Mum packs banner as peace 'weapon'

By Veronika Meduna

Christchurch peace campaigner Katie Beanas-Dewes, 42, leaves for New York next week to speak at two meetings on nuclear disarmament and to monitor New Zealand's behaviour during the re-negotiation conference on the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The Riccarton mother-of-three has packed a huge banner calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons which she plans to hang up at each of the meetings she will attend.

Ms Beanas-Dewes, one of six members on the international steering committee of the World Court Project, will speak about the impact on governments the project has had since its launch in 1992.

The aim of the World Court Project is to ask the World Court in the Hague to clarify the question of legality of nuclear weapons.

New Zealand voted for the move to ask the World Court during a UN meeting in November last year.

Ms Beanas-Dewes will also be on the panel of experts discussing citizen's networking and the potential of grass roots group to influence political decisions.

On Earth Day, April 22, representatives and citizens who gathered at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference will form a human six in the garden of the UN building in New York as a reminder of the Article 6 of the treaty calling for elimination of nuclear weapons said Ms Beanas-Dewes.

Ms Beanas-Dewes received contributions towards her airfare from local and overseas supporting groups.