



**World
Future
Council**

40 Right Livelihood Laureates and members of the World Future Council signed a Joint Statement, calling on world leaders to put more resources into achieving the elimination of all nuclear weapons

At the recent Nuclear Security Summit, 58 world leaders met in The Hague to debate nuclear industry control issues and how to ensure that nuclear materials “do not fall into the wrong hands”. In this context, the signatories of the Joint Statement pointed out the limited focus of the debate, stressing that: “For nuclear weapons, there are no right hands”.

Alyn Ware (RLA 2009 Laureate) said: *“Of course, it is imperative to prevent the spread of nuclear materials to non-state actors. But why aren’t similar resources being dedicated to eliminating the current arsenals of nuclear weapons to ensure that nuclear weapons will never again be used by accident, miscalculation or intent?”*.

Alyn Ware was also recently involved in the adoption of a resolution by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU, a global organisation of most of the world’s parliaments) on the same topic. The resolution, adopted after 12 months of consultations and negotiations, calls on parliaments to “work with their governments on eliminating the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines” and to “urge their governments to start negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or package of agreements to

achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world”.

The Cold War, it seems, is not over. It just took a nap.”

Regarding the Crimean crisis, Uri Avnery (RLA 2001 Laureate) considers that all of the opposing parties seem to “*have some justice on their side. Many of the battle cries are bogus.*”

His analysis of the Crimean secession draws upon lessons from history: the Nazi annexation of Austria, Kosovo and the First World War. Uri points out the hypocrisy of Russia’s opposition to the secession of Kosovo whilst noting the right of a sizable national minority, living in its homeland, to secede from a state it does not like.

The lesson to be learnt is how vital it is “to create conditions that make the minority want to stay in the majority state,” he writes. “Generous economic, political and cultural policies can achieve this. But for that you need the wisdom of farsighted leaders, and that is a rare commodity everywhere.”

On the eve of the International Women’s Day, Dr. Denis Mukwege (RLA 2013 Laureate), together with a group of Congolese men, launched a new project: V-Men Congo.V-Day, from which the initiative took its name, is a global activism movement aiming to end violence against women and girls. This new initiative focuses on the extreme violence faced by women in the Congo, combined with the rousing question, “Where are the men in this debate?” As DRC has been dubbed “the worst place in the world to be a woman”, the programme works towards achieving gender equality, as part of a sustainable development strategy.

The core group of the local version of this project is formed by men coming from different professional backgrounds: law, teaching, sports, science, security and activism.