

# PEACE CAUCUS

PEACE CAUCUS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

APHA Annual Meeting November 2-6, 2019 Philadelphia, PA



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## PEACE, JUSTICE, & PUBLIC HEALTH: YOUR GUIDE TO APHA SESSIONS & EVENTS



### Let's Move "Back from the Brink" of Nuclear Apocalypse

*Robert M. Gould, MD, Chair, Peace Caucus*

The current U.S. program to "modernize" our nuclear arsenal is projected to cost up to \$1.7 trillion, after inflation, over the next 30 years, and with similar modernization programs of Russia, China, and other nuclear weapons states (NWS), have created a new nuclear arms race. President Trump announced last February that the U.S. would withdraw from the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, and subsequently President Putin announced reciprocal Russian intent to withdraw. Continued nuclear flashpoints in South Asia and Korea, and the recent threats of a U.S. war on Iran, have added to this combustible mix, as have nascent offensive global programs to develop and deploy new hypersonic missiles that could initiate a nuclear, or very powerful conventional attack on targets across the globe on the order of 15 minutes, defying any possible "defense." Of equal

concern are the greatly increased global capabilities of cyberwarfare exemplified by the recent revelation of a U.S. program, active since 2012, which inserted cyberweapons into the Russian power grid. These actions, mirrored by Russian and other active state programs, threaten all critical infrastructure, including industrial facilities such as chemical plants and oil refineries that could lead to devastating impacts on public and environmental health. Equally vulnerable are the hundreds of global nuclear power plants that could be remotely sabotaged to provide the dread equivalent of a nuclear terror attack or meltdown.

In recognition of these mutually reinforcing threats to human existence, **Physicians for Social Responsibility** has joined with partners such as the **Union of Concerned Scientists**, **Federation of American Scientists**, **350.org**, and numerous others in developing a national, grassroots "Back from the Brink" (*BftB*) campaign, which subsumes many of the goals of the 2017 Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons. *BftB* calls on our government to: (1) End the sole, unchecked authority of any President to initiate a nuclear attack; (2) Have the U.S. adopt a No First Use policy; (3) Take the U.S. nuclear arsenal off hair-trigger alert; (4) Cancel the U.S. plan for modernizing its nuclear weapons arsenal; and (5) Initiate negotiations with all other NWS to achieve a verifiable, enforceable, and time-bound accord to eliminate all nuclear arsenals. Some individual calls of *BftB* such as "No First Use" have been incorporated within proposed current national legislation that aims for bipartisan support. In addition, a more comprehensive resolution, "**Embracing the Goals and Provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**" (**H.R. 302**) has been introduced by Representatives Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), which embraces all of the goals of the *BftB* campaign. Such Congressional actions have been complemented by a robust grassroots movement working within towns, cities and states throughout the nation to pass local resolutions in support of the *BftB* campaign. As with the increasing engagement of physicians and other health professionals around the health impacts of climate change, our voices opposing the real and present dangers of nuclear war are critically needed, and reinforced by long-standing policies within the APHA calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons. Your active participation in this movement can make a real difference for human survival. For more information see:

<https://www.preventnuclearwar.org>

### APHA To Vote on War & Conflict-Related Policies

*Let your support be heard at the Joint Policy Committee Public Hearings on Sunday 3:30 - 6:00, PCC 203B (Session 272.0)*

Ask **APHA to call for the United States to end its support of the war in Yemen**. Since 2015, the civil war in Yemen has led to what the United Nations calls "the world's worst humanitarian crisis". Bombings of the country and its health infrastructure, along with port blockades that keep desperately needed water, food, and medicine out of the country, have left millions malnourished or at risk of famine. Three MPH students at the **University of Washington** partnered with the **Yemen Relief and Reconstruction Foundation** to research the effects of the US-supported, Saudi-led war on Yemen. Their product was a policy statement that will be considered at this year's APHA annual meeting calling for the US to end its support of the war. Contact Elizabeth Nutting @ [enutting@uw.edu](mailto:enutting@uw.edu) for more information.

A second policy statement, **A call to end violent attacks on health workers and health facilities in war and armed conflict settings**, authored by members of the International Health Section, and endorsed by the Peace Caucus, Medical Care Section, Occupational Health and Safety Section, and Forum on Human Rights, seeks to protect health workers in conflict settings who are increasingly under attack for their work, despite the legal protections afforded to them by the Geneva Conventions and other international law. It calls on APHA to recommend: 1) improved monitoring, tracking, investigating and reporting of targeted violence against health workers, 2) improved compliance with international law via training and legal reform, and 3) holding perpetrators accountable while removing political and material support for their actions. Contact Amy Hagopian @ [hagopian@uw.edu](mailto:hagopian@uw.edu) for more information.

