

campaign



The UK government has chosen not to engage with the 132 nations taking part.

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Inside

- Election 2017
- Donald Trump
- Moorside on hold
- Global ban at UN
- NATO protest
- Convoy breaks down



Hope is on the agenda



Dave Webb, CND Chair

THE RECENT roller coaster election campaign and the unexpected outcome show it really is possible to change minds and energise people, if hope is on the agenda. Nuclear weapons were definitely a factor in the election debate: it was clear that despite Theresa May's best efforts, a willingness to press the nuclear button was not a vote-winner! We send congratulations to our Vice-President Jeremy Corbyn, who showed that it is possible to deliver a positive message for the future and get results – against all the odds. We also congratulate our Vice-President Caroline Lucas on an excellent result which recognises her outstanding commitment to peace.

Many challenges remain however and this issue of *Campaign* contains articles about actions and reactions to national and international issues of growing importance. A draft treaty to ban nuclear weapons now exists and it will hopefully soon be finalised and adopted at the UN. Before the General Election, CND called on political parties and candidates to commit to engaging in formulating and eventually signing the treaty. Ignoring multilateral talks on a global ban on nuclear weapons will not help disarmament – but it will not prevent it either. It is essential to acknowledge the importance of a global ban and we will continue to press this, and any subsequent, government to do so.

The demonstrations against President Trump and NATO at the recent summit in Brussels, and support for the counter-summit that was held there, shows how people are becoming aware that we need alternatives to current government policies. Backing out of human rights laws will not prevent terrorism, and

increasing arms spending and threats of military action cannot prevent war. We must work against NATO's increasing demands for military spending. Instead we work for disarmament, for development and for the solution of the social and global challenges; for cooperation instead of confrontation.

There are so many important groups we must not forget. Among them are the Nuke-watchers who track the nuclear warhead convoys travelling along motorways in the UK, or those protesting the proposal for a nuclear power plant at Moorside, or exposing the expansion of the US electronic communications, control and surveillance base at RAF Croughton in Oxfordshire. The work of these and other dedicated and knowledgeable groups, who have focussed on a specific aspect of our campaign, help us understand how the various issues are linked and form the big picture.

It can only be by working together that we can build a world free from the threat of war and nuclear annihilation – a world for the many, not the few.

Draft nuclear ban treaty published

Parliamentary Officer **Russell Whiting** writes about the draft global nuclear ban treaty ahead of more talks at the UN.

THE United Nations has published the draft text of the treaty which will ban nuclear weapons, ahead of the second round of negotiations in New York between 15th June and 7th July. This marks an important step in the process and follows an intense week of discussion in March. The UK, of course, chose not to engage with the 132 nations taking part.

Speaking at the launch of the draft treaty, the Chair of the negotiations, Costa Rican Ambassador Elayne Whyte Gómez called on all nations to contribute to the next round of talks, saying, ‘Whilst they will be able to join the treaty once it has been agreed, failure to participate in the negotiations undermines their claims to be committed to a world without nuclear weapons.’

The preamble to the draft treaty recognised the ‘catastrophic consequences’ were nuclear weapons ever to be used and says such an event would ‘pose grave implications for human survival’. It also highlights the fact that the ban will make an ‘important contribution’ to the overall goal of total nuclear disarmament.



Key elements of the treaty include prohibitions on the:

- Development, production, manufacture, acquisition, possession or stockpiling of nuclear weapons;
- Transfer of nuclear weapons to other parties;
- Transfer of control over nuclear weapons to other parties;
- Use of nuclear weapons;
- The carrying out of any nuclear weapon test explosion.

There are also prohibitions

on the stationing, installation or deployment of any nuclear weapons on the territory of a signature nation. During the first round of negotiation there was much discussion about the need to include prohibition on the financing of nuclear weapons, and while this isn’t featured in the draft treaty it is likely to be raised as an issue when talks reconvene.

Ahead of the General Election, CND called on political parties to commit to engaging in the process at the UN and to sign the treaty when it is finalised. The overwhelming majority of candidates who responded were positive, and we are looking forward to working with those individuals in the new parliament. CND urges the new government to play a constructive part in the negotiations and to sign up to the treaty once it is finalised.



No to Nato Summit

CND Press Officer **Ian Chamberlain** reports back from the No to NATO summit in May.

