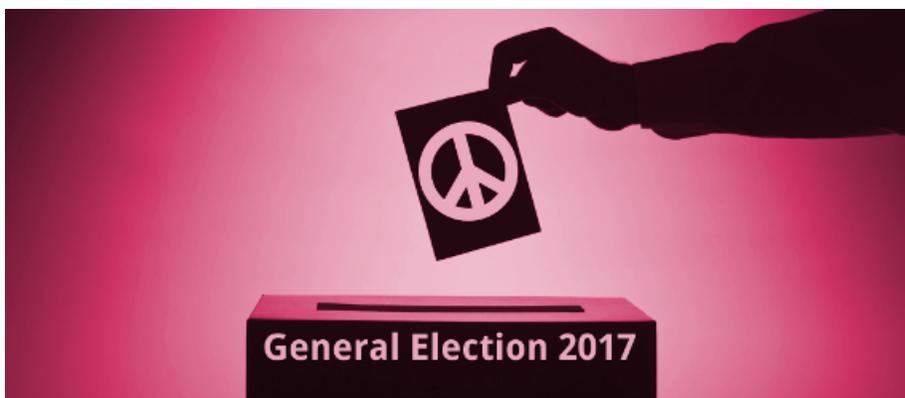


# Campaign

## Snap election: vote out nukes

Campaigns Officer **Sara Medi Jones** writes about how we make nuclear issues central in the General Election campaign.



**I**N AN announcement that surprised many, Prime Minister Theresa May called a General Election for Thursday, June 8th. While the terms of how we leave the European Union was initially expected to dominate the debate, Trident was one of the first topics to hit the election headlines.

The Defence Secretary, Michael Fallon, said in an interview that the government was prepared to start a nuclear war with a first strike. While Britain's first strike policy has already been determined by our membership of NATO, this is a horrifying and irresponsible position from a government whose main responsibility should be to keep us safe rather than threaten nuclear Armageddon.

We need to stand up to this provocative behaviour and this election is the chance to act by electing anti-nuclear MPs to parliament.

MPs may have voted last year to support the replacement of Trident, Britain's nuclear weapons system, a project set to cost £205 billion, but the facts continue to stack up against this weapon of mass destruction. As well as the huge cost, the moral considerations and the doubt that nuclear weapons actually keep us safe as claimed, there have been developments at the United Nations since the vote in Parliament. The UN is expected to finalise a nuclear weapons ban treaty in July, with the support of the overwhelming majority of the international community.

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CND will be asking candidates for their views on these key issues during the campaign. As well as the replacement of Trident and the UN nuclear ban treaty, we'll also be asking their views on the construction of new nuclear power stations. The government is committed to nuclear power, despite the huge costs and the uncertainty around the safety and feasibility of the technology.

As candidates are announced, you will be able to contact those standing in your area through the CND website and see what responses others have received. We will then be publicising the candidates' responses to ensure people can make an informed decision before casting their ballot. You can also keep up to date with the latest information through CND's facebook and twitter accounts.

■ Visit [www.cnduk.org/Election2017](http://www.cnduk.org/Election2017) for how you can get involved. This election, let's vote out nukes!

  
**STOP TRIDENT**  
**VOTE OUT NUKES**

## CND at the NPT

**B**RTAIN is one of 191 states that have signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which commits its signatories to either not develop nuclear weapons if they haven't already, or to work towards disarmament if they do possess them. The NPT came into force in 1970, following widespread international concern about the risk of nuclear weapons proliferation and the spiralling nuclear weapon stocks of those states that had developed them.



It is a binding multilateral treaty with the goal of general and complete nuclear weapons disarmament.

The NPT signatories meet every five years to review the treaty, but the 2015 conference failed to reach any agreement, reportedly due to disagreements on the lack of progress on a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Middle East. CND was present at the conference and met with key ambassadors, and it was



evident to us that progress would be difficult anyway as the nuclear states did not seem willing to commit to any disarmament progress whatsoever.

This week, states will meet for the first of three Preparatory Committees for the 2020 Review Conference in Vienna.

