



Peace position statement

1. Purpose

This position statement sets out the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation's (ANMF) commitment to peace as fundamental to health and safety and its support for initiatives to restore and safeguard peace. It should be read with the ANMF position statement: *Health, the environment and climate change*.

2. Definitions

The ANMF defines **peace** as not only the absence of violence or war but also the presence of concord and harmony within and between nations that allows people to live and grow in freedom and justice. Living in peace means enjoying freedom of thought; freedom of expression; freedom of religion; freedom of association; freedom of movement; and the right to self-determination.

3. Context

Health cannot be achieved without peace. When there is no peace, access to adequate healthcare, education, justice, food, safety and shelter – basic human rights essential for a healthy and dignified life – is diminished.

Unions, including the ANMF, have long played an important role in advocating for and fighting for these rights and working collectively the world over to restore and protect peace and health for all.

4. Position

It is the position of the ANMF that:

1. All people, wherever they live, have the right to live in peace, without fear of aggression or subversion by their government, a foreign power, by military force or by other means.
2. The use of force to resolve political or economic problems should always be opposed, but nations and people should be able to defend their values, their way of life and their culture.
3. The pursuit of peace should have priority over all political objectives and all serious efforts for peace should be actively supported and encouraged.
4. Inequality; poverty; the oppression of individuals, communities, and nations; and the degradation of the environment are all threats to peace and health.

The ANMF condemns:

5. the production and use of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, including weapons intended for biological warfare
6. the production and use of landmines and the stockpiling, use, production and transfer of cluster munitions.¹¹

¹¹ Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Convention on Cluster Munitions, 19-30 May 2008. *Convention on cluster munitions*. Available at <https://www.clusterconvention.org/>.



The ANMF supports:

7. the *Universal declaration of human rights*, the United Nations (UN) *Convention of the rights of the child* and the UN *Declaration on the rights of Indigenous people* ^{2,3,4}
8. the implementation of programs to disable and dismantle existing nuclear weapons
9. education for peace and disarmament.

The ANMF calls for:

10. an immediate worldwide cessation on the development, production and testing of nuclear weapons, biological weapons and other weapons of mass destruction
11. all countries and governments, including the Australian Government, to support the *UN Biological weapons convention* and the *UN Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons* ^{5,6}
12. the introduction of effective national and international controls on the trade in weapons.

The ANMF encourages nurses and midwives to:

13. raise awareness about the potential political, social, environmental and health consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction
14. critically appraise national and global expenditure on conventional weapons, nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction against expenditure on health and welfare
15. be involved in developing strategies and taking actions that contribute to lasting national and international peace.

5. Position statement management

Document type: Position statement	Review process: Federal Executive every three years
Title: Peace	Last reviewed: November 2023
Endorsed: June 1998	Next review: November 2026

² United Nations General Assembly. 1945. *The universal declaration of human rights*. Available at <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>.

³ United Nations. 1989. *Conventions on the Rights of the Child* Available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>.

⁴ United Nations. 2007. *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People* Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html>.

⁵ United Nations Sixth Review Conference. 2006. *The Biological Weapons Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction*. Available at <https://legal.un.org/avl/ha/cpdpsbbtwd/cpdpsbbtwd.html>.

⁶ United Nations. 2017. *Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons*. Available at <https://disarmament.unoda.org/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/#:~:text=The%20Treaty%20on%20the%20Prohibition,threaten%20to%20use%20nuclear%20weapons>.