TENS of thousands of activists descended on Brussels in May, as NATO leaders gathered for a summit. Organised by the 'No to War: No to NATO' network, peace organisations from across Europe – including CND – came together to protest against the world's biggest military alliance. Women, primarily from Britain, were involved in a striking visual stunt, wearing t-shirts that spelled out 'No to NATO' in giant letters.

At the summit itself, US President Donald Trump wasted no time in condemning NATO members for their 'chronic underpayments'. Leaders agreed that NATO would begin to participate in the so-called War on IS, which represents a renewed expansion of the disastrous War on Terror.

Established in 1949, NATO is an expanding interventionist military bloc of countries operating on a global scale. It began as group of 10 western European states, as well as Canada and the United States of



America, but has since grown to an alliance of 29 European and North American states, including three former Soviet Republics: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

On Monday 5th June 2017, Montenegro became NATO's newest member. Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina are also set to join NATO in the near future. The aggressive expansion of NATO has fuelled international tensions, particularly with Russia. It has been a contributory factor in the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. Trident, Britain's nuclear weapon system, is assigned to NATO.

On the second day of the NATO summit, 'No to War: No to NATO' arranged a counter-summit to discuss the main challenges arising from

new NATO proposals. More than 200 delegates participated in a very colourful and varied conference.

CND General Secretary Kate Hudson gave a presentation on CND's progress and our campaigning methods. There was a palpable interest in the Stop Trident campaign, particularly in the context of a CND Vice-President standing to be Prime Minister. Clear ambitions and goals resonated throughout the hall, including an end to the wars of intervention, an end to the new round of increased military spending, and of particular note to CND was very strong support for the global nuclear ban being negotiated at the United Nations.

Drop Trump not bombs

CND Campaigns Officer **Sara Medi Jones** writes about what the election of President Donald Trump means for CND and our campaigns.

THE ELECTION of Donald Trump as United States President in November 2016 shocked the world.

In a ComRes/The Independent poll at the time of his election, 66% of British people thought he would make the world a more dangerous place. And so far, they have been proved right! In a few months, Trump has tried to impose a travel ban on majority Muslim countries, pulled the US out of a ground-breaking and essential climate change agreement and attempted to restrict reproductive health provisions for women.

For CND and other anti-nuclear campaigners there are further dangers. It's terrifying that a short-tempered President with a track-record of acting impulsively and little grasp of the implications of nuclear use has access to the US' nuclear codes. But there are also great dangers to world peace from his favourable views on nuclear proliferation.

Trump has repeatedly promised to cancel the nuclear deal with Iran. This agreement was a huge achievement which



came about after a decade of talks. Abandoning the agreement may well push Iran down the road to nuclear weapons, potentially opening the door to Egypt and Saudi Arabia going down the nuclear route as well. He has said on multiple occasions that more countries should get nuclear weapons.

Trump is effectively calling into question what has been a bipartisan policy in the United States for the better part of the last 70 years: making sure more countries do not acquire nuclear weapons.

This raises the question of Trump's commitment to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which came into force in 1970. Of course there are major flaws with the treaty,

most pressing that it hasn't been able to bring about nuclear disarmament. But it is an indication of what is expected of the international community and a bench mark which is aimed for: a world without nuclear weapons. If the US President sanctions nuclear proliferation then we are heading on a very dangerous path.

The US peace movement has also highlighted other concerns. Activists are concerned about the possibility of an escalation of US militarism in the Middle East, beginning with Syria; increased tensions with China and increased pressure on US allies to pay more for their militaries. Trump's rhetoric on NATO may have been confused, but he's clear on one thing: an expectation that members should spend more on defence.

With President Trump a reality we have to face for years to come, it's never been more important to increase our anti-war and anti-nuclear work and to step up international cooperation.

Now Labour must reject Trident replacement

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** writes about the General Election result.

The Conservative bid to gain votes by scaremongering about the nuclear threat failed spectacularly.

THE general election outcome marks a significant shake-up in British politics and the surge in support for qualitatively different policies, particularly across English constituencies in the shape of support for the Corbyn-led Labour Party, presents a number of opportunities for anti-nuclear campaigning. A strengthened position for Corbyn means that Trident can now be back on the political agenda and we must pull out all the stops to get the replacement cancelled. Campaigners in Scotland will be discussing how best to take that forward, in the context of a reduced parliamentary presence for the SNP at Westminster.

