

# A Dialogue on Autonomous Weapons and Human Control

Hosted by  
Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control  
**Hon. Phil Twyford**

**Date/ time:** Tuesday, 10 August 2021

**Location:** New Zealand Parliament

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Inaction on weapons systems that can select and engage targets without human intervention risks a future of warfare and policing outside of human control and responsibility. This dialogue will consider New Zealand's role in the international effort to ban and regulate autonomous weapons systems and retain meaningful human control over the use of force.

## Speakers

**Mary Wareham**, *Arms Advocacy Director, Human Rights Watch*

Mary has since 1998 for Human Rights Watch, Oxfam New Zealand and other organizations to advance humanitarian disarmament and enhance protections for civilians from various weapons that inflict unnecessary harm. She served as founding coordinator of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots from October 2012 until March 2021. @marywareham @hrw @bankillerrobots

**Sakhr Munassar**, *Youth Activator, New Zealand Red Cross*

Sakhr is originally from Yemen and came to New Zealand as a Rotary Scholar in 2016. He has master's degree in peace and conflict studies from Otago University and works as a youth activator (Kaikōkiri Rangatahi) at the New Zealand Red Cross. @Sakhr\_M @NZRedCross

**Andrew Chen**, *Research Fellow, Centre for Informed Futures at the University of Auckland*

Andrew is an interdisciplinary researcher with a PhD in computer systems engineering. He is the editor of “Shouting Zeros and Ones: Digital Technology, Ethics and Policy in New Zealand” published by Bridget Williams Books in August 2020.  
@ andrewtychen @informedfutures

**Edwina Hughes**, *Aotearoa New Zealand Campaign to Stop Killer Robots*

Edwina is the Coordinator of Peace Movement Aotearoa, the national networking peace organisation, which coordinates the Aotearoa New Zealand Campaign to Stop Killer Robots. She has been involved in peace, humanitarian disarmament and human rights research, education and advocacy for more than 30 years. @PeaceMovementA @KillerRobotsNZ

## **Moderator**

**Midge Murray**

Midge’s whakaapa includes Nga Puhī, Ngāti Awa, Ireland and Scotland. She has a creative background in radio, theatre and film, communications, design and art, and event management. She is part of the team that produces the NZ Art Show, New Zealand’s largest art sale of its kind: she was the show’s marketing and promotions manager from 2007 to 2018 and is currently the Artist Liaison and Art Manager.

## **Messages for New Zealand**

The brief video prepared by Mary Wareham contains highlights of recorded messages to New Zealand that have been shared by members of the international Campaign to Stop Killer Robots from countries including Australia, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, UK, and US. Full versions of these statements are available online.