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Dear Dr Nholstad

Nomination of Bruce Kent for the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize

I wish to nominate Bruce Kent for the Nobel Peace Prize 2019. Widely recognised as the foremost public champion of peace in the UK over the last five decades, he is to this day and in his 90th year still working - tirelessly, consistently, effectively and with a clear broad vision - to establish and promote a culture of peace, and to bring about the abolition of war.

Bruce works pro-actively at all levels – local, national and international to

- ban the development, possession and use of nuclear weapons,
- control and reduce the international arms trade,
- promote a new and peaceful international order based on the rule of law and the ideals of the United Nations,
- address the underlying causes from which violent conflict arises, promoting non-violent methods for the avoidance and resolution of such conflict
- uphold the concept of, and respect for, human rights,
- establish a culture of peace, through education in schools, and more broadly throughout society.

Although an extremely well-known individual voice for peace, the bulk of his work has been devoted to strengthening organisations and building movements. His energetic and persuasive leadership in a whole variety of bodies has been simply remarkable. Among them I would highlight the following:

1967 Founded the Nigeria-Biafra Committee with the aim of ending arms supplies to both sides in a civil war.

1974-76 Chair, War on Want – a national charity which challenges the root causes of global poverty, inequality and injustice and which regards militarised conflict as a major one of those causes.

1974 Instrumental, with others, in establishing Campaign Against Arms Trade - still an outstanding campaigning organisation today, working to end the iniquities of the global arms trade.

1974 Became full-time chaplain with Pax Christi's British Section. Also served variously as member of the Executive Committee and Vice-President of Pax Christi International. **Currently Vice-President, Pax Christi UK.**

1980-90 General Secretary and Chair, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), taking a leading part as spokesperson on radio and television for disarmament and peace throughout the Cold War years of the 1980s. At the time of his leadership the Campaign grew from 2,000 to 100,000 national members and from about 30 active local groups to nearly 1000. As part of this work he visited the USSR, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, the US and many other countries. In 1982 he organised a large party to lobby in New York the UN Second Special Session on Disarmament. **Currently Vice-President of CND.**

1985-92 President, International Peace Bureau, succeeding the 1974 Nobel Peace Laureate Sean MacBride. The IPB (itself a Nobel laureate organisation) is a federation of over 300 NGOs worldwide. Bruce's leadership was crucial in stabilising the organisation and offering dynamic new directions.

1990-91 President London Region, United Nations Association-UK. Then, as now, indefatigably and passionately raising awareness of the UN Charter and its Preamble, and the need to support the ideals of the United Nations against the claims of narrow nationalism.

1999 British Co-ordinator, The Hague Appeal for Peace, the 10,000-strong international conference in The Hague, which gave rise to a number of major campaigns.

2001 Co-founder (with Nobel Peace Laureate 1995 Professor Sir Joseph Rotblat) and former Chair, Movement for the Abolition of War (MAW), a UK-based campaigning organisation established to challenge the popular notion of the inevitability of war, to publicise non-violent alternatives and to promote a change in culture to one which no longer finds war an acceptable way of resolving conflict. **Currently Vice-President of MAW.**

In all these positions, he has organised and chaired innumerable peace conferences, public lectures and public meetings. Several have been held at the Imperial War Museum, London – a partnership initiated by Bruce Kent, designed to 'build bridges' and to widen the audience.

An exceptional and highly effective communicator, Bruce promotes his views constantly and persuasively in words and actions at every available opportunity: through the media and at gatherings up and down the country and beyond. He has the facility to reach both people of influence and power in high places, and the more 'ordinary' – all are treated with the same courtesy and good humour. Few can remain unaffected by the good sense of his words and his basic message that everyone can take the steps

necessary to make the nonviolent settlement of disputes the norm and not the exception.

His vision is not a narrow one: he recognises that peace, justice, human rights and a respect for the natural environment are all inextricably linked; that peace and disarmament will never be achieved while injustice, nationally or internationally, is allowed to fester; that climate chaos will lead to poverty, more injustice and, inevitably, conflict; that vast military expenditure draws funding away from life-affirming health, education and social care programmes. To achieve peace, Bruce Kent believes, we need a change of mind-set, a changed view of the world. A profound cultural change is essential in addition to specific policy changes. What could be more important, or urgent?

It has been my privilege to have known Bruce for 55 years and I have long admired and been inspired by his quite extraordinary commitment to peace and how it might be achieved. His energy and commitment have combined with a self-effacing and modest approach to all his work and it is almost impossible to find anyone who would speak ill of him.

The Guardian marked Bruce Kent's 80th birthday in June 2009 with this editorial: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2009/jun/27/in-praise-bruce-kent-disarmament> (pdf attached), rightly noting that his message is always about peace, never self-promotional. Public honouring of his outstanding contributions is long overdue and it would be fitting if he were awarded the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize to coincide with his 90th birthday in 2019 and in line with the intentions of Alfred Nobel.

Also attached is a curriculum vitae giving a fuller account of Bruce Kent's activities and achievements. Further materials, including extensive audio interviews, are available at <http://bruce-kent.com>

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