The Conservative bid to gain votes by scaremongering about the nuclear threat failed spectacularly. So too did their

attempts to suggest that Jeremy Corbyn cannot be trusted because he won't commit to killing millions by pressing the nuclear button. Far from providing Theresa May with a ringing endorsement and a strengthened majority for her nuclear-fuelled, intolerance-promoting, inequality-increasing government, the election saw a significant shift towards the politics of hope, peace, inclusivity, justice and equality.

Jeremy Corbyn's long-standing opposition to nuclear weapons, and his personal opposition to Trident replacement, did not deter millions of people from voting for him. Indeed the likelihood is that many – particularly young people – have voted for him precisely because he opposes war, intervention and weapons of mass destruction.

Support for Trident replacement is negligible amongst the younger generation and it is clear that the narrative of investment in homes, health, education and jobs, has been very popular.

In fact, it has led to Labour's first increase in seats since 1997 and its biggest increase in the share of the vote since 1945. Labour's support has grown because of Corbyn's policies based on peace, respect and our shared humanity. And this vision goes beyond national boundaries to his vision of how we relate to the rest of the world. No longer Blair's 'war-fighting nation', 'punching above its weight', but a decent part of a shared community of nations.

But we have to take this fightback against Trident replacement into the Labour Party and win it. Over the past months, the right wing of the Labour Party, and a small but powerful section of the trade union movement, have peddled the myth that Labour needs to look 'strong on defence' to win – and that this means supporting Trident replacement. This is now shown to be the nonsense that it is. Labour has not surged because its shadow defence secretary has insisted that Labour supports Trident replacement. It has surged in spite of that, because

it has a radical vision of a different society, and because everyone knows that Jeremy Corbyn does not support Trident replacement.

The time has now come for Labour to throw off this ridiculous, dangerous and expensive burden, and recognise that Labour's future lies in setting a new agenda for Britain, doing things differently, for people, and for all our communities, local and global. Part of this agenda must be to now reject Trident replacement and call a halt to it. There are some obvious first steps to be taken.

When Jeremy first became leader, he commissioned an extensive Defence Review throughout the Labour Party. That Review has been shelved, presumably because it showed the extent of anti-Trident opinion within the party. That Review must now be published, and form the basis for a democratic debate at Labour Party conference. This issue must not be kept off the agenda any longer.

The reality is that there is no popular mandate for a Tory security policy, or a Tory-lite security policy pushed on the Labour party by a minority of pro-nuclear forces that are living in the past. And those trade unions that have put unreasonable pressure on Jeremy to keep Trident need to

change. The way for them to secure and extend high quality, well-paid jobs is to support Jeremy's policy on defence diversification. Rather than shunning this initiative they need to work with politicians and industry to develop a diversification plan, as part of a national industrial strategy that will secure their jobs without holding the rest of the country over a nuclear barrel. There is now strong public backing for industrial planning and investment and this needs to go into sustainable industrial production, to meet public needs, for energy, housing and public resources, not weapons of mass destruction.

As well as rejecting Trident replacement, Labour also needs to come out clearly in support of the global nuclear weapons ban treaty. We welcome Jeremy's positive comments about the NPT and multilateral disarmament but the ongoing UN initiative for a global ban treaty has been developed by the international community precisely because the NPT framework has failed to make headway on disarmament.

Supporting the status quo is not enough and we will be working to get Labour onside with the ban treaty. In the event of a Labour government, this would represent an extremely important global development.

Bleak prospects for NPT

AS WE ENTER a new cycle of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), prospects for progress under the agreement look bleak. The next Review Conference of the NPT will take place in 2020, with the first preparation meeting having taken place in Vienna in May. A CND delegation attended this conference and reported that states were divided on many issues, most notably on the issue of the proposed global ban.

The NPT came into force in 1970 and is a binding multi-lateral treaty with the goal of general and complete nuclear

States were divided on many issues, most notably on the issue of the proposed global ban

weapons disarmament.

The UK is one of five states that had already acquired nuclear weapons before the NPT was signed. The treaty establishes that those states without nuclear weapons agree not to acquire them and those with nuclear

weapons agree to disarm.

