

Campaign

Express yourself!



Campaigns Officer **Sara Medi Jones** writes about the current trend for protest t-shirts.

EVERY season has its stand-out fashion trends. And this year it was undoubtedly all about the protest t-shirt. From festivals to bars, catwalks to demonstrations, it seems that everyone is wearing one. Even leading fashion house Dior sent models down the runway wearing political t-shirts, declaring 'We should all be feminists'.

CND was of course ahead of the curve! Sales of our Katharine Hamnett designed 'NHS not Trident' t-shirts have soared over the last few years, as our supporters use the opportunity to make their views about spending money on nuclear weapons known. In a year when politics has seemed more extreme than usual, is the slogan t-shirt an opportunity to make a personal stand?

Clothing has been used as a form of

protest throughout history. Suffragettes wore white to symbolise purity and during the March on Washington in 1963, black women wore denim overalls to mark their commitment to civil rights and supporters of the pro-democracy. Even a lack of clothing can make a point; recall the PETA 'We'd Rather Go Naked Than Wear Fur' campaign adverts.

CND supporter Vivienne Westwood was designing protest t-shirts in the 1970s, but perhaps the most famous statement t-shirt moment of all came in the 1980s when Katharine Hamnett attended an event with then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in 10 Downing Street. She chose to wear a top with the slogan '58% don't want Pershing', a reference to Thatcher's decision to allow US nuclear-armed missiles

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to be stationed in Britain despite the majority of the public being opposed.

In an interview with *The Guardian* newspaper, Hamnett has said *“That t-shirt gave me a voice... Slogans work on so many different levels; they’re almost subliminal. They’re also a way of people aligning themselves to a cause. They’re tribal. Wearing one is like branding yourself.”*

But why do more people feel this need to ‘brand oneself’ right now? The election of President Trump has galvanised people that may not have been involved with protest before. It’s been apparent at anti-Trump events that CND has attended in 2017 that people are turning up to demonstrations for the first time, following his shocking statements and actions on subjects as diverse as immigration, sexism, trans rights, climate change and peace. In the UK, Brexit has had a similar effect in politicising new swathes of people.

CND’s membership is certainly increasing and our t-shirts are extremely popular, as CND’s Fundraising Officer (with responsibility for CND’s merchandise) Ilanga Preuss explains. *“CND’s t-shirts are really popular – sales are doing well and we’re seeing more and more people wear them to demos. When the NHS not Trident t-shirts were first designed, they sold out very quickly.*

The message really resonated with

What will it take for Britain to join the ban!

CND Vice-President **Rebecca Johnson** explains how CND will be developing a plan for Britain to disarm and sign the global ban treaty.

THE global nuclear weapons ban treaty is now open for signatures and will come into force once 50 states have signed and ratified it. The UK government has of course refused to sign despite claiming to support multilateral disarmament, but it’s our job – as CND supporters – to change this.

The government might think its current ostrich posture of hiding its head in the sand and hoping the treaty will disappear will work, but it won’t. The ban

treaty is likely to receive the necessary 50 ratifications for entry into force by 2020 or soon after. Once the treaty and its prohibitions and requirements are a reality in international law, history indicates that the UK will sign – it’s a question of when, not if.

States can sign while they still have nuclear weapons, provided they are removed from operational status and have a transition plan in place for eventual disarmament. So what

people. Many people regard the NHS highly and recognise it as a vital service – some will have a deep personal connection to it. When the NHS staff strikes began last year, the t-shirts’ popularity grew again – people wanted to show their support for health professionals while also highlighting the practical and moral issues around prioritising funding for nuclear weapons.”

There are many benefits to CND from people wearing our t-shirts. *“Many people have told us that the slogan t-shirts are excellent conversation starters – strangers will*

approach them to discuss nuclear weapons, which is brilliant for the campaign. In this way, CND t-shirts get our message out into public spaces that we can’t reach with traditional communications, like print or even social media,” says Ilanga.

It’s fantastic for CND to see people identify themselves so boldly as supporters of the organisation, so let’s make the most of the trend. We have a feeling our members will be wearing their t-shirts with pride even after they’ve slipped off the pages of the fashion magazines.



would be the key technical, institutional, legal and political steps that Britain needs to undertake in order to join and implement this treaty?

