nonprofit sector. I’ve held administrative and development roles in several major nonprofits, most recently at the International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region, where I worked to secure funding for family planning, healthcare, and vaccine initiatives across Latin America and the Caribbean. Some people accuse my generation of being entitled and apathetic, but I can’t imagine growing up in the world as a Millennial and not caring intensely about peace, social justice, and sustainability issues. I hope to continue leveraging my education and professional skills to build a fairer, better, and more peaceful world.