

# WHAT DO NUKES HAVE TO DO WITH CLIMATE CHANGE?

## LET'S TALK ABOUT: VULNERABILITIES



### THE VULNERABLE SUFFER

The most vulnerable people have little to do with climate change and nothing to do with nuclear weapons, yet they suffer the most. Indigenous communities, intergenerational survivors, and racially marginalised people, disproportionately suffer from the destructive effects of climate change and the harmful impacts of nuclear weapons testing and use.

### CASE IN POINT

The nexus between nukes, climate, and vulnerability is perhaps most potent in the Marshall Islands. Now their islands face rising sea levels caused by global warming. The people also suffer from radiation-related illness and death since US nuclear tests in the 1950s. These tests disproportionately impact women and girls with alarmingly high rates of stillbirths, miscarriages, and birth defects.

### HISTORIC RESPONSIBILITIES

Rich countries have polluted the most, including through nuclear testing. They have the historic responsibility to help those vulnerable to climate change and victims of nuclear tests. They should make resources available to poor countries affected most by these threats.

### AGENTS OF CHANGE

Despite challenging circumstances, vulnerable people have shown great strength in dealing with nuclear and climate disasters. We can support them in their search for justice and reparations. Also, we can partner with them in innovative national climate solutions and global nuclear disarmament.

### WHAT NOW?

The issues that vulnerable countries and populations face with regard to nuclear weapons and testing should be addressed at the United Nations Climate Change Conferences and at the Meetings of States Parties to the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Policy makers should not only talk about vulnerable people, but also with them. They should have a seat at the table!

Sources  
[https://www.icanw.org/nuclear\\_tests](https://www.icanw.org/nuclear_tests)