There are many questions to answer. Looking at the prohibitions and provisions in the new treaty, there will need to be processes and timelines for transferring warheads from RNAD Coulport to AWE Burghfield, the dismantlement and disposal of nuclear, explosive and other relevant components, taking into account environmental and safety requirements, eventually disarming and disposing of all the nuclear weapons in the UK arsenal. What will be the implications for industries that currently make components for British warheads and the Dreadnought submarines? How would accession to the treaty affect jobs in key facilities such as AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield, Faslane naval base, RNAD Coulport, and Barrow shipyards?

What, in other words, needs to be done to enable this country to transition from being

a nuclear-armed state wasting billions on Trident replacement to one that leads the way towards full compliance with international nuclear disarmament obligations?

CND will be examining these issues and proposing answers in a Transition Study, set to be published in 2018. We are bringing together international and British experts in the field to build on previous studies. We'll look at research by the International Panel on Fissile Materials and learn lessons from post-war nuclear reductions and South Africa's elimination of its arsenal and weapons-making capabilities before it joined the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1991.

The Transition Study will show that the UK can and must sign the global ban treaty. Our aim is that it encourages politicians and policymakers to take the ban seriously and start planning for when the UK joins, as it assuredly will, sooner or later. We also want to prompt policymakers to think about how to manage the transition in ways that maximise security and safety, and prepare the industries and workforce that are currently relying on making, deploying and modernising nuclear weapons for new roles and jobs, through defence diversification, reskilling and repurposing of relevant facilities.

Groups Spotlight

This month:
Isle of Wight CND



Isle of Wight CND had a busy 2017. The group met their MP, attended Glastonbury Festival and were interviewed by a local radio station to discuss the history of CND, its local work and the group's role in the campaign. But they saved their best action until last! To celebrate the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize being awarded to ICAN for its work on the global nuclear weapons ban, the group arranged for an advert to be placed on a huge billboard on a busy road. This large reminder of why we should be getting rid of nuclear weapons is seen by hundreds, if not thousands, of people every day – great work!

If you're a CND member on the Isle of Wight or interested in the group's activities, get in touch today! You can phone 01983 857500 or email

Diary

Sydenham & Forest Hill CND meeting

January 9th, 7:30pm
47 Dacres Road, London SE23
2NS. Are you a CND member in
Sydenham and Forest Hill or
interested in finding out more?
Come to this meeting!

■ Contact
annefschuman@gmail.com or
phone 020 8699 8597 for
more information.

Yorkshire CND AGM

January 18th, 6:30pm
Yorkshire CND office, 2
Ashgrove, Bradford BD7 1BN
Are you a CND member in
Yorkshire or interested in
finding out more? Come to this
meeting!

■ For more information
contact info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk
or 01274 730795

Preston & South Ribble CND launch

January 22nd, 6:30pm
This meeting launches the new
group with a discussion on how
to organise and what should be
the aims and objectives.

■ For more information contact
davsav29@live.co.uk.

CND joined other
members of the ICAN
network last weekend
to celebrate the Nobel
Peace Prize being
awarded to the
organisation with our
own ceremony outside
the Ministry of
Defence. The 2017
prize was given to
ICAN on Sunday for its
campaign for the
United Nations nuclear
weapons ban treaty.

Nobel Peace Prize die-in at the MoD



Merseyside CND AGM

February 7th, 4pm
Merseyside CND Office, 151
Dale St, Liverpool L2 2AH
Are you a CND member in
Merseyside or interested in
finding out more? Come to this
meeting!

■ Contact 0151 229 5282 for
more information.

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)

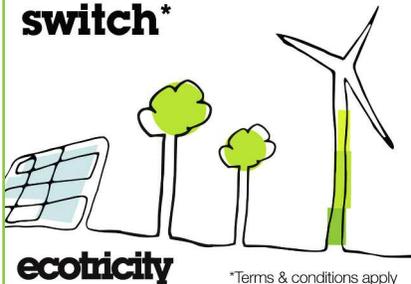
Faslane Peace Camp

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

Menwith Hill vigil

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

**Up to £60 donation
to CND when you
switch***



*Terms & conditions apply

CND would like to wish all our supporters a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Every year has its ups and downs but this year has seemed
even more extreme than usual! The election of Trump and
North Korea's missile tests have increased international nuclear
tension, while the UN adopted a global nuclear weapons ban,
the most positive step for nuclear disarmament in decades.

2017 has therefore been at times difficult, but at other times
so encouraging. Thank you to all our supporters for your hard
work throughout it all! We look forward to working with you
in 2018 to make the world a secure and safe place – free of
the threat of a nuclear holocaust.