Towards a nuclear-free future...

This week, through an initiative that began in Christchurch, the International Court of Justice in The Hague delivered an advisory opinion being hailed as a major breakthrough in the struggle to outlaw nuclear weapons. VERONIKA MEDUNA talks to the campaigners for whom the decision is an endorsement of 10 years’ persistent lobbying.

A mixture of intense relief, a sense of achievement, satisfaction, exhaustion, and surprise that such a landmark advisory opinion had been delivered. The court ruled that nuclear weapons are inherently cruel and inhumane, and that their acquisition, possession, and use are illegal under international law.

The campaign to ban nuclear weapons has long been led by pioneers such as Kate Dawes and Harold Evans, who have been actively involved in the movement for decades. Their efforts have been supported by a global coalition of peace activists who have worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the dangers of nuclear weapons and to advocate for their abolition.

The advisory opinion is a significant victory for the campaign to ban nuclear weapons, and it is hoped that it will inspire further action towards the goal of a world free of nuclear arms. The decision is a testament to the persistence and determination of those who have fought for nuclear disarmament for so long.