

# Campaign

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** analyses last month's parliamentary vote on Britain's nuclear weapons. Kate is seen here, with CND Vice President Bruce Kent, handing in a petition against Trident to the Ministry of Defence on the day of the vote.



**O**N Monday, July 18th, Parliament voted to replace Trident after several hours of ill-informed, head-in-the-sand debate. The new prime minister shocked many with a display of astonishing enthusiasm for pressing the nuclear button.

Constructive points were made by many across the political spectrum however. Conservative MP Crispin Blunt, who is Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, spoke powerfully against replacement. A former army officer, he is noted for highlighting the enormous life time cost of Trident. He also drew parliament's attention to emerging technologies which will make the subs detectable in years to come.

Committing £205 billion to a system that will be rendered obsolete by technological challenges inspires no confidence whatsoever in this government's ability to spend public money to good purpose. Yet the facts shared by Blunt and others were water off a duck's back for most of the MPs.

## Why is that the case?

Too much of this has been driven by party political point scoring, both within and between parties. Many consider that the timing of the vote was chosen by former Prime Minister David Cameron, and then the new PM Theresa May, to unify the party post-Brexit and give the latter a boost. And as a special bonus she had an opportunity to throw a grenade into the Labour party, which is currently undertaking a review of its defence policy. This quite rightly includes an assessment of whether Trident is useful or relevant to our security needs, but views are highly contested across the party. This was nothing short of playing politics with Britain's national security and is to be deplored.

A further factor of significance is that this vote in Westminster – where 58 out of 59 Scottish MPs oppose Trident – effectively imposes these weapons on Scotland. The Scottish government, parliament and majority of Scottish people clearly reject Trident replacement. This

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surely renders the decision devoid of any legitimacy. There is already plenty of speculation that this vote will help trigger a second Scottish independence referendum.

This decision has demonstrated a failure of vision on the part of our government and all those who supported Trident replacement. This was a once in a generation opportunity to break with this antiquated weapons system and address our defence needs in ways appropriate to the twenty first century.

Instead they voted for a cold war system on the basis that it underpins our standing in the world. They have failed to notice that the overwhelming majority of states in the world continue to insist that we comply with our international treaty obligation to disarm. Far from enhancing our status, our continued failure to disarm does us enormous harm in the eyes of the global majority.

All the facts stack up against Trident – and they continue to do so, irrespective of this shameful and ill-informed vote. CND will continue to campaign against nuclear weapons and for a cancellation of the replacement, working with those broad forces across society who wish to see an end to Britain's possession of weapons of mass destruction.

## Groups round-up

With only a week's notice, CND groups around the country sprang into action once the Parliamentary vote on Trident was announced for July 18th. Protests and vigils were arranged across the country for the day of the vote with events happening from Penzance to Plymouth, Aberystwyth to Liverpool. Tens of demonstrations took place across Scotland on Saturday, 20th July with support from The Proclaimers and artist Stewart Bremner.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the CND groups for your ongoing hard work on the Stop Trident campaign, especially to those of you

who have tirelessly been collecting signatures for our petition. The final petition with 40,000 signatures was handed in to the Ministry of Defence on the day of the vote.

In non-Trident news, Chesterfield CND has been working on the Courage of Conscience project based on local First World War Conscientious Objectors, which culminated with an exhibition. The banners are now on display at Chesterfield Library if you're local and missed the event. As the group says, the real lesson we should take from the commemorations is that 'war is not the answer'.

The CND team at Glastonbury 2016 signed up the highest number of new supporters in recent memory, despite the challenging, muddy conditions! The Stop Trident campaign also received support from many of the acts, including The 1975, Wolf Alice and Richard Hawley.



# No to war – no to NATO

**CND Chair Dave Webb** was in Warsaw to protest against the recent NATO summit and reports back on developments within the alliance.

**R**ARELY does anything positive come from a NATO summit and this year's meeting in Poland was no exception. Meeting in Warsaw on July 8th and 9th, it seems that NATO is set to continue to promote military intervention and posturing as the way to resolve international differences.

Precisely at a time when what is needed between the alliance and Russia is cool-headed diplomacy and a thawing of relations, NATO is instead taking destabilising and provocative steps the other way.

Despite a 1997 pledge not to install 'permanent and significant' military forces in countries which were allies of the former Soviet Union, multinational battalions of NATO troops – including British soldiers – are to be deployed to Romania, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Poland. Russia is already concerned about the build-up of NATO troops on its doorstep, but things look set to get worse.

Russia has also repeatedly expressed concern about the undermining of its deterrent capabilities due to NATO's

missile defence system. Further developments were announced at Warsaw, with NATO claiming the system is needed to counter threats from Iran and North Korea.

