

# Campaign

## Trident on the agenda

CND's Parliamentary Officer **Russell Whiting** gives us a round-up of party conference season.

**A**FTER Parliament voted in favour of Trident replacement in July, some thought the issue was settled. But this clearly isn't the case, and Party Conference season has helped consolidate the opposition to Trident.

In Liverpool, Trident replacement was once again kept off the Labour Conference agenda, but that didn't stop the issue dominating the week. Shadow Defence Secretary Clive Lewis described himself as a 'Trident sceptic' to thunderous applause before stating that Labour policy remains in favour of replacement. Despite media reports suggesting the policy review had been shelved, Jeremy Corbyn confirmed that it is continuing.

During her speech Shadow Foreign Secretary Emily Thornberry committed a future Labour government to reviving multilateral talks on disarmament at the UN. Labour will be sending a representative to the upcoming conference in New York and joining CND and others in applying pressure on the UK government to do the same.

Outside the conference hall CND held one of the most well-attended fringe meetings of the week, with over 250 people packing the room to hear from



MPs, trade union leaders and party activists on the continuing campaign to secure a change in Labour Party policy.

The CND fringe meeting at the Liberal Democrat conference was also well attended. The party continues its own policy review, which is expected to report before the end of the year. There was determination from those in attendance, including former MPs, that the wider membership can be persuaded to support a policy of opposing nuclear weapons.

Despite only one Conservative MP voting against Trident in parliament, a number of party members and activists joined the CND fringe in Birmingham to discuss the continuing campaign.

CND will continue to work across political parties inside and outside parliament to oppose Trident replacement. If you are a member of a political party and would like to get involved in these campaigns please email [parliamentary@cnduk.org](mailto:parliamentary@cnduk.org).

# Bring Britain to the table

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** writes about important developments in the international debate about a global ban.

**F**ROM its founding meeting, CND has championed the global abolition of nuclear weapons. Yes, we have always fought first and foremost to secure British nuclear disarmament, because this is where we have most leverage. But we have never been a NIMBY organisation and know that Britain's nuclear weapons are a relatively small part of a massive global problem that needs to be dealt with.

For many years we have argued that nuclear weapons must be banned in the same way that chemical and biological weapons have been banned – or more recently cluster munitions and landmines have been outlawed. Of course this demand for global disarmament doesn't just come from campaigns like ours – it is made by the overwhelming majority of states globally, many of which have already taken action by forming themselves into nuclear weapons-free zones. In fact, over half the globe is covered by such agreements.

The requirement for nuclear disarmament has also been enshrined in international law since 1970, in the form of the

nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. But the problem of which we are all painfully aware, is that although law, morality and mass popular will are on our side, the nuclear weapons states ignore all these factors. This leaves the big question: what will make them shift on nukes?

Many states are now so totally sick of the inaction, prevarication and double standards of the nuclear weapons states that they are pushing for a new international legal process through the United Nations, to secure a global nuclear ban treaty. A series of conferences over the past few years, initially about the devastating humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons use, coalesced into a UN General Assembly resolution last autumn, convening a working group on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations. Three sessions of the group later, it reported in August, recommending that the General Assembly convenes a conference in 2017 to negotiate a legally binding prohibition of nuclear weapons, leading to total elimination. The General Assembly will vote on the proposal at the end of October.

So far so good. Key flies in the ointment were a) nuclear weapons states did not participate, even though they endlessly talk about being committed to a multilateral process, and b) quite a few non-nuclear states acted as their proxies, disingenuously arguing that the current framework for negotiating disarmament is fine and dandy. Notwithstanding this attempt effectively to destroy the ban initiative, the working group still voted by a significant majority to press forward and recommend a conference to secure prohibition.

The General Assembly will discuss this proposal before the end of the year and the likelihood is the conference will go ahead. But again, the big question is: how do we get the nuclear weapons states to engage and comply, given their track record of ignoring such requirements? This is where we come in. We have to get Britain to that negotiating table. We have built a massive alliance and popular movement against Trident, disregarded by our head-in-the-sand government. Now let's mobilise unrelenting pressure on them to join the global majority.

