

# Global Nuclear Legacy Project: Understanding the Impacts of the Nuclear Age

## *International Hearings Campaign*

*Exposing the Human and Environmental  
Impacts of Nuclear Weapons and Energy Production,  
Exploring Safe Paths Forward*



Organizational Partners:



**Hanford Challenge**



Alliance for Nuclear Accountability

**BELLONA**

**GAP** GOVERNMENT • ACCOUNTABILITY • PROJECT



Movement for Nuclear Safety

## Purpose

Since the 1940s, the production of nuclear weapons and energy has had profound impacts on the health of our environment and our communities.

The Global Nuclear Legacy Project will coordinate hearings in 3 major European, American, and Russian cities to inform the world's people and politicians of the lessons learned over the past seven decades, stop the unexamined proliferation of the nuclear industry, and promote a new path forward.

## Co-organizers of the Project

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Movement for Nuclear Safety  
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## **Objectives of the International Hearings Campaign**

- Advocate for improved nuclear safety by increasing awareness of the legacies of the nuclear age to establish public policies that are protective of human health and the environment and carried out in an open, inclusive manner.
- Increase coordination between American, European, and Russian organizations concerned about nuclear safety, disarmament, waste disposal, whistleblower rights, and the resurgence of nuclear industries;
- Lay the foundation for legislation to protect whistleblowers by exposing the nuclear industry's culture of cover-ups, environmental abuse, and persecution of the men and women who report wrongdoing;
- Stop the unexamined proliferation of the nuclear industry.

## **Concept background**

The International Hearings Campaign began in 2006 when over 50 Russian, American and European activists, lawyers, journalists, and scientists met in St. Petersburg, Russia to discuss nuclear safety, proliferation and whistleblower protection. Supported by Ploughshares Fund, the conference was designed as an answer to the G8 Summit, being held concurrently in St. Petersburg, where leaders of powerful nations met to discuss “Energy and the Environment.”

The activists' conference was planned as an opportunity to speak with one voice in response to international plans for the expansion of nuclear technologies. The participants released a consensus statement directed at the G8 and identified specific projects for future collaborative work. The project deemed most effective was the coordination of international hearings on the environmental and health legacies of the nuclear age. The concept was introduced by Bob Alvarez. In 1980, Alvarez organized citizens' hearings in Washington, DC for victims of radiation exposure and is now a senior scholar with the Institute of Policy Studies. He pointed out that discussion of the environmental, human and even economic impacts of the nuclear industry have all but disappeared from the public sphere. The need for international hearings was further affirmed at the “Workshop on International Nuclear Accountability,” held in the US in 2007 where Russians and Americans met to share experiences faced by whistleblowers, brainstorm strategies to expose nuclear contamination and fight proliferation.

## **Project Summary: International Hearings Campaign**

### Stage one: Planning meeting in Budapest, Hungary – May 2009

The organizers of the Campaign will convene in Budapest. Given the current security situation in Russia, Budapest is the safest, closest, and most neutral eastern European city to gather to build alliances among American, European, and Russian partners. We will convene 10 Russian, 10 American and 10 European activists, whistleblowers, and policymakers to discuss the political struggles that hide environmental contamination and hinder effective cleanup and waste disposal. The organizers will develop a detailed implementation plan for the next stage of the International Hearings Campaign during this three-day meeting. The Hearings will allow new truth-tellers to come forward in high-profile settings with the goal of influencing public policy.

### Stage two: International Hearings –2010

Though the definitive strategy will emerge in Budapest, the preliminary vision is to conduct a series of three hearings in Moscow, Berlin and Washington, DC (or New York City). Governmental contacts to increase the media exposure and effectiveness of the hearings are already being developed. Rebecca Harms, a member of the European Parliament, has agreed to participate in the conference and assist in organizing an International Hearing in the European Parliament. To coordinate appropriate venues, planning is underway within the US Congress, the United Nations, and European Parliament. Testimonies from the hearings will be published to serve as a resource on the legacies of contamination and insider experiences at some of the most contaminated sites in the world. The publication will be available online and in hard copy.

### Stage three: Sharing Lessons of the Nuclear Legacy – 2011

After the International Hearings, the partners in the International Hearings Campaign will share our findings at meetings in countries in the developed and developing world who are contemplating nuclear energy.

