

Campaign

UK boycotts global ban meeting

CND's Parliamentary Officer **Russell Whiting** rounds up recent events at the UN Nuclear Weapons Ban Conference.



Prior to the UN Conference, thousands of postcards from CND members calling for a global nuclear ban were handed in to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

N AN historic step towards creating a world without nuclear weapons, more than 130 countries gathered at the United Nations for negotiations on a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. The negotiations are the culmination of decades of campaigning by CND and other international peace organisations.

The week got off to a disappointing start from a British perspective when, having said they would boycott the process, the UK Ambassador to the UN actually stood alongside the US Ambassador outside the negotiating chamber and denounced the talks. When

he spoke, the UK representative restated the government's goal of a world without nuclear weapons, while standing feet away from negotiations which could bring it about.

The first part of the session saw representatives give speeches on the general principles of the ban and give their reasons for support, with the dissenting voices coming from Japan and the Netherlands. Japan said that without the involvement of the nuclear weapons states the process would increase divisions in the international community, while the Netherlands said any treaty must be

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compatible with NATO doctrine on nuclear weapons.

Discussions then moved on to the details of what would be included in the treaty. There was wide support for prohibitions on the use, threat of use, stockpiling and deployment of nuclear weapons. Delegates speaking in favour ranged from long-term supporters of nuclear disarmament like Costa Rica and Sweden to Egypt and the Holy See, representing the Catholic Church.

The next round of talks, where the treaty will be finalised, begin in June. It is expected that a draft treaty will be published following the upcoming Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee in Vienna. CND is continuing to call on the UK government to attend the next round of negotiations and has been visiting embassies in London to encourage other countries to do the same.



Lib Dems back nukes

CND's Parliamentary Officer **Russell Whiting** reports back on a disappointing result from the Lib Dem Spring Conference.

THE Liberal Democrats have voted in favour of continuing to support Britain's possession of nuclear weapons, following a review of existing policy. The Party will now advocate the construction of three submarines and an end to the policy of having one constantly deployed.

Members gathered at the Spring Conference in York last month to discuss a report from the Federal Policy Commission. An amendment which called for Trident replacement to be cancelled was defeated.

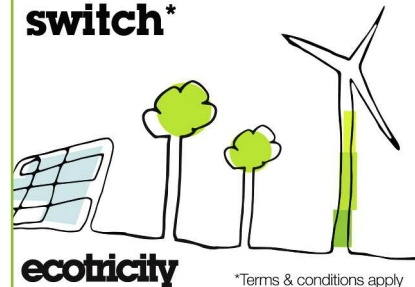
The vote in York was the culmination of a year-long review, which took evidence from a range of experts on nuclear weapons, including CND General Secretary Kate Hudson.

Despite a robust debate in which many speakers took to the platform to raise concerns, the majority of delegates sided with the party establishment and leader Tim Farron, who had called for the three-sub

policy to be supported. Prior to the debate, Farron had cited the election of US President Trump as a reason for the UK to maintain nuclear weapons, missing the fact that Trident is wholly dependent on the United States.

Party rules means the subject can't be debated at Conference for two years and there is clearly a wish among the leadership to limit further debate. CND continues to work with allies in the Liberal Democrats to push the case for genuine progress on nuclear disarmament in the UK and around the world.

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Nuclear power crisis

CND Campaigns Officer **Sara Medi Jones** writes about a tumultuous few weeks for the future of nuclear power in the UK.

BACK IN 2013, Parliament's Energy and Climate Change committee declared the government's plans to build new nuclear reactors as 'ambitious' at best and 'unrealistic' at worst, expressing concerns that there are no contingency plans in place. Four years, numerous financial setbacks including bankruptcy and a series of legal challenges later, the situation is even worse.

The government's main hopes of a nuclear renaissance in this country rest on three sites: Hinkley Point C in Somerset, Moorside in Cumbria and Wylfa Newydd in north Wales.

While building work did start at Hinkley last month, the UN has now called for the project to be halted until it can establish whether an environmental assessment is needed. The UN Economic Commission for Europe ruled that the UK failed to consult European countries properly over potential risks. This is on top of a state aid investigation and a court case at the European Court of Justice.