# APHA PEACE CAUCUS & RELATED SESSIONS & EVENTS

Join the PEACE CAUCUS TODAY @ [www.aphapeacecaucus.org](http://www.aphapeacecaucus.org)

## SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>

- 8:00 – 9:00 AM - Session 202.0 (PCC 119A)  
**Peace Caucus Business Meeting. ALL WELCOME!**
- 3:30 – 6:00 PM - Session 272.0 (PCC 203B)  
**Joint Policy Committee Public Hearings C and D: International Health/Human Rights and Prevention.**
- 6:00 – 9:00 PM - Ocean Harbor Restaurant 1023 Race Street  
**Health Activist Dinner.** Tickets and info here:  
<http://www.healthactivistdinner.org> (no tickets sold at the door)

## MONDAY NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>

- 8:30 – 10:00 AM - Session 3045.0 (PCC 124)  
**Advocacy Campaigns for Global Health (IH)**
- 10:30 – 12:00 PM - Session 3166.0 (Marriott: 4th FL 411/412)  
**Whose lives matter? War, the media, structural inequities, & racism. (PC)**
- 1:00 – 2:30 PM - Session 3266.0 (PCC 124)  
**Global Health Challenges in Conflict and Displacement (IH)**
- 3:00- 4:30 PM - Session 3376.0 (PCC 103C)  
**Celebrating 100 Years of the ILO: Exploring the Future of Work & Health (OHS, ENV, IH, Peace Caucus)**
- 6:30 – 8:00 PM - Session 353.0 (PCC 126B)  
**Palestine Health Justice Working Group Meeting (IH)**

## TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>

- 1:00 – 2:30 PM - Session 4271.0 (Marriott: 4th FL 414/415)  
**Health and human rights after political transition: The case of Myanmar's ethnic minority populations. (PC)**
- 1:00 – 2:30 PM - Session 4258.0 (PCC 123)  
**Local Implications of Militarized Policing: Resisting Deadly Exchange (a BCHW Collaboration). (IH)**
- 3:00 – 4:30 PM – Session 4376.0 (PCC 103B)  
**Liberation Medicine: Strategies for health worker activism from the border, immigrant detention centers, the exam room, and the classroom. (SC)**
- 5:00 PM–6:30 PM - Session 4426.0 (PCC 122B)  
**New initiatives aimed at putting war & militarism on the public health agenda (a Peace Caucus Collaboration).**
- 5:00 PM–6:30 PM - Session 4411.0 (PCC 125)  
**Health Impacts and Human Rights Implications of the Syrian Conflict. (IH)**
- 6:30 PM–9:00 PM - Session 442.0 (PCC Ballroom A)  
**APHA Public Health Awards Ceremony & Reception.**
- 7:30–11:00 PM - Ladder 15, 1528 Sansom Street  
**OHS Scholarship Fundraiser Dance Party and ILO 100-Year Anniversary Celebration!** Tickets online  
<https://ohs2019fundraiser.bpt.me/> (up to 12 hours before the event or pay exact change cash at the door)

## WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>

- 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM - Session 5091.0 (PCC 125)  
**Science and Action to Promote Health and Prevent War (a Peace Caucus Collaboration) (IH)**
- 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM - Session 511.0 (Marriott - 5th FL Grand Salon E)  
**International Health Section Luncheon**

## PEACE CAUCUS SESSIONS

Patrice Sutton, MPH, Peace Caucus Program Planner

202.0 Sunday 11/3 8:00-9:00 AM

Peace Caucus Business Meeting  
Everyone Welcome!

Pennsylvania Convention Center: 119A

3166.0 Monday 11/4 10:30 AM-12:00 PM  
Whose lives matter?

War, the media, and structural inequities & racism  
Philadelphia Marriott Downtown: 4th FL 411/412

4271.0 Tuesday 11/5 1:00–2:30 PM

Health and human rights after political transition: The case of  
Myanmar's ethnic minority populations  
Philadelphia Marriott Downtown: 4th FL 414/415

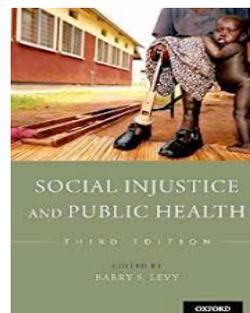
4426.0 Tuesday 11/5 5:00 PM–6:30 PM

New initiatives aimed at putting war & militarism  
on the public health agenda (a Peace Caucus Collaboration)  
Pennsylvania Convention Center: 122B

## CONGRATULATIONS !!!

Shelley K. White, MPH, PhD, MPH Program Director, Simmons University and an Associate Professor of Public Health and Sociology. Dr. White is the 2019 recipient of the **Sidel-Levy Award for Peace**, being honored for her contributions in identifying war as a public health problem and her innovative MPH curriculum on health equity that includes a focus on militarism and war, among other work.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST



**Social Injustice and  
Public Health  
3<sup>rd</sup> Edition  
Edited by  
Barry Levy**

**Humanitarian Action  
and Ethics  
Edited by Ayesha  
Ahmad and  
James Smith**

**HUMANITARIAN  
ACTION AND  
ETHICS**



With a Foreword by Hugo Slim  
Edited by Ayesha Ahmad and James Smith

Reviewed at:

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13623699.2019.1606969>

VISIT PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AT THE PCC EXPO BOOTH 1001