The last NPT Review Conference, in 2015, ended without any agreement, reportedly due to disagreements on how to proceed with a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Middle East. This topic featured prominently in Vienna, along with the need for countries to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

The growing nuclear threat from North Korea, the nuclear deal with Iran and further bilateral warhead reductions were also on the agenda.

Moorside Project on hold

AFTER A SERIES of financial problems, the Moorside Project (which would be Europe's largest new nuclear development) was put on indefinite hold in May, as the company behind the venture – NuGen – announced it would be conducting a strategic review. Moorside Nuclear Power Station is intended to consist of three nuclear reactors on a site near Sellafield.

Westinghouse, the US nuclear division that was due to make the reactors for the project, filed for bankruptcy

earlier this year, then another company Engie pulled out of the project before another company Toshiba warned of heavy financial losses.

Moorside is just the latest British nuclear venture to face serious problems, reflecting the declining fortunes of nuclear power at the same time that the production of renewables is soaring. We've already seen days this summer when solar panels produced more electricity than Britain's eight nuclear power stations for the first time.

The successful 'No Need

for Nuclear: The Renewables are Here' conference arranged by CND in June discussed in detail how renewable energy can and should replace nuclear energy production. A range of expert speakers highlighted how renewable energy is safer, healthier, more sustainable, quicker and cheaper than nuclear.

Let's hope the new government reflects on the facts and changes its disastrous energy policy before we see more failures like Moorside.

NUKEWATCH

Nukewatcher **Nigel Day** writes about monitoring Britain's nuclear warheads.

JUST A FEW MILES to the North of Oxford on a quiet Monday morning in May, a vehicle broke down on the side of the M40 and had to be towed. Not the most unusual occurrence you might be thinking, but you would be wrong. Because this vehicle was part of a convoy transporting nuclear warheads across the country.

Not even local authorities are given advance warnings of these convoys, making planning for accidents or worse very difficult. In fact, the movements of these convoys are shrouded in such secrecy that we might not know hardly anything at all about them without the work of Nukewatch.

Nukewatch is a network of individuals which monitors and tracks the movement of Britain's nuclear warheads, which are regularly moved between the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) near Reading, where the UK's nuclear weapons are manufactured and maintained, and the Royal Naval Armaments Depot at Coulport, where they are stored.

The pattern of warhead

convoy movements which we saw in 2016 paints an alarming picture. The evidence suggests that not only are there a greater number of these deadly cargoes on the roads, but that the government is introducing modernised and even more lethal Trident warheads into service.

The evidence gathered by Nukewatch is invaluable in the campaign to inform people about the dangers of nuclear weapons, even if they are never used. Can you help?

Nukewatch is always on the look-out for new spotters. If you have a car, live close to a warhead convoy route, and are willing to help watch for the convoy, please let us know by email to office@nuclearinfo.org or by phone on 0345 4588 365 (North) or 0345 4588.364 (South) or 07796 226488. If you see a nuclear weapons convoy on your travels, let us know what you saw, time and place, and the direction the convoy was travelling in.

Communities which have nuclear bombs passing nearby their schools, playing fields and hospitals, should be aware of their existence and the risks they pose.

RAF Croughton

RAF Croughton in Northamptonshire is currently used by the US military to co-ordinate communications support operations for the United States, NATO and Europe. The base is responsible for 30% of all military communications between Europe and the US, and is used for communicating with the US base in Djibouti, including about drone strikes over Yemen and Somalia.

Further developments are planned at the site, which will consolidate intelligence operations in an efficient, purpose-built building. RAF Croughton therefore is a symbol of Britain's involvement in the United States' destabilising and antagonistic military actions.

■ Please prepare to support the march and rally at RAF Croughton on Saturday, 7th October to mark Keep Space for Peace Week. An International Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space conference is planned in Oxford for 2018 and will focus on the developments at USAF Croughton.

PREVENTING Trident replacement and reallocating the vast sums involved to social spending, has been a strong theme for many trade union activists. ‘NHS not Trident’ remains a top priority, as our health service faces crisis after crisis due to underfunding. Our regular participation in the UNISON trade union conference – one of the biggest unions affiliated to CND – allows us to discuss this on the ground with health professionals, and we have been active at other trade union conferences too.

