

My colleagues and I are honored to accept the 2023 Youth Nuclear Abolition Award. I'd like to express our immense gratitude to our mentor, Dr. Ira Helfand, as well as PSR Greater Boston and IPPNW.

I'd like to take a few minutes to tell you how we got here, and where we're going.

I wrote a paper for my U.S. History class last year about Dr. Randall Forsberg and her work on the Nuclear Freeze Campaign of the 1980s, a movement which grew from a few town hall meetings here in the great state of Massachusetts to a 1-million person demonstration in Central Park, to this day the largest protest in American history. And a movement which I argue resulted in President Reagan's signing of the INF Treaty in 1987.

While researching for that project, I stopped and wondered: why doesn't "Gen-Z" share that same passion? Where is our drive to act? Why are the young people in our country willing to sit idly by as weapons of mass destruction devour & \$75 billion of taxpayer money every year?

After talking to dozens of my fellow teenagers, I came to a conclusion: we simply aren't aware. When I approached my friends, each one was shocked to hear that the United States possessed 5,244 nuclear warheads, that our country is projected to spend \$756 billion on nuclear weapons over the next decade, and that there's an international movement to abolish these weapons just waiting for our generation's support.

Now this is understandable; we haven't lived through Hiroshima, the Cuban Missile Crisis, or a 40-year Cold War. But since I was lucky enough to encounter this issue, I figured I needed to spread the word.

Together with my colleagues Chris, King-Diorr, and Dhruv, we founded Students For Nuclear Disarmament, a non-partisan organization dedicated to educating America's young people about the deadly threat nuclear weapons pose to humanity, and getting them involved in community based advocacy. Over the past few months, we've been working to compile educational resources to raise

awareness about this issue, like the Nuclear Famine model we're about to show you.

We're now humbly asking for your help to reach out to the high school and college students in your communities, urge them to get involved with SND today, and help us get the young people of our country aboard the fight to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

Thank you so much, and I'd like to now pass it off to Chris to talk about a project we've been working on.