Around 180 American nuclear bombs deployed in Europe under the nuclear sharing arrangement are to be upgraded to make them more usable, with NATO restating its commitment to being a nuclear alliance for 'as long as nuclear weapons exist'.

The possibility of NATO taking collective military action is greatly increased through its recognition of cyberspace as 'an operational domain'. Thus cyber-attacks can potentially trigger a military response. This is particularly worrying because of the difficulty in determining the source of cyber-attacks and technical evidence of them is rarely shared or clarified.

In other developments, NATO's mission in Afghanistan will be extended until at least 2020 and links with Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova are to be further developed. To finance NATO's increased activities, a real increase of 3% in defence spending by European members and Canada is expected.

While in Warsaw, CND participated in a 'No to War, No to NATO' alternative conference and demonstration. Hundreds of people from across Europe gathered to discuss ideas for developing peace, social justice and common security in the continent. Many thought that the possibility of a 'great war in Europe' was no longer unthinkable and all agreed that the peace movement faces its greatest challenge in years.

## NATO Summit 2017

The next NATO summit will take place in Brussels in 2017 to coincide with the opening of the new NATO HQ. A strong peace movement exists there and preparations have already begun for protest actions – please join in: [www.no-to-nato.org](http://www.no-to-nato.org)

### 2nd –13th August

#### The Letter of Last Resort/Kyoto film

**showings.** Jermyn Street Theatre, London. A David Greig double bill, Kyoto is performed first followed by The Letter of Last Resort, in which a newly elected Prime Minister is required to write a letter with far-reaching implications. [www.jermynstreettheatre.co.uk](http://www.jermynstreettheatre.co.uk)

### 4th August

#### The financial cost of Trident replacement

7pm-9pm, MadLab, 36-40 Edge Street, Manchester, M4 1HN. Kate Hudson presents CND's latest research on the financial cost of Trident replacement. A wine reception will follow the presentation and Q&A.

### 6th August

#### Hiroshima Day Commemorations

**London:** 12 noon, Tavistock Square Gardens, London Ceremony with faith speakers, celebrities, performers, entertainers. Bring a picnic for a joint lunch afterwards.

■ London Region CND: [david.lrcnd@cnduk.org](mailto:david.lrcnd@cnduk.org) / 020 7607 2302

**Chester:** 8pm, The Groves (by the bandstand), Chester.

An act of remembrance with readings, song and reflection. Casting of white flowers on the river. Bring white flowers if you wish.

■ [chestercnd@gmail.com](mailto:chestercnd@gmail.com)

**Oxford:** 11am, The Peace Tree, Florence Park, Oxford A simple ceremony at the tree

to commemorate the anniversary. All welcome.

### 6th-9th August

#### Hiroshima and Nagasaki

**Fast** in Whitehall, London SW1. Throughout the fast we will be staging different forms of protest and direct action in the Whitehall area; distributing leaflets and talking with tourists and passers-by; and holding commemorative vigils. For more information see [tridentploughshares.org](http://tridentploughshares.org)

### Until August 13th

#### Material Nuclear Culture Exhibition

Wednesday to Saturday 11:00am-5:00pm KARST, 22 George Place, Stonehouse, Plymouth PL1 3NY Exhibition exploring the material traces and cultural legacy of nuclear powered submarines in the UK.

### Until 4th September

#### Exhibition on the anti-nuclear protest movement

in 1980s Britain. Imperial War Museum, London. Acclaimed documentary photographer Edward Barber captures the anti-nuclear protest movement in 1980s Britain in a new exhibition this summer.

### 1st October

#### Up North and Down South demonstrations

against US missile defence As part of Keep Space for Peace week, get involved in a joined-up demonstration against US missile defence and space-based warfare.

Up North at RAF Fylingdales,

North York Moors or Down South at RAF Croughton, Northants.

■ [info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk](mailto:info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk)

## Peace Camps

### Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp

Second weekend of every month.

■ Tel: 07946 676761 [info@aldermaston.net](mailto:info@aldermaston.net) [www.aldermaston.net](http://www.aldermaston.net) @Peace\_women\_AWE

### Faslane Peace Camp

Permanent. A814, Shandon, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire G84 8NT.

■ Tel 01436 820901 [faslanepeacecamp@hotmail.com](mailto:faslanepeacecamp@hotmail.com)

### Menwith Hill

#### Women's Peace Camp

■ Contact Yorkshire CND for details: 01274 730795 or [info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk](mailto:info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk)

### Menwith Hill vigil

Every Tuesday 6-7.30pm.

■ Contact Sarah- 01765 600928 or [sswift64@gmail.com](mailto:sswift64@gmail.com)