We recently attended the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) and University and Colleges Union (UCU) conferences as well as Women’s TUC. We receive widespread support from delegates, with many signing

our petition to cancel Trident replacement. Mid-Somerset CND and Peace group are running the CND stall at the Tolpuddle Festival in Dorset again this year.

For some trade unionists, the question of Trident and jobs remains an important one. We have faced significant misinformation about this, from those who seek to use genuine concerns about job security to stoke support for nuclear weapons production. To shed light on this subject we have continued to produce detailed facts and figures about the employment implications of cancelling Trident. In addition to our briefing, we have a new ‘Trident and Jobs’ leaflet, which proposes a transformational programme of public investment, ‘as part of a

sustainable industrial policy which will create many more high-skill, high-wage jobs than currently exist.’

Possible developments include turning Barrow into a national centre of excellence to increase industrial skills and training; making Rolls-Royce, Derby, into a global hub for research into decommissioning; and committing AWE Aldermaston’s resources to international inspection and verification work. Please contact us for copies for use in your own local trade union work.

Next we will be present at TUC Congress in Brighton this September. If any CND members are attending as delegates, please come and speak to us at our stall about how we strengthen CND in the wider labour movement.

News update

Five workers at a Japanese nuclear research centre were exposed to high levels of radiation after a bag containing plutonium apparently broke during an equipment inspection. Contamination was found inside the nostrils of three of the five men, the Japan Atomic Energy Agency confirmed. All five also had radioactive material on their limbs after removing protective gear and taking a shower. The cause of the accident is under investigation, with nuclear security being questioned.

Israel planned to detonate a nuclear bomb in Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula if it looked like they could lose what eventually came to be known as the Six-Day War in 1967, according to documents published by a history centre in the US. The bomb was intended to be set off on top of a mountain in the Sinai Peninsula as a warning to Egyptian and Arab forces. As its name suggests however, Israel had won the battle in less than a week, without using an atomic weapon.

Chelsea Manning was released from military prison in May, after serving seven years for releasing US state secrets. CND General Secretary Kate Hudson hailed Manning as a ‘heroine and a truth teller of our times. Because of her bravery we obtained yet more evidence of the horrors conducted in our name under the guise of the War on Terror.’ The US soldier passed a series of documents to WikiLeaks on topics such as the Iraq and Afghan wars and Guantanamo Bay.

CND GROUPS groups have been taking stock after a disappointing Parliamentary vote on Trident in 2016, and are now re-energised. The prospect of a global nuclear ban has galvanised many, with groups arranging meetings and stalls promoting the topic. This work will be invaluable in informing the public about the ban, as it has barely been covered in the media. Groups such as **West Midlands CND** have been exploring new ideas for their campaigns,

in these tumultuous political times.

Groups including **Greater Manchester CND** continue to arrange cultural events such as exhibitions and film evenings to broaden the appeal of peace campaigning. We've also been joined by many of you, including **Kent Area CND**, at our demonstrations. Thank you for all that you do.

Not involved with a group? Have a look at www.cnduk.org/groups to see where your local groups are based or get in touch: 020 7700 2393 or



membership@cnduk.org if you would like help in setting one up.

CND Peace Education Officer **Owen Everett** writes about CND's peace education programme.

CND PEACE EDUCATION was set up to encourage independent thinking and debate, so as to enable young people to form their own opinions on nuclear weapons and peace issues. We offer free, cross-curricular workshops and assemblies to schools and colleges across England, and free teacher training sessions on exploring controversial issues in the classroom.

We directly encounter between around 4000 students every year, as well as distributing thousands of our free teaching packs which will reach even more.

Recommended by the *Times Educational Supplement* and the

Guardian Teacher Network, our sessions and resources are highly-praised. 96.9% of students have rated the sessions as 'very' or 'extremely' engaging, and 89.9% said they'd like to have us back. A Year 10 student in Hamble School said about us, 'The best kind of session' while a Religious Education teacher at Sturminster Newton High School said there was a 'buzz' about our resource, the *Bomb Factor*.

With lots of new peace education volunteers freshly trained, we want to deliver even more sessions in more schools. Do you know any teachers you can put us in touch with? If so, please email