# Nukes of hazard

**Matt Hawkins**, Project Officer for the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) UK, updates us on an important new initiative on nuclear convoys.

ICAN-UK has spent this year working to build up support in civil society for the abolition of Trident and to pressure the UK government to attend the ongoing United Nations talks on a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. Myths over the security these weapons of mass destruction bestow on us are pervasive and hard to shake. Many people remain unconvinced that scrapping Trident would make the world a safer place.

ICAN-UK therefore launched a single campaign aimed at raising awareness of the one of the very obvious dangers that Trident poses to the UK: the convoys that travel the length of Britain carrying warheads between the naval depot at Coulport and the refurbishment plant at Burghfield, Berkshire.

We had two goals for this campaign: one to increase sympathy for the anti-nuclear weapons cause; the other to plant the shoots of further anti-nuclear campaigns amongst communities that have never previously engaged with the issue.



With the support of CND, Nukewatch, Scientists for Global Responsibility, and many more, we've had an incredible first year. We've held public meetings in Preston, Lancaster, Birmingham, and Newcastle. We've created a series of campaign videos with our latest being viewed, so far, over 40,000 times. We've launched a campaign action inviting members of the public to email their MP asking them to sign up to a letter on nuclear weapons convoys. And we've grabbed press attention with media hits ranging from the *Mirror*, to the BBC, local press, and *Guardian*.

Perhaps the biggest success though was the launch of our report on nuclear weapons convoys last month. Written by the fantastic investigative journalist Rob Edwards, this

report used modelling and freedom of information requests to work out the potential impact of an accident involving a nuclear convoy in five locations: Birmingham, Newcastle, Preston, Wetherby, and Glasgow. Crucially Rob's report revealed that the number of safety incidents involving these convoys is on the up whilst preparations for an accident involving a convoy remain woefully inadequate. Rob's report has added yet more weight to our calls for the scrapping of Trident – a weapon that only makes our lives more not less risky.

Crucially, we're not finished. Next year we are looking to build on our success from 2016. If you would like to get involved with the campaign, email [matt@icanw.org](mailto:matt@icanw.org).

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## Events

### 8th October

#### **The creeping militarisation of our society: youth conference**

10am-4pm, SOAS, University of London, London. The Movement for the Abolition of War hosts a youth conference on militarism in British society.

■ For more info contact: [youth@abolishwar.org.uk](mailto:youth@abolishwar.org.uk)

### 8th October

#### **15 years on: Time to stop the war**

10am-5pm, TUC Congress House, 23-28 Great Russell Street, London. Stop the War Coalition is organising an international conference marking fifteen years of the 'War on Terror' and the founding of the Stop the War Coalition.

### 16th October

#### **A new UN treaty for banning nuclear weapons public meeting**

3pm-4:30pm, The Old Church, Stoke Newington Church Street, London. Organised by Just Peace N16, this meeting will discuss a new vision for global nuclear disarmament emerging in the United Nations. For more information contact [lizmeditates@gmail.com](mailto:lizmeditates@gmail.com)

## **CND Conference 2016 22nd-23rd October**

CND Conference 2016 will take place at The Mechanics Centre, 103 Princess Street, Manchester, M1 6DD.

CND's annual conference is where members elect CND's leadership and vote on policy and campaign priorities for the year ahead. Please come along and contribute.

**Saturday, 22 October 22nd** – AGM & Policy Conference (members only). Register by midday on Friday, **14th October!**

**Sunday, 23rd October** – A day of discussions, meetings and workshops about tactics and techniques for peace and anti-nuclear campaigners (open to all/no registration deadline).

■ For more information see [www.cnduk.org/about/cnd-conference](http://www.cnduk.org/about/cnd-conference) or contact Steph (020 7700 2393 / [officemanager@cnduk.org](mailto:officemanager@cnduk.org))

### 24th November

#### **No War! No Austerity!**

London Youth and Student CND conference. 6:30pm-9pm, The Venue, Student Central, Malet Street, London.

London Youth and Student CND will be debunking the lies of Tory austerity and



uniting activists to carry the anti-war message across schools and campuses.

## **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](mailto:sswift64@gmail)