

# MILESTONES

## *Fifty years ago, eleven top scientists signed a manifesto...*

### The Russell-Einstein Manifesto

In 1955, when Cold War fears and hostilities were at their height, a momentous declaration was released that captured the world's attention. What would become known as the **Russell-Einstein Manifesto** was a statement from the scientific community gravely concerned with the dangers of nuclear weaponry. It was signed by eleven of the world's top minds, including the recently deceased Albert Einstein, whose letter of support to Bertrand Russell was the last signature of his life.

[Read more about the signatories](#)

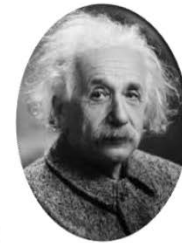
"In view of the fact that in any future world war nuclear weapons will certainly be employed, and that such weapons threaten the continued existence of mankind, we urge the governments of the world to realize, and to acknowledge publicly, that their purpose cannot be furthered by a world war, and we urge them, consequently, to find peaceful means for the settlement of all matters of dispute between them."

*- Extract of the Russell-Einstein Manifesto*

### *The signatories*



Bertrand Russell



Albert Einstein



Joseph Rotblat



Cecil Frank Powell



Hideki Yukawa



Jean Frédéric Joliot-Curie



Leopold Infeld



Hermann Joseph Muller



Max Born



Linus Pauling



Percy Williams Bridgman

## *The first Pugwash Conference was held two years later*



The first Pugwash conference held at what became known as the Thinkers' Lodge in Pugwash, Nova Scotia, July 1957.

Following the issue of the manifesto, the first conference of scientists was convened in the village of Pugwash, Nova Scotia in 1957. It was here that the international Pugwash organisation, the **Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs**, was born.

The Pugwash movement has since continued the conversations of 1957 on nuclear disarmament, bringing together influential scientists, thinkers and public figures from across the world committed to working towards global security and peace. The Pugwash Conferences have also expanded their topics to include other critical issues at the intersection of science and society.