

**PRO-Media Coordinator's Office
Jamia Millia Islamia**

April 26, 2019

Press Release

Nobel Peace Prize winner ICAN's former member delivers lecture at JMI

MMAJ Academy of International Studies, JMI organised a lecture by Ms Elizabeth Minor on 'Creating Change in International Disarmament: Humanitarian Perspectives and the Role of Civil Society' on 24 April 2019. Ms Elizabeth Minor is part of the International Steering Group of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and was part of the ICAN team that won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017. She is Advisor at Article 36, a UK based NGO that works for stronger international standards and greater public scrutiny over weapons, through research, advocacy and campaigns for new international laws and policies that can better protect civilians. The talk was chaired by Prof Anuradha Chenoy from the School of International Studies, JNU, who is an expert on Eurasia, gender and human security issues in relation to International Relations.

Ms Minor pointed out that the movement of a humanitarian perspective on arms came to the fore in the 1990s with the issue of anti-personal landmines that were left along borders to be remotely activated or accidentally stepped on. There were 100 million landmines in 64 countries with countries such as Afghanistan and Angola leading the list. These landmines cost US\$ 5 to lay, but US \$ 100 to defuse. The International Campaign to Ban Landmines used several strategies including that of celebrity endorsement, in this case from Princess Diana. Campaigns have also been conducted against cluster bombs, nuclear weapons and drones and other next generation weapons and killer robots that rely on automation and artificial intelligence. De-humanised violence was still violence.

Humanitarian perspectives based on facts and data on weapons that can be used in wars and those that must not be used (particularly those that indiscriminately kill civilian population) are important to move the focus away from moralistic discourse. This has helped in the banning of biological weapons in 1972, chemical weapons in 1993, land mines in 1997, cluster bombs in 2008. Humanitarian perspectives from civil society and academic discourses, Minor said, play an important role in shifting the focus from 'nuclear deterrence' to banning of nuclear weapons.

The talk was followed by an interaction with students and faculty.

Ahmad Azeem
PRO-Media Coordinator



Creating change in
international disarmament:
Humanitarian perspectives
and the role of civil society

Elizabeth Minor
Visiting Scholar at

PROF. ANURADHA
CHENGU

MS. ELIZABETH
MINOR

State of debate

- Under consideration at CCW for 6 years
- Military utility/strategic offset vs. fundamental challenge to key ethical and legal principles
- States increasingly making argument for more autonomy in weapons
- Definitions as a political issue
- Support for a ban or soft law vs veto through consensus in the CCW

Prof. Anuradha Chenvy

PROF. ANURADHA
CHENVY

MS. ELIZABETH
MINOR



**MMAJ ACADEMY OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA**

cordially invites you to a

LECTURE

by

ELIZABETH MINOR

Member, International Steering Group of the International Campaign to
Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) that won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017

on

**Creating Change in International Disaster Relief:
Humanitarian Perspectives and the Role of Civil Society**

Chairperson

P. RADHA CHENOY

Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies, SIS

4 APRIL 2019

VENUE: MMAJ CONFERENCE HALL

3:30 pm