## **In Perspective: International Hearings and the Global Energy Crisis**

The nuclear industries are gearing up for a major renaissance in response to the increasing scarcity of traditional energy resources. Concurrently, the number of nations with (or seeking) nuclear weapons is growing. As the governments of the world prepare to navigate the difficult times ahead, it is wise to step back and review the legacy and the true cost of the nuclear age.

Part of the goal of this project is to share with the world the lessons we have learned in the years since the creation of the atomic bomb. We wish to share our perspective in order to promote a new path forward. Scientists are learning more each day about the acute and long term effects of nuclear production and nuclear waste on human health and the environment. Around the world, huge swaths of land are uninhabitable by humans due to radioactive contamination. In seemingly safe downstream communities, drinking water is contaminated by nuclear facilities. Workers at those nuclear facilities are often not given adequate information or equipment to protect them from radiation and chemicals.

Nuclear power has never been economically viable without massive government subsidy and the true costs, including waste disposal and decommissioning of old reactors are problems that have never been properly addressed.

Activists, whistleblowers, and scientists who work in or around nuclear sites in the United States, Russia, and Europe have been meeting annually to discuss the issues they face, the lessons they are learning, and strategies for monitoring contamination, promoting safe cleanup, and furthering accountability within the nuclear industry.

#### **Current Working Group and Sponsoring Organizations:**

- Tom Carpenter, Hanford Challenge/GAP, USA
- Sarah Louisignau, Hanford Challenge/USA
- Susan Gordon, Director of Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, USA
- Natalia Mironova, Movement for Nuclear Safety, Russia
- Alexander Nikitin, ERC Bellona, Russia
- Elena Kobets, ERC Bellona, Russia

## The Facility – Central European University Conference Center



Lodging and dining for the participants, as well as the conference space will be at the Center. The website [www.ceucenter.hu](http://www.ceucenter.hu)

### **Budapest – Participants List** (as of May 2009)

Staff:

Sarah Louisignau - Coordinator  
Liz Mattson

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Alison O'Donnell - Facilitator

### **USA Participant List**

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|------------------------|---|
| 1. Tom Carpenter       | Hanford Challenge   |
| 2. Louis Clark         | Government Accountability Project                         |
| 3. Susan Gordon        | Alliance for Nuclear Accountability                       |
| 4. Tom Clements        | Friends of the Earth                                      |
| 5. Seth Tuler          | Social and Environmental Research<br>Institute (SERI)     |
| 6. Don Hancock         | Southwest Research and Information<br>Center              |
| 7. Beatrice Brailsford | Snake River Alliance                                      |
| 8. Arjun Makhijani     | Institute for Energy and Environmental<br>Research (IEER) |
| 9. Scott Kovac         | Nuclear Watch New Mexico                                  |

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|----------------------|---|
| 10. Marco Kaltofen   | Boston Chemical Data-Hanford<br>Challenge |
| 11. Michael Mariotte | NIRSWISE                                  |
| 12. Cindy Folkers    | Beyond Nuclear                            |
| 13. Yancy Cottrill   | GAP                                       |

Russian Participant List

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|----------------------|--|
| 1. Elena Kobets      | Environmental Rights Center/Bellona  |
| 2. Natalia Mironova  | Movement for Nuclear Safety  |
| 3. Alexander Nikitin | Environmental Rights Center/Bellona  |
| 4. German Lukashin   | Engineer for Technical Safety at VNIITF (All<br>Russian Scientific Research Institute for<br>Technical Physics |
| 5. Alexey Mityunin   | Cooperation for the Defense of People  |
| 6. Andrey Talevlin   | Pravosoznaniye, Professor of Law/Chelyabinsk<br>State University   |
| 7. Alexey Yablokov   | Moscow Center for Russian Environmental<br>Policy  |
| 8. Oleg Bodrov       | Green World  |
| 9. Vladmir Slivyak   | Ecodefense   |

European Participants (to date)

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Peer de Rijk           | WISE/Amsterdam  |
| 2. Jean-Charles Lallemand | Politician - France   |
| 3. Jean-Marie Matagne     | Action of Citizens for Total Disarmament of<br>Nukes/France |
| 4. Martin Butcher         | Activist/UK and USA   |
| 5. Ada Amon               | Energia Klub/Hungary  |
| 6. Laure Noualhat         | Journalist/documentarian/France                             |
| 7. Bernhard Clasen        | Activist/Germany  |
| 8. Di McDonald            | Nuclear Information Service/UK                              |