

campaign



CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** looks back at our history, as CND prepares to mark our 60th anniversary.

THE history of CND is the history of post-World War II, told from the side of those fighting for humanity against the horror of war. It is the story of ordinary people's struggles to shape a world without nuclear weapons and war, based on legality and morality; to make our governments responsive and accountable over our right to stay alive, our right to breathe air free of radioactive pollution, our right to say no to the indiscriminate killing of other peoples. CND has been most successful and effective when it has related directly to people's most pressing concerns – linking our issues to the reality of what is

going on in the world. Nuclear weapons are not the preserve of technological or military experts, in some specialist niche that isn't relevant to ordinary mortals. Nuclear weapons are the concern of us all, for in them humankind has created something that could end our very existence – and governments will only shift on nuclear weapons policy when enough of us demand change.

For sixty years, we have inspired, led and organised – and no doubt infuriated and annoyed! – many hundreds of thousands of people, and have contributed to changes in politics and society that have shaped the

Campaign for Nuclear
Disarmament,
162 Holloway Rd,
London N7 8DQ
020 7700 2393
enquiries@cnduk.org
www.cnduk.org



lives of millions. Our movement has been remarkable for its flexibility and dynamism, embracing methods as diverse as vigils, lobbying, mass demonstrations, non-violent direct action, human chains, peace camps, die-ins, theatre, leafletting, petitioning, street stalls, and many others besides!

We have opposed all nuclear weapons from Polaris to Trident and before and beyond; we have campaigned against wars where nuclear weapons may be used and against illegal wars that destroy the framework of international law; against weapons in space, NATO, remote killing with drones; nuclear power, nuclear waste transportation; the militarisation of Europe, the use of radioactive ‘depleted’ uranium in conventional weapons; the waste of spending on arms and much more.

From our founding conference, we have fought

both for Britain ‘to renounce unconditionally’ the use or production of nuclear weapons, and for it to use the ‘utmost endeavour’ to bring about the end of all nuclear weapons globally. These have been our central aims throughout; indeed the last decade has been dominated by our work to prevent Trident replacement and secure a global nuclear weapons ban treaty. Of course, 2017 brought a major advance for us, with the agreement of the UN’s Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, despite the increasingly tense global political situation. But as we go forward with our campaigning into 2018, the crucial – but very difficult – task will be to get our government on board with the Treaty. And that means winning the Labour Party to support it too – we may well see our Vice-President Jeremy Corbyn in 10 Downing Street.

As ever, the struggle for global abolition is inseparably linked with the campaign to scrap Trident – British nukes will have to go if we are to sign the Treaty. So as we mark our 60th anniversary, let’s recommit to the cause of peace and to a nuclear weapons-free world.

■ www.cnduk.org/CNDat60 for more information on what CND has planned for our anniversary, including an event at AWE Aldermaston.

Groups Spotlight

This month:
Chester CND



Chester CND undertook a fantastic initiative in December by placing a half page advert in their local paper highlighting the UN’s global ban treaty and the Nobel Peace Prize being awarded to ICAN. The cost of the advert was covered by an appeal to our local supporters.

If you have more great ideas to help the group share the anti-nuclear message, they would be glad to hear from you.

If you’re a CND member in Chester or interested in getting more involved with the group’s activities, get in touch today!

■ chestercnd@gmail.com

Switch to **Fairphone**, the first ethical smartphone and we’ll donate 8% of your monthly spend to **CND**.

Call **01608 434000** or visit **www.thephone.coop/cnd**

The Phone Co-op. **Your voice counts.**

From £25
a month for handset and tariff

Influencing the Trident debate

Writer and activist **Linda Pearson** examines the role of arms companies in influencing policy making on nuclear weapons.

IN JULY 2016, Westminster MPs voted overwhelmingly to replace the UK's Trident nuclear weapons system. There are many reasons why UK politicians voted in favour. One factor, often overlooked, was the influence wielded by the companies involved in manufacturing and maintaining the nuclear weapons and the submarines that carry them.

Military budgets fluctuate but nuclear weapons-related work provides corporations with a steady, long-term source of revenue. BAE Systems, Rolls-Royce, Babcock International and the companies that manage the Atomic Weapons Establishment – Lockheed Martin, Jacobs Engineering and Serco – all have a vested interest in replacing Trident.

