Healthy development through a peaceful environment – the next generation’s need for peace policies

ISSOP Conference 2018

ICAN & IPPNW Germany

Franca Brüggen

28.09.2018
Agenda

1. Why are we talking about peace and peace policies?

2. How can we as health care workers strive for peace policies? - the example of ICAN
Why are we talking about peace policies?

WHO: “Armed conflict is one of the biggest challenges facing humanity and directly and indirectly affects health. Violence is a major source of disease.”
War as a disease?
War as a disease?

• Etiology
• Epidemiology
• Pathogenesis
• Symptoms
• Management
War as a disease?

• Etiology
• Epidemiology
• Pathogenesis
• Symptoms
• Management
Etiology

• Violent conflict: use of physical violence to “solve” a conflict, due to the lack of non-violent means

• War: extreme form of violence
War as a disease?

- Etiology
- Epidemiology
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- Symptoms
- Management
Trends in armed conflict
Children and countries in conflict

- 1995: 200 million children in conflict areas
- 2016: 357 million children
- 66 countries in conflict
- 52 countries

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War on children, 2018
28.09.2018
Most dangerous countries for children

“The nature of modern conflict is changing, and it is changing in a way that often protects soldiers more than civilians.”
War as a disease?

- Etiology
- Epidemiology
  - Pathogenesis
- Symptoms
- Management
Pathogenesis

• Structural violence

• Interpersonal violence
  • Armed vs unarmed
  • Family-level vs. Community-level
Pathogenesis

Machetes and other sharp weapons

Small arms and light weapons

Armed violence

Heavy conventional weapons

Unconventional weapons
Pathogenesis

14,935 nuclear weapons worldwide

(Quelle: SIPRI Jahrbuch Zusammenfassung 2017:16)
War as a disease?

- Etiology
- Epidemiology
- Pathogenesis
- Symptoms
- Management
Symptoms

• Direct effects:
  • Increased morbidity and disability
  • Increased mortality

• Indirect effects:
  • Psychological trauma (individual and society)
  • Misallocation of funds away from development & health
  • Displacement of people, refugees, brain drain
  • Triggering of more violence
War

Mental health problems
Moral and spiritual impacts
Psychological suffering
Sexual violence
Social and cultural losses
Illnesses
Disability
Injury
Death

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War

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Casualties in Yemen

(1) Due to the high number of health facilities that are not functioning or partially functioning as a result of the conflict, these numbers are underreported and likely higher. Source: WHO (as of 31 December 2017).
Increasing Prices in Yemen

- **Commodity**: Fuel
  - **Percentage Price Increase**: 150%
- **Commodity**: Sugar
  - **Percentage Price Increase**: 30%
- **Commodity**: Water trucking*
  - **Percentage Price Increase**: 60%
- **Commodity**: Vegetable oil
  - **Percentage Price Increase**: 26%
- **Commodity**: Wheat flour
  - **Percentage Price Increase**: 39%
- **Commodity**: Red beans
  - **Percentage Price Increase**: 26%

*Source: Cash and market working group price monitoring, December 2017; Prices increases since the blockade Nov 2017 WFP Yemen market watch, December 2017; FAO December 2017;
People in need in Yemen

- 22.2 mio people (50% children <18 years) in need of humanitarian aid:
  - Health
  - clean water and washing
  - food security
  - Protection
  - Nutrition
  - Education
  - refugees and migrants
  - shelter
War

Mental health problems

Death

Moral and spiritual impacts

Psychological suffering

Sexual violence

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War

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War as a disease?

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Health as a Bridge for Peace

We need to deliver health in conflict situations. Health can be a neutral meeting point to bring conflicting parties to discuss mutually beneficial interventions. Health workers are ideally placed because of their professional and ethical position within the community.
Management

• Secondary prevention:
  • Humanitarian aid and securing supply for basic needs
  • Evacuation of civilians from conflict zones
  • Cease-fires, even local ones
  • Peace negotiations with all sides, respect for legitimate interests
  • Unbureaucratic admission of refugees
Management

• Tertiary prevention:
  • Civil conflict resolution and reconciliation projects
  • Support for civil society (without political influence)
  • Redevelopment and resettlement projects
  • Adequate medical care for handicapped
  • Adequate psychological care for traumatized
Heat and firestorm

Nuclear explosion at the Nevada Test Site, USA, April 15, 1953.
Photo: US Department of Energy
Blast

Photo: US Department of Energy
Hiroshima, 06.08.1945

- 70,000 people dead
- 70,000 people injured
- 140,000 people dead by the end of 1945
Radioactive fall-out

http://imgur.com/oVjx0
Effects of radiation on the human body

- Natural radiation exposure: 2.4 mSv/year
- X-ray: 0.2 mSv / CT-Scan: 10 mSv
- Acute radiation sickness: >250 mSv
- Epicenter of nuclear explosion: 5000 mSv
Effects of radiation on the human body
Doctors can’t help

• Of 298 physicians in Hiroshima, 270 were killed or injured.
• of the 1,780 nurses, 1,564 were killed or injured.
• 80% of the hospitals destroyed or seriously damaged.
International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

• Founded in 1980 by Bernhard Lown (US) and Yevgeniy Chazov (USSR)

• “doctors have an obligation to prevent what they cannot treat“

• In 1985 Nobel peace prize for „spreading authoritative information and creating an awareness of the catastrophic consequences of atomic warfare.“

Chazov and Lown, in Oslo 1984
Two billion people at risk

GISS Global Average Temperature Anomaly

+ 5 Tg smoke in 2006

Temperature anomaly (°C) from 1951-1980 mean

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Crop failure in maize production, USA
Climate change causes nuclear famine
Nuclear Chain
Spending on nuclear weapons
1. War is a major public health problem, and thus a matter to all health-care workers.

