



ICAN 2017
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Bishop Mitsuru Shirahama
Nuclear-Free World Foundation

25th June 2024

Dear Bishop Shirahama,

On behalf of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Australia, I would like to thank you and the Nuclear-Free World Foundation again for your very generous support enabling Karina Lester to attend the second Meeting of States Parties in New York in December 2023. It's hard to capture just how much Ms Lester did in such a short time. Another attendee noted: *"She was a real leader in the space and looked up to by so many. Her work there was truly monumental."*

Please accept our apologies for this very delayed report back.

Her activities were as follows:

Karina Lester engagements

Second Meeting of States Parties (United Nations) New York

23 November – 1 December 2023

Karina Lester travelled from Wallatina Station in South Australia to New York city, arriving 23 November 2023 to attend the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Over the week she was in New York Karina played a pivotal role in the international meeting. She also contributed to a remarkable number of civil society events. This report highlights some of the key achievements of her trip, as recorded by ICAN Australia Board Member Dimity Hawkins.

Sunday 26 November:

- Karina attended the whole day civil society campaigners meeting.

Monday 27 November:

- Karina attended the Peace Boat and Nuclear Truth Project breakfast for affected community members, an opportunity to meet with fellow affected community members and get orientated to the program of work.
- Karina attended the first day of the States Party meeting.

Tuesday 28 November:

- Karina addressed the UN meeting: you can [see Karina's address to the meeting here.](#)

Wednesday 29 November:

- Karina was a panellist for the Nuclear Truth Project event "Challenging Nuclear Secrecy - Voices from the Frontline" – Karina represented her story on a panel discussion with other affected community members and their supporters from the USA, French Polynesia/Ma'ohi Nui, France, the Marshall Islands and Fiji. Read more in the [ICAN summary here.](#)
- Interview with NHK.
- Interview with ICAN Germany for short documentary with other affected community representatives. See the documentary ["Five Questions" here.](#)

Thursday 30 November:

- Karina facilitated the Nuclear Survivors Forum, hosted by Peace Boat, the Nuclear Truth Project and other groups. Read more in the [ICAN summary here.](#)
- Karina spoke in a live cross to Australia. Others involved in the live event with her were Australian Member of Parliament Susan Templeman; Muhadi Sugiono Indonesian ICAN Campaigner and lecturer at the Department of International Relations at the Universitas; Gadjah Mada; and ICAN Australia representatives, Dimity Hawkins and Gem Romuld. The [full event can be viewed here.](#)

Friday 1 December:

- The New York Times interviewed Karina. You can see Karina featured in the [NYT article here.](#)

Karina also met with numerous delegates, civil society groups and other affected community representatives over the course of the week. Some photos are supplied from across the week. Her participation, together with the Australian Government's formal observership of the meeting, adds to the pressure on the Australian government to sign and ratify the TPNW.

The support of the Nuclear-Free World Foundation made an enormous difference, by enabling Karina to be a key part of this important gathering. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Please accept our thanks and sincere appreciation.

Margaret Beavis

Co-chair ICAN Australia



Picture 1: Karina with other panelists for the Nuclear Truth Project's special side event "Challenging Nuclear Secrecy/Voices from the Frontline"



Picture 2: Karina Lester and Acoma Elder Petuuche Gilbert speaking at the Nuclear Truth Project's special side event "Challenging Nuclear Secrecy/Voices from the Frontline"



Picture 3: Karina about to address the Second Meeting of States Parties in the United Nations.



Picture 4: Karina facilitating the Nuclear Survivors Forum with Kiribati Ambassador Tito receiving feedback from the affected community members.