



Speaker: **Sue Coleman-Haseldine**
/ Australia Nuclear Free Alliance (ANFA)

Sue Coleman-Haseldine is a proud Kokatha Elder from the Far West Coast of South Australia. She is a Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother, Sister, Aunt and everything in between. She was born and raised on this land during the 1950's Maralinga testing era, and has been caring for and fighting for the land and the people of this planet her whole life. She is currently involved heavily in the opposition of nuclear weapons and waste, detrimental mineral mining of her people's Sacred Lands, violation of human rights by use of income management schemes, and drilling for oil and gas in the Great Australian Bight.

Between 1953 and 1963 the British detonated 12 atomic bombs on Australian soil. The majority of these bombs were detonated at Maralinga and Emu Fields, South Australia. Many Aboriginal people were forcibly removed from their traditional lands. Unfortunately, many more were not aware of the lead up to the bombings.

My name is Sue Coleman-Haseldine. I'm a Kokatha woman from Ceduna on the far west coast of South Australia. I was very young when the bombs testing started happening in Australia. The winds brought the radiation fallout to us. There were 12 tests held on Australian soil including the Montebello Islands. Now we have proof of nine of them - which way the wind blew at the time - and we superimposed them, and it was amazing to see Australia's legacy from the English and Australian governments as being totally black from the radiation fallout.

The first image is of the bombs that were tested on Montebello Islands, Emu Fields and Maralinga. This image shows the wind changes and then we superimposed the wind changes. The next image is of the whole radiation fallout across Australia. This is the legacy to Australia from the Australian and United Kingdom governments.

Now we've been living with grief and loss for a long time. There's been so many different cancers, and you know, so many birth defects. For example, we had to say goodbye to my beautiful grand baby. You know, people talk about grief and loss, well we live with it every day. It does not go away. Even 60 years later, babies are dying of really complicated defects that there's no explanation for. And we bury our babies. So the grief and loss does not go away. You know, we have suffered at the hands of the Australian and English governments. They have not cared that we are still suffering to this day, nearly 70 years later. And our children are suffering. Children all over the world are suffering because of radiation poisoning. You know, you just got to look at Chernobyl, Fukushima. People everywhere have been touched with this poisonous substance.



We really need the Australian government to join the rest of the world that is coming on board and outlaw nuclear weapons, nuclear submarines. Because if you got no need for the radiation, there'd be no need for the mines. And if the mines are shutting down, there'd be no need for waste dumps, which can be just as dangerous as any bomb. They start leaking, we won't know that, that poison is seeping around through us again. Just like the radiation fallout of all those years ago. Nobody knew what was falling amongst them, but everybody started to feel it. And as the years go on, we are still feeling it. We are still suffering.

And we really do need the Australian government to stand up and say enough. You know - we've damaged Australia, we've hurt the people. Aboriginal people have been dislocated just to please various mining companies. The uranium companies, you know, just everybody that wants something from Australia, the Aboriginal people get pushed aside. It's just not fair. We are the First Nations people and we are the ones left behind in everything.

So if we can stop mining on our Country, protect our culture, stop the waste dump, tell the government just to stop building nuclear submarines, the rest of the world can win too. Because there are animals out there that are dying, and it seems like nobody cares. But we care. And you know, I'm starting to get old and tired. But that's not the end of my fight, because I've got children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren that are all ready and willing to stand up and fight and say no more. Give us a clean nuclear free future.

My name is Jeremiah and I live in Ceduna. I'm Jeremiah and I live in Ceduna and I don't want nuclear, and I live in Australia.

Even though tiredness and age is starting to catch up on me, and I'm slowing down, my fight will continue, because I've got my children, grandchildren coming along and standing up now and saying: "we don't want nuclear, we want a greener future".

There's a lot of sickness through our family and, you know, I believe entirely what my wife believed in.

That's about all I can say. All you people out there, stay safe and stay strong.

Disclaimer

This transcript is at the responsibility of Peace Boat and may not be completely the same as the original testimony. The original testimony was presented online at the World Nuclear Survivors Forum 2021 on December 2-3, where over 30 nuclear survivors from five continents around the world shared their voices with more than 1000 people. The Forum was hosted by Peace Boat in partnership with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). The stories and panel discussions are all available for viewing on demand via Youtube or on our website here:

<https://nuclearsurvivors.org>