

campaign



CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** writes about the success of our recent Stop Trident demonstration and the next steps we all need to take.

STOP TRIDENT was rightly acclaimed by all as the biggest anti-nuclear demonstration in a generation. Yet its importance went far beyond its numbers – I would go so far as to say that its political significance was even greater. Three party leaders – Jeremy Corbyn, Nicola Sturgeon and Leanne Wood – addressed the crowds, together with Caroline Lucas. This was no marginal fringe protest – this was the building of a new political consensus – against Trident replacement.

This surge against Trident came from across society, from grass roots campaigns concerned about our government's skewed priorities and spending decisions, young people aghast at what our rulers are doing to their future, and from the leaderships of trade unions and faith communities representing millions of people. Our message strikes a deep chord across society.

The success of this CND demonstration,

with over 27 national organisations actively supporting it, shows that our strategy of alliance building has been the right one. Our genuine partnerships across the social and political landscape have meant that our cause is more widely understood than ever, and is becoming the new common sense.

Our political priorities have also been the right ones. The cost of Trident replacement has been a strong focus for our work for several years. The opportunity cost of Trident, in terms of social spending, such as education, the NHS, jobs and housing, have brought home to everyone the massive waste of tax payers' money on nuclear weapons. When people face nursery or library closures, they wonder why they are being forced to stump up for nuclear warheads.

Our focus on security has also been very important. Everyone knows that the security threats we face aren't met by nuclear weapons – and that climate

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change, terrorism and cyber warfare are the key risks. Recent revelations about threats posed to Trident by cyber-attack and underwater drones expose the vulnerability of this massive white elephant; on technological grounds alone the system is redundant.

So we will continue to work in alliance to Stop Trident. We will continue to build broadly across society, taking forward the economic, security and jobs arguments, alongside the moral and legal cases against nuclear weapons.

We will continue with our work to change party policies – and the enormous opportunity presented by the Labour Party's ongoing Defence Review. We encourage everyone to make a submission. And as we approach the parliamentary decision on replacement, now likely to be this autumn, make sure you lobby your MP to vote against.

Getting our message out, on the streets and at the bases, remains key to our work. Two new action initiatives are on the agenda – a month of campaigning at AWE Burghfield in June, and a series of nuclear convoys protests later in the year. So whatever form of campaigning you prefer, there's plenty for everyone! We have a historic opportunity to defeat Trident replacement so let's pull out all the stops!

The first couple of months of 2016 have been a busy time for many of our local groups.

We were thrilled with the number of groups who arranged coaches to the Stop Trident demonstration. Some groups, including **Bristol CND**, also held rallies prior to the protest to mobilise and gain momentum. **Yorkshire CND** took a large replica model of a weapon of mass destruction to the centre of Bradford and informed passers-by of the dangers of nuclear weapons.

Separately to preparations for the demonstration, groups have been working hard with local meetings and projects as well as engaging in new and interesting endeavours. **Leicester CND**, **West Midlands CND** and **London Region CND** are among those who have continued to hold regular events. **London Region CND** arranges a silent walk for peace on the first Sunday of every month. **West Midlands CND** joins different faith groups for peace prayers. **Greater Manchester and District CND** carried out an innovative direct action in the city. A large,

ominous looking red button was left in the middle of the shopping area, whilst members hid and waited. When a passer-by pressed the button, they appeared dressed as the grim reaper! This action was a great way to get people talking about the dangers of Trident.

Leeds CND organised a film night, which is a great opportunity for fundraising and attracting new supporters to the group. **East Midlands CND** attended Compassionate Derby, an ethical living event, setting up a stall there to talk to attendees.

So much is happening across the country, but of course there's so much more to do this year ahead of an expected parliamentary decision on Trident.

Additionally, lots of groups are also preparing to mark the fifth anniversary of the Fukushima disaster coming up on 12 March.

You can let us know what your group has been up to – email information@cnduk.org

Use your influence!

All of us can influence the Labour Party's position on Trident, explains **Carol Turner**, Vice-Chair of Labour CND.