A key means of influence for such companies, as documented by Campaign Against Arms Trade, is the 'revolving door' between the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the private sector. Thousands of senior military officers and former MoD officials have taken up employment with arms

companies over the last two decades. These individuals take with them an inside understanding of the MoD, plus established relationships with key decision-makers. Their opinions on military matters continue to carry weight and are often reported by the media.

While the merits of Trident were being debated, BAE, Babcock, Lockheed, Jacobs and Serco each employed individuals who had previously worked for the UK government or the military in senior roles connected to Trident. Some of these prominent individuals made public statements in support of replacement at key points before the 2016 vote.

An open letter to Scotland's first minister, published ahead of Scotland's 2014 independence referendum, warned that a 'dark shadow' would be cast over Scotland's international relations and thousands of jobs would be lost if an independent Scotland chose to remove nuclear weapons from the country. The

letter was signed by several ex-military chiefs, including three former First Sea Lords with links to the arms industry.

Another open letter was addressed to incoming UK Prime Minister David Cameron in 2015, arguing that it would be 'irresponsible folly to abandon Britain's own independent deterrent'. Signatories to this letter included former chief scientific advisor to the Ministry of Defence, Sir Keith O'Nions, who was on an advisory board for Serco, and former secretary of state for defence, Lord Hutton, who has been employed by Lockheed as a consultant since 2014.

In a time of austerity and war weariness, Trident replacement was a hard sell. But the vocal support of prominent former government and military leaders arguably helped to shape the debate around replacement and secure an outcome that will boost the profits of arms companies at the expense of British taxpayers.

Instead of funding socially useful projects, we are now committed to funding weapons which cannot actually defend us from the most pressing threats to our security, namely climate change, cyber warfare and terrorism.

Rhyl Peace Festival

January 12th-14th

St Mary's Church, 119 Wellington Road, Rhyl LL18 1LE
■ See: facebook.com/RhylPeoplesAssembly/ for more info.

Living in Interesting

Times: London CND conference

January 13th, 12 noon-5pm
SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, London WC1H 0XG.
■ Contact info@londoncnd.org or phone 020 7607 2302 for more information.

Leicester CND meeting

January 15th, 7pm.
Methodist Church Rooms, 10A Bishops Street, Leicester.
■ Contact 0116 225 0133 or email cndmiduk@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

Manchester CND AGM

January 17th, 6:30pm-8pm
Manchester Central Library cafe, St Peters Square, City Centre M2 5PD.
■ For more information contact andrewgmdcnd@gmail.com

Yorkshire CND AGM

January 18th, 6:30pm
Yorkshire CND office, 2 Ashgrove, Bradford BD7 1BN
■ info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk or 01274 730795 for more info.

Preston & South Ribble CND launch

January 22nd, 6:30pm.
■ For more information contact davsav29@live.co.uk.

Greater Manchester & District CND AGM

January 27th, 11am-1pm
Bridge 5 Mill, Ancoats, 22A

Remember Fukushima

Commemorate the nuclear disaster

Vigil

March 9th, 5:30pm-7:30pm
Outside the Japanese Embassy, 101 Piccadilly, London.

March and rally

March 11th, assemble 12 noon
Outside the Japanese Embassy, 101 Piccadilly, London.

Public meeting

March 14th, 7pm-9pm
Portcullis House, Houses of Parliament, Westminster.

■ For more information about all of these events, see rememberfukushima.org



Beswick St, Manchester M4 7HR
■ For more information contact gmdcnd@gn.apc.org

■ Contact 0151 229 5282 for more information.

North West Labour CND relaunch meeting

January 27th, 2pm-3:30pm
Bridge 5 Mill, Ancoats, 22A Beswick St, Manchester M4 7HR
■ For more information contact andrewgmdcnd@gmail.com

'Shadow World' film showing – Oswestry

February 27th, 7:30pm,
Kinokulture Cinema, 9 Arthur Street, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 1JN. A film about the global arms trade, followed by a Q&A session with Andrew Feinstein, Executive Director of Corruption Watch UK.
■ Book your tickets at kinokulture.org.uk

Merseyside CND AGM

February 7th, 4pm
Merseyside CND Office, 151 Dale St, Liverpool L2 2AH

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 vigil

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