



# Nuclear Weapons Harm Reduction

**The Nuclear Weapons Harm Reduction project aims to address harms associated with nuclear weapons programmes and prevent and mitigate potential future harms. To those ends, BASIC is developing a holistic framework to identify harms across the full nuclear weapons lifecycle.**

BASIC<sup>1</sup> is pleased to announce the Nuclear Weapons Harm Reduction project. Running through 2025-26, the project aims to examine and identify the past, present, and potential future harms associated with nuclear weapons programmes across the entire nuclear weapons lifecycle. The project will publish a 'Nuclear Weapons Harm' framework, identifying these harms. On the basis of this framework, we will produce three reports, applying the framework to the context of the United Kingdom's nuclear weapons programme.

The first iteration of this project, 'Scoping British Nuclear Weapons Harms', generously funded by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, will explore the United Kingdom as a pilot case study, given that BASIC is a UK-based organisation. We hope that this work can facilitate an increase in public awareness of nuclear weapons harms and democratic participation in deliberation over the UK's nuclear weapons programme, influence Government and Parliamentary attention and response to nuclear weapons harms, and provide a resource to enable affected communities to be better heard.

The project offers a process that intends to look at 'nuclear weapons harm' and 'harm reduction' in a comprehensive manner, spanning the nuclear weapons lifecycle. This intentionally holistic approach includes and builds on earlier work on humanitarian and environmental impacts, and seeks to identify social and political impacts, highlighting the interconnection between these areas.

The project takes an objective approach to the research, with the view that the framework could be used by a wide variety of UK-based and international actors for a range of harm reduction activities. The project is designed to be 'treaty-agnostic', and stakeholder engagement at meetings of both the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) have informed our work so far.

Due to its treaty-agnostic approach, the framework serves as a tool which can be applied to relevant treaty contexts, but can also exist as a stand-alone resource that goes beyond international obligations to facilitate domestic level policy efforts. This approach intends to build resilience around existing multilateral treaties and other measures for international peace and security, non-proliferation, and disarmament, and in addition to them.

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<sup>1</sup> BASIC is an independent, nonprofit think tank headquartered in London working to safeguard humanity and Earth's ecosystem from nuclear risks and interconnected security threats, for generations to come. See <https://basicint.org> for more information.