REPORTS that the parliamentary decision on Trident replacement is unlikely to take place before the autumn means that we have more time to lobby our MPs. When parliament does deliberate, what Labour MPs do will be crucial. Party member or not, you can influence their decision.

Labour is conducting a review of its defence policy. With strong views expressed on both sides of the Trident debate, Labour CND is encouraging as many people as possible to comment.

When Shadow Defence Secretary Emily Thornberry published her terms of reference for the review, she invited everyone to participate: *We want to seek the widest possible range of views, spanning academia, the defence industry, NGOs, parliamentarians, the public and, of course, members of*

the armed forces themselves.'

Thornberry starts by asking what role Britain should play 'in building a world that is more peaceful, more just and safer' and what 'values and principles' should drive Britain's strategic defence policy? Specifically, she invites contributions on Trident:

'Will renewal of Britain's nuclear capability aid us in protecting Britain's security and pursuing the values that guide our foreign and defence policy?'

It is important to the review's conclusions that a significant number of contributions oppose Trident replacement. If you belong to a Labour Party branch or constituency, or another organisation such as a trade union, try to get a resolution adopted and submit that.

We all agree that the use of nuclear weapons to impose indiscriminate mass destruction

on people and planet is abhorrent. The practical case against Trident is just as strong. It is a hugely expensive anachronism that simply doesn't do what it says on the tin – nuclear weapons don't keep Britain safe from the real threats to our security.

What use is Trident in dealing with terrorism, cyber-attacks, instability in the Middle East and North Africa, natural disasters, health epidemics and people trafficking?

Labour CND has produced a *Trident Fact File* to help you make your case against Trident. You can download it from our website (labourcnd.org.uk). Use it now – get your submission off to the Defence Policy Review before the deadline of **30 April 2016**.

- Britain's security: Labour's defence policy review is available from Labour's 'Your Britain' website at: yourbritain.org.uk/defencereview.
- Email submissions to: defencereview@labour.org.uk or post to: Labour Party, Southside, 105 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QT.
- Contact Labour CND at info@labourcnd.org.uk

Join the movement to Stop Trident

After an incredible demonstration, the dust has far from settled – our movement to Stop Trident is revitalised and growing rapidly. You can help us continue this upward momentum – join CND today. Joining is easy and only takes a minute, but every new member makes a real difference to the campaign, and helps secure a future free from nuclear weapons.

Stand with us at this most important time for disarmament in a generation. **Together, we can Stop Trident.**
www.cnduk.org/join

8th March

Making Trident History:

Rotherham Public Meeting
7:30pm-9:00pm
Talbot Lane Methodist
Church, Ship Hill,
Rotherham S60 2HG
Public Meeting with Dave
Webb, Chair of CND
All welcome. Organised by
Rotherham CND. Free
parking. Contact Jon Smith
with any questions:
jon_smith@blueyonder.co.uk

19th March

**Beyond Nuclear:
towards a safe, secure
and affordable energy
future**

9:30am-4:30pm
Mechanics Institute,
Manchester.



Greater Manchester and
District CND has co-
organised this conference to
examine the health and
environmental effects of
the world's worst nuclear
disasters.
Contact gmdcnd@gn.apc.org
or 0161 273 8283 with any
questions.

Peace Camps

**Aldermaston Women's
Peace Camp**

Second weekend of every
month. Tel: 07946 676761

info@aldermaston.net
www.aldermaston.net
@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 6-8pm.
For more information contact
Lindis – 01423 884076 or
percy@phonecoop.coop

**Remember Fukushima
Commemorations**

11th March

Vigil 5:30pm-7:30pm. Outside Japanese Embassy,
101 Piccadilly, London W1
Speakers and performers to be announced.

12th March

March on Parliament
12 noon for 12:30pm start
Assemble at Hyde Park Corner, London W1

17th March – Parliamentary Public Meeting
7:00pm-9:00pm, Atlee Suite, 1st floor, Portcullis
House, Bridge Street, London SW1A 2LW
(Portcullis House is above Westminster tube station
& opposite Big Ben; the entrance is at the end of the
building facing the river)
RSVP to: rememberfukushima311@gmail.com

