

PANEL #3

AN INTERFAITH/YOUTH PERSPECTIVE ON THE MORAL IMPERATIVE TO ACT

Introduction

by

Lilly Daigle

Network Campaigner, Global Zero

Toward a Fundamental Change in Nuclear Weapons Policy Conference
United States Capitol Visitor Center
April 27, 2017

DAIGLE: Hi, everyone, how are you doing? Good. Awesome. My name's Lilly and this is our beautiful panel of folks who are going to be speaking about the youth and interfaith perspective on the fight to transform nuclear weapons policy, ban nuclear weapons and eliminate them once and for all. Happy to say I'm feeling pretty hopeful that this is going to be a very upbeat and exciting panel to tell you that there is hope and that there are young people and folks across faiths organizing and working to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons every single day.

I feel -- obviously, Danny asked me to speak because, you know, you may be surprised, but I do identify as a millennial and I also work for Global Zero and we mainly focus on organizing young people and millennials in the fight to eliminate nuclear weapons. And I've been working really hard to help make sure that our work resonates more with young people, but also helps involve folks across faiths as well as kind of across different political identities and issue areas. So really, really excited to be here.

You know, I feel like a lot of us stand on some pretty high shoulders with the work that's been going on for decades to eliminate nuclear weapons. And I feel a lot of the youth are ready to kind of bring this movement forward and continue to build and make some progress.

So, with that said, very excited to introduce our panel. We have James O'Sullivan, assistant professor of Social Ethics at Saint Joseph's University. We have Bassem Chaaban, who is the director of The Center for Peace. He flew up from Florida today just for this conference, so thank you. We have Jamie DeMarco, who is the program assistant for Nuclear Disarmament and Pentagon Spending, from the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

We have Mike O'Malley, who is the director of Young Men's Programs at SGI-USA. We have Olivia Saito, the director of Young Women's Programs at SGI-USA; and we have Erica Fein, who is the Nuclear Weapons Policy director for Women's Action for New Directions.

So I have asked each of these panelists today to prepare about a ten-minute presentation with the following prompts, which are what role can the young or faithful folks play in reducing nuclear weapons dangers? What is different now that the ban is being negotiated in the U.N. and how does your faith or your identity as a millennial influence your organizing and activism?

And my hope here is that these questions can kind of spur some interesting thoughts and debate afterwards amongst ourselves on how we can

continue this conversation an bring it beyond the walls of this room and out into the world and start recruiting more folks to join us.

So, without further ado, I'd like to invite James to speak.