

What is ICAN and how did it win this year's Nobel Peace Prize?

SO WHAT IS ICAN?

1) ICAN describes itself as a coalition of non-governmental organisations in 100 countries promoting adherence to and implementation of the United Nations nuclear weapon ban treaty. (adherence 忠実な支持) That global agreement was adopted by 122 countries — but not by Australia — in New York on July 7 this year.

2) It has advocated at the United Nations and in parliaments around the world, bringing the stories of those impacted by nuclear testing and survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings to a world stage.

HOW DID IT FORM?

3) ICAN set up its first office in Melbourne, with disarmament campaigner Felicity Hill as the coordinator. It officially launched in Vienna, Austria in April 2007 during the Non-Proliferation Treaty preparatory committee meeting.

4) ICAN campaign director Tim Wright said it was inspired by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, which had played a major role in the negotiation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, also known as the Ottawa treaty. (Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention 対人地雷禁止条約)

That treaty prohibits the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel land mines.

5) "We launched the campaign because nuclear disarmament had dropped off the global political agenda," Mr Wright said. (drop off 外れる)

"Many governments had become complacent about the threat of nuclear war, and the anti-nuclear movement was languishing. (complacent 自己満足して languish 活気がなくなる、棚上げされる)

6) "We were inspired by the tremendous success of the campaign to ban landmines in the 1990s.

"We wanted to emulate that success, so we worked to bring together a diverse range of organisations with the specific goal of achieving a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons." (emulate 手本とする)

IT'S ALSO HAD SOME PRETTY BIG SUPPORTERS

7) The Dalai Lama has been quoted as saying: "I can imagine a world without nuclear weapons, and I support ICAN".

ICAN also has the support of artist Yoko Ono and actors Martin Sheen and Michael Douglas.

Douglas joined ICAN's Beatrice Fihn in May last year to highlight the role that civil society plays in the work to ban nuclear weapons.

HOW DID ICAN WIN A NOBEL PEACE PRIZE?

8) There were more than 300 nominations for the award, and it can recognise both accomplishments and intentions.

Nobel committee chairwoman Berit Reiss-Andersen said ICAN "has been a driving force in prevailing upon the world's nations to pledge to cooperate ... in efforts to stigmatize, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons." (driving force 原動力、駆動力 prevail upon 納得させる stigmatize 汚名を着せる、非難する)

9) She said that while similar bans had been reached on chemical and biological weapons, land mines and cluster munitions, nuclear weapons had so far avoided a similar international ban despite being more destructive. (cluster munitions クラスター爆弾 ※通例 munitions=軍需品)

10) "The organisation is receiving the award for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition on such weapons," Ms Reiss-Anderson said. (catastrophic humanitarian consequences 破壊的な非人道的結果 ground-breaking 草分けの、革新的な)

11) While some asked whether a prize should be awarded for symbolism, since no international measures against nuclear weapons with all countries had been reached, Ms Reiss-Andersen said: "What will not have an impact is being passive." (passive 受け身の、消極的な)

12) "We live in a world where the risk of nuclear weapons being used is greater than it has been for a long time. "Some states are modernising their nuclear arsenals and there is a real danger that more countries will try to procure nuclear weapons, as exemplified by North Korea. (arsenal 兵器庫 exemplify 実例となる)

13) "Nuclear weapons pose a constant threat to humanity and to life on Earth." 後略 【2017-10-07 |ABC】

☆Icebreaker for active discussion

1. Have you ever heard about ICAN before? What do you know about it?
2. Nuclear-armed countries argue that nuclear weapons can be deterrents to war. What's your opinion about it?
3. What do you think about the current tension between the US and North Korea?
4. Do you think the day without nuclear weapons will come? Why or why not?
5. Make sentences using the following words: complacent, languish, emulate, driving force and stigmatize.