

# *Scientists Concerns with Nuclear Weapons*

## **OBJECTIVES**

- 1) Discuss and analyze the scientific problems with nuclear weapons.
- 2) Critically assess why states choose to ignore these scientific concerns?
- 3) Discuss how these scientific concerns can be used to persuade states and individuals to change their views on nuclear weapons.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1) If scientists had concerns with the ethics of the Manhattan Project, then why did they continue to assist in the development of the atomic bomb?
- 2) How can scientists contribute now to solving the safety and environmental issues caused by nuclear weapons?
- 3) What role have scientists played in the past and what role can they continue to play in the future when it comes to disarmament, peace, and security?

## **ACTIVITIES**

Read through the curriculum on scientists concerns with nuclear weapons, then with your peers, discuss what you would do if you were a scientist trying to persuade your government to not use nuclear weapons, what arguments would you use? How would you frame them?

## OTHER RESOURCES

*<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/peter-lax-manhattan-project-last-living-scientists-180975317/>*

*<https://www.wagingpeace.org/nuclear-weapons-and-the-responsibility-of-scientists/>*

*<https://www.britannica.com/event/Manhattan-Project>*