CND representatives Dave Webb and Kate Hudson are attending what is sure to be a difficult meeting, following the escalation of nuclear tension between the United States and North Korea in particular.

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# Trump and NATO? Same old story

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** writes about the upcoming NATO summit in Brussels.

**D**ID ANYONE really think that a Trump electoral victory would spell the end of NATO? Well he did describe it as ‘obsolete’ during his presidential campaign. But he’s certainly changed his tune faster than you can say ‘New Cold War’. And I can’t say I’m surprised.

Last month Trump met with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg at the White House. As well as the usual platitudes about being a bulwark of international peace and security, devoted to human dignity and freedom, there were three key elements.

Firstly, a quick burst of expansion. Since foundation in 1949, NATO has expanded from 12 states to 28, many joining after the end of the Cold War and the demise of its rival, the Warsaw Pact. Trump has now signed the protocol to admit Montenegro, one of the successor states to the former Yugoslavia. In 1999, it was part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, bombed illegally by NATO. Other former Yugoslav republics are next on the list for membership.

Secondly, the money. Trump has been after member states to

**No to war – No to NATO**  
**Brussels 24-25th May 2017**  
 The NATO summit where Trump is due to appear.  
 Join us on 24th/25th May for anti-NATO activities.  
 For more information see [cnduk.org/NoToNato2017](http://cnduk.org/NoToNato2017)



cough up 2% of GDP on so-called ‘defence’, agreed in 2006 and reiterated in 2014.

According to the *Economist*, the US last year spent 3.6% GDP on defence, whereas west European states generally have been on a downwards spending trajectory since 1991. Most east European states have increased their spending recently, but are still largely below the 2% target. As Trump puts it, NATO members must ‘pay what they owe’.

And thirdly, the fight against terrorism. This is the area that Trump has been most critical of, and the basis on which he called NATO obsolete, demanding more action against terrorism.

But apparently there has been some miraculous improvement. As he said at the press conference with Stoltenberg: *I complained about that a long time ago and they made a change, and now they do fight terrorism. I said it was obsolete; it's no longer obsolete.* Sounds a bit like a face-saving device to cover a shift in rhetoric.

And clearly he is stepping up US involvement in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan and the strong message is that he wants NATO engagement with that.

Of course, Stoltenberg responded agreeing with everything Trump said and provided further assurances that he was right there with the US. This seems rather like business as usual then. NATO has always been the nuclear-armed military alliance at the service of US foreign policy – and paying for the privilege. Time to step up our anti-NATO campaigning.

### 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 contact [jennywmcnd@gn.apc.org](mailto:jennywmcnd@gn.apc.org)

### Faringdon Grand Peace Fete

**July 1st, 2pm-5pm**

Clock House, Coleshill SN6 7PT (between Faringdon and Highworth on the B4019) Faringdon Peace Group is celebrating another year in the glorious grounds of the Clock House – do join us. Parking and facilities available.

■ Phone 01367 241707/01367 710308 for more information.

### Trident Ploughshares Coulport Disarmament Camp

**July 8th-16th**

Join a week of action at Faslane and Coulport – 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

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](http://cnduk.org/NoNeedForNuclear)

 **All welcome.**

### Day of Action Saturday 17th June in support of the Global Nuclear Ban

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.

#### Women Ban the Bomb

has called a rally and march on Saturday 17th June 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 [information@cnduk.org](mailto:information@cnduk.org) or 020 7700 2393 with any details or questions.

there will be workshops on all sorts of practical and campaign issues.

■ For more information phone 0345 4588 362.

**On June 15th**, the United Nations will begin the second round of its negotiations to draw up a treaty banning all nuclear weapons. CND is working to make sure the **UK drops its boycott** of these historic talks and commit to engaging fully with the process.

If you can help towards the cost of this work, **please donate** at [www.cnduk.org/getUKtoUN](http://www.cnduk.org/getUKtoUN)

### 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](mailto:@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.

■ For more info contact Sarah – 01765 600928 or [sswift64@gmail.com](mailto:sswift64@gmail.com)