The company behind the

development – EDF – says it is still confident of having the project built on schedule (should the timetable slip, they risk losing their financial guarantees) but there are many concerns about the reactor design. Not one of this particular design has yet been built successfully.

Over at Moorside, the reactor design has been granted regulatory approval but the company making the reactors (Westinghouse) has filed for bankruptcy in the last week, throwing the whole project into chaos. Another company subsequently abandoned the project, while the one remaining business still involved has said it plans to sell up before construction begins at the site. No wonder the Business Minister Greg Clark is currently in South Korea desperately trying to secure a deal with a new company.

There are further funding concerns with Wylfa Newydd, as the Chief Executive of the Project expressed his concerns last week that funding still hasn't been confirmed. The local council has also



questioned the impact of the new power station on the economy, tourism and the Welsh language.

All of these difficulties should be a warning sign to the government that nuclear energy is fraught with problems and should be replaced with renewables. A recent government survey showed only 36% of people support nuclear energy, with 74% in favour of renewables. CND is hosting a national conference in June to discuss how renewable energy can and should replace nuclear energy production (more information on page 4).

We need a safe, genuinely sustainable, global and green solution to our energy needs, not a dangerous diversion like nuclear power.

'Little Voices from Fukushima' film screening

April 24th, 6pm for 7pm

Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL
'Little Voices from Fukushima' is a documentary film dedicated to Japanese mothers and children living in the post-meltdown world of the Fukushima disaster. Drinks will be served from 6pm.
■ For more information contact kicknuclearlondon@gmail.com
/020 7607 2302

West Midlands CND Annual Meeting

April 29th, 11am

54 Allison Street, Digbeth, Birmingham B5 5TH.
Are you a CND member in the West Midlands area or interested in finding out more? Come along to this very important meeting to decide how to run the campaign in the coming months and years.
■ For more information: Gill Cox on 01902 331233 or: barrier@waitrose.com

Hereford Peace Council Quiz

May 5th, 7pm

Friends House, King Street, Hereford HR4 9BX. Bring a team to this fundraising evening for Hereford Peace Council!
■ For more information: jennywmcnd@gn.apc.org

Global Nuclear Ban Day of Action

June 17th

The first session of negotiations on a treaty to ban nuclear weapons has concluded in New York. A draft treaty is expected to be published in May, before a second round of negotiations in June and July to finalise the details (*more information on page 1*).

Women Ban the Bomb has called a rally and march on Saturday, June 17th in New York.
CND encourages you to arrange a local event in solidarity with the march in New York. Let us know if you have an action

planned and we'll promote it
■ Contact: 020 7700 2393/
information@cnduk.org

Trident Ploughshares Coulpport Disarmament Camp

July 8th-16th

Join a week of action at Faslane and Coulpport – protest at the gates and peacefully disrupt the ongoing work there. There will be actions to disrupt Trident as well as vigils and creative protests of many kinds. Nonviolent Direct Action training will be provided and there will be workshops on all sorts of practical and campaign issues.
■ Contact: 0345 4588 362.

Peace Camps

Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp

Second weekend of every month.

■ Tel: 07946 676761
info@aldermaston.net
www.aldermaston.net
[@Peace_women_AWE](https://twitter.com/Peace_women_AWE)

Faslane Peace Camp

Permanent. A814, Shandon, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire G84 8NT.
■ Tel 01436 820901
faslanepeacecamp@hotmail.com

Menwith Hill Women's Peace Camp

■ Contact Yorkshire CND for details: 01274 730795 or info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Menwith Hill vigil

Every Tuesday 6-7.30pm.
■ For more info contact Sarah – 01765 600928 or sswift64@gmail.com

CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

No need for nuclear: the renewables are here

Government is obsessed with backing nuclear.
Experts say renewable energy is safer, healthier, more sustainable, quicker and cheaper. Join us to hear the facts.

Saturday, 17th June 2017 10.15am to 5pm
Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL
Registration and refreshments from 9.45am
Tickets £10/£5 available at cnduk.org/NoNeedForNuclear

 **All welcome.**