



## **BANg – Ban All Nukes generation**

### **History**

At the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty at the UNO in 2005 in New York, for the first time youth have been able to raise their voice. Still, the conference failed. Therefore, some of the youths from Europe decided to found a European Youth Network for Nuclear Disarmament to tackle the threat of nuclear war by youths from all over Europe.

In October 2005 in Milano, Italy, it happened: BANg (BAN ALL NUKES generation) was born from the founding meeting with 20 people from 7 countries attending.

The network intends to offer youth a space to develop and implement their own strategy to achieve peace and nuclear disarmament in Europe and in the world. It is also a marketplace of ideas to exchange successful experiences, tricks and information. By now, BANg has over 80 members from various organisations in a dozen countries.

### **Our Mission**

“The danger of a nuclear war has never been greater than today”<sup>1</sup>

Hundreds of thousands of people were killed by the atom bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Since then the world has lived under the threat of nuclear weapons. The US, Russia, the UK, France and China have developed nuclear arsenals, which they keep, even modernise, despite their obligation to disarm according to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. India, Pakistan, Israel and maybe North Korea followed the five 'official nuclear powers' in developing their own nuclear weapons. Other countries in Europe (namely Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy and Turkey) have US nuclear weapons deployed on their soil and even train with them along the NATO nuclear sharing arrangement. They have all failed to honour their commitments and obligations towards international law and have blocked possible roads to global nuclear disarmament. Meanwhile, the process of proliferation continues, as one cannot claim to have nuclear weapons for its own security, while ruling out the same right to others. The risks of proliferation of nuclear weapons from civil nuclear programs are increasing, while not enough support is provided for peaceful cooperation on the inalienable right of humans to safe, clean and sustainable energy.

BANg, the European Youth Network for Nuclear Disarmament, believes it is time to turn the tide. Nuclear weapons are immoral and illegal. The time for nuclear disarmament is now! We believe a nuclear weapons free Europe is a necessary step towards nuclear disarmament and peace worldwide.

As a network we join the worldwide struggle for nuclear disarmament while focusing, as a first step, on Europe. We aim to: - Bring young people together and share ideas on peace and disarmament, - Inform people on the threat of nuclear weapons and the urgency of disarmament, - Promote non-violent action for a more peaceful world, - Support and strengthen existing campaigns against nuclear weapons by organising international youth participation, - Organise actions to increase the pressure for disarmament.

In our actions, we strictly commit ourselves to non-violence.

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<sup>1</sup> Mohammed ElBaradei, director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, is the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize winner



## **Report of activities after July 2006 until June 2008**

Besides taking part in several international youth and peace events in Italy, the USA (ANA 2006), and Germany, and reaching thousands of youth via Email-lists, websites, postcards, school posters, articles, online films etc., BANg's main educational activities have been:

August 2006: Participation in the "Youth for a Nuclear Free Europe" event of Friends of the Earth Belgium, in which context BANg has been able to hold a meeting with around 30 participants. Part of the activities of "Youth for a Nuclear Free Europe" with youth from 13 countries were a bike tour through Mayors for Peace member cities, actions at NATO headquarter SHAPE and Nuclear Weapons Base "Kleine Brogel", as well as commemorations of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings.

May 2007: BANg had a delegation of around 25 young people to the NPT PrepCom in Vienna, Austria. BANg has also been convening the youth speech to the plenary of the conference that had been developed via an international Email list. Also, daily actions like juggling with "nuclear balls", banners and chalking, or planting a sunflower peace symbol, have been part of the activities to remind the delegates of, like one banner posed it, disarmament as "your duty - our future".

June 2007: BANg released the multilingual DVD "Genie in a Bottle - Unleashed", with the short film of the same title, made by two 13 year old boys from the US, on the story of the nuclear genie, the Manhattan Project and Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The DVD also contains numerous other short films and information items. Over 70 people were involved in or contributed to the voluntary project.

In July 2007, BANg has organised an EU-sponsored programme with 20 people, consisting of an Action Academy at Faslane nuclear base at Scotland (including renowned experts like Dr. Rebecca Johnson and Regina Hagen, and a non-violent action at the nuclear submarine base, as part of Faslane 365), a postcard competition and a media campaign to follow (postcards, documentary film, educational poster).

In August 2007, BANg has been able to send five young women between 16 and 21 on board of Peace Boat to travel to New York. On board, the five "BANg girls" held a series of workshops. In New York, they participated in a workshop at the 25th Anniversary Symposium of the "International Institute on Peace Education", held a Youth Appeal together with Peace Boat's Global University at the Nagasaki Day Memorial Festival, and had a meeting with Sergio Duarte, Head of the Office of Disarmament Affairs.

In March 2008, BANg and the German educational project "Nuclear Weapons Policy: Learn - Experience - Participate" published the educational poster "Nuclear Weapons in Europe" for schools and workshops in English and German.

In April/May 2008, BANg organised a youth and student delegation to the NPT PrepCom in Geneva. The over 80 participants stayed in a nuclear bunker, witnessed the negotiations, held a youth speech to the plenary, and did street information actions and performances (with IPPNW students). They held a negotiation simulation on a Nuclear Weapons Convention on the 3rd of May, organised by INESAP and ZIT Darmstadt, and in the preparation for this the simulation delegations had talks with the real delegations, thus raising awareness about the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention among diplomats.

<http://www.geneva.bang-europe.org/>