2. In the case of nuclear weapons primary prevention is the only way to “treat this condition”

3. Nuclear weapons have a global impact and are a matter to everyone.
„It is not enough for us physicians to inform others about the public health effects of the criminally neglected environmental policy or the fatal nuclear arms policy in study commissions, publications or newspapers. We have to be loud, we have to get involved. The public health argument must become a powerful political factor. That means that we have to expose ourselves and fight."

Horst-Eberhard Richter

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Foundation of ICAN 2007
Humanitarian law
Humanitarian law

VS.

THE LEGAL GAP
Weapons already banned

- **Biological Weapons**: Banned under the Biological Weapons Convention, 1972
- **Chemical Weapons**: Banned under the Chemical Weapons Convention, 1993
- **Land Mines**: Banned under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty, 1997
- **Cluster Munitions**: Banned under the Convention on Cluster Munitions, 2008

**Nuclear Weapons**: Not yet banned by treaty

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Journey to the ban treaty I

- **2012**: First Humanitarian Statement
- **2013**: Oslo Conference
- **2014**: Nayarit Conference
- **2014**: Vienna Conference

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Stanislaw Petrow, 1983
Doomsday Clock

IT IS 2 MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT

thebulletin.org
ICANs strategy

- Changing the discourse on nuclear weapons
  - Challenge current beliefs and strategies
  - Constant focus of humanitarian impact
  - Framing and reframing
  - Setting the terms of the debate
  - Dominate the data
ICANs strategy

• Changing the discourse on nuclear weapons
  • Challenge current believes and strategies
  • Constant focus of humanitarian impact
  • Framing and reframing
  • Setting the terms of the debate
  • Dominate the data

• Changing policies, pushing for an international ban
  • a strong international coalition to increase the impact
  • Foster strategic partnerships
ICAN – international campaign to abolish nuclear weapons

ICAN partner organisations all over the world (N>500)
Journey to the ban treaty II
Journey to the ban treaty II

2016
A UNITED NATIONS MANDATE

2017
TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

THE NUCLEAR WEAPON BAN TREATY

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The Ban-Treaty

• Current status:
  • 69 signatures
  • 19 ratifications
Vote for adoption of ban treaty
7 July 2017

Blue: yes; Red: no
Nobel Peace Prize 2017

„ICAN arose as a protest against the established order. Nuclear weapon issues are not solely a question to be addressed by governments, nor a matter for experts or high-level politicians. Nuclear weapons concern everyone, and everyone is entitled to an opinion. ICAN has succeeded in generating fresh engagement among ordinary people in the campaign against nuclear weapons. The organisation's acronym is perhaps not a coincidence: ICAN“ - Berit Reiss-Andersen

“It’s an affront to democracy to be ruled by these weapons. But they are just weapons. They are just tools. And just as they were created by geopolitical context, they can just as easily be destroyed by placing them in a humanitarian context.” – Beatrice Finh

Setsuko Thurlow and Beatrice Finh in Oslo 2017
Summary II

1. International law provides the chance to regulate warfare and implement peace policies on an international scale
2. Using the humanitarian argument is very fruitful in this process
3. International coalitions are essential to change international law
The Ban-Treaty – Recognition of children

TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The States Parties to this Treaty,

Determined to contribute to the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Deeply concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from any use of nuclear weapons, and recognizing the consequent need to completely eliminate such weapons, which remains the only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons are never used again under any circumstances,

Mindful of the risks posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons, including from any nuclear-weapon detonation by accident, miscalculation or design, and emphasizing that these risks concern the security of all humanity, and that all States share the responsibility to prevent any use of nuclear weapons,

Cognizant that the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons cannot be adequately addressed, transcend national borders, pose grave implications for human survival, the environment, socioeconomic development, the global economy, food security and the health of current and future generations, and have a disproportionate impact on women and girls, including as a result of ionizing radiation,
**Public Opinion**

**QUESTION 2:** In July 2017, 122 of 193 UN member states adopted a comprehensive new treaty that prohibits the development, possession, deployment and use of nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons states can join the treaty if they submit a time-bound and legally binding plan for the total elimination of their nuclear weapons arsenal. Do you think your country should sign the new UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons or not?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>My country should sign the TPNW</th>
<th>My country should not sign the TPNW</th>
<th>Don't know / prefer not to answer</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ICAN - Work in practice

Pledge for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

“We, the undersigned parliamentarians,

warmly welcome the adoption of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 7 July 2017 as a significant step towards the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

We share the deep concern expressed in the preamble about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from any use of nuclear weapons and we recognize the consequent need to eliminate these inhumane and abhorrent weapons.

As parliamentarians, we pledge to work for the signature and ratification of this landmark treaty by our respective countries, as we consider the abolition of nuclear weapons to be a global public good of the highest order and an essential step to promote the security and well-being of all peoples.”

ICAN Action Academy, Berlin 2017

Parliamentarian Pledge
Public Opinion

BNP PARIBAS
STOP INVESTING IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS!

DON'T BANK ON THE BOMB
Join the movement

www.icanw.org
Long journey ahead
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION