



Annual Report 2025



VOICES PROGRAM

Who we are...

Voices is a community of diplomats, scientists, scholars, educators, religious leaders, and grassroots activists committed to the elimination of nuclear weapons. We invite all people of goodwill to draw strength from their own deepest resources of hope, faith and community as we work together to reduce and eliminate the threat of nuclear weapons to the earth and all living beings.

Voices is a Cooperation Circle of the United Religions Initiative, and includes dynamic voices from many political, religious, spiritual and interfaith communities.

This year marked significant growth for Voices – in programming, partnerships, and impact – while also completing an important transition in governance to become an independent nonprofit organization.

Voices currently works for nuclear weapons abolition through two core initiatives – *Nuclear Prayer Day* and the *Gorbachev-Shultz Youth Award*. In addition, we produce monthly educational programming, support international advocacy and strategic interfaith coalition work.



NUCLEAR PRAYER DAY

Every August 6, Voices invites individuals and organizations worldwide to draw strength from their own deepest resources of hope, faith and community as we work together to eliminate the threat of nuclear weapons. Our fifth annual Nuclear Prayer Day in 2025 was our largest yet. Highlights:

- Official partner organizations (with many others participating independently)
- 31 public events listed on the NPD global calendar
- Formal endorsement from His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, world leader of Orthodox Christianity
- UN observance in the United Nations Meditation Room
- Ceremony in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park hosted jointly by the SF Interfaith Council and the Mayor's Office
- Washington, D.C.'s Nuclear Prayer Day event is now evolving into a new ongoing interfaith working group
- Co-produced a moving one-hour video with the Charter for Compassion
- Two live Zoom programs on August 6 with 100+ attendees and further reach on multiple Facebook pages
- Significant social media engagement, including strong promotion from the United Religions Initiative (URI)
- Featured video by Eric Roux, URI Global Council Chair
- Hawaii partners held NPD events with the Mayor's Office and civic organizations
- Japanese partners held a ceremony at Hiroshima Memorial Peace



THE 2025 GORBACHEV-SHULTZ YOUTH AWARD

This award honors the legacy of George Shultz (a founding member of Voices) and Mikhail Gorbachev by recognizing a young leader advancing nuclear disarmament.

2025 Honoree: *Haneen Khalid* (Pakistan/United States) – youth organizer, Obama scholar and advocate for marginalized voices in nuclear policy. Currently a scholar on nuclear weapons at Princeton University, Ms. Khalid is pursuing research on how different countries have come to their particular nuclear postures, and what kinds of influences (including public pressure) tend to mitigate or increase risk.

As a 2025 Gorbachev-Shultz Youth Awardee, Haneen believes responsibility for our shared future lies with those willing to lead with care and courage. Sometimes progress means bold action; other times, it is the work of preserving beauty, connection, and continuity.

- The Award was presented in person at a ceremony in San Francisco and featured on KTVU FOX News.
- Voices also arranged a visit for Ms. Khalid to Stanford University where she met with Dr. Rose Gottemoeller, former NATO Deputy Secretary General and leading expert on nuclear policy.



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT & CAMPUS CHAPLAINS

Recognizing the urgency felt by young people, Voices has begun building a strategy to engage campus chaplains as key conveners and catalysts for moral leadership and action.

- Presented to national chaplains' conference in Washington, D.C.
- Presentation as part of national college chaplains monthly online learning series
- Follow-up consultations with national chaplain leaders confirming the desire for resource book
- Successfully secured a one-year grant to produce a Campus Chaplain Resource Book on the Nuclear Threat

Organizational Milestone: Independent 501(c)(3)

Since 2008, Voices has been hosted under the fiscal sponsorship of the United Religions Initiative (URI). In 2025, Voices officially received its own 501(c)(3) IRS designation and is now an independent nonprofit entity.

Current structure:

- Board of six Directors
- Executive Committee (meets monthly)
- Multiple working committees
- Part-time staff

Board Retreat – August 2025 (San Francisco)

Key decisions included:

- Reaffirmation of Voices' core mission
- Continued commitment to Nuclear Prayer Day and Youth Award
- Planning for more strategic cooperation
- Strengthening internal operations

"Voices has taken ownership of all fiduciary matters, no longer under the financial umbrella of the United Religions Initiative. We have our 501c3 official status and your gifts will be tax-deductible."

-The Rt. Rev. William E. Swing, Founder, Voices for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS & INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

Voices works closely with:

URI • Charter for Compassion • ICAN • Back from the Brink • Interfaith and academic networks worldwide

At the 2025 TPNW Review Conference at the United Nations:

- Board member Anna Ikeda wrote the official interfaith statement to the plenary
- Jonathan Granoff, Voices co-founder, spoke at multiple workshops
- Several Voices members attended and participated in meetings and workshops.



www.voices-uri.org

Voices is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Please consider making a donation to support our work:

Voices PO Box 453, Mount Shasta, CA 96067.

The Voices Federal Tax ID number is: 33-3491353.