

*Speech by Ellen Thomas,
August 6, Hiroshima Rally
2019 World Conference Against A & H Bombs:*

What good is happening in the US Congress?

Today I am a co-chair of the Disarm/End Wars Committee of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in the United States, also known as "WILPF," which has been working for a world without weapons and war since 1915.

In 1994, in the 10th year of my 18-year vigil for global nuclear weapons abolition north of the White House, I was invited to speak at the Japan Peace Conference in Misawa City, to share the news that Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton had introduced legislation into the U.S. House of Representatives calling for abolition of nuclear weapons and conversion of the war industries to provide for human needs, which she introduced as the result of a voter initiative that we antinuclear vigilers in front of the White House had brought to the people of Washington, DC.

Since then two of the original vigilers, William Thomas and Concepcion Picciotto, have died, but the White House vigil continues, day and night.

Thankfully, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton has also continued to introduce improved versions of her "Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act" into the House of Representatives every two years for the past quarter of a century.

I am delighted to be able to be with you this year representing Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. We have brought with us over 7,500 signatures collected by WILPF members at events all over the country on our petition to the US Senate asking for ratification of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which we will deliver to Hidankyo to include when presenting the "Hibakusha Appeal" to the UN.

Thanks to all of you for your continuing efforts to create a nuclear-weapons-free planet! You inspire us! As Margaret Meade said, "**Never doubt** that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that **ever** has." The success of the Hibakusha Appeal proves that the work of a few can spread to millions. I plan to keep working for that critical mass that will bring us a world without nuclear weapons ... in all our lifetimes!!!! Heiwa! Peace!

Ellen Thomas
202-210-3886
etprop1@me.co,
et@prop1.org
<http://prop1.org>
<http://wilpfus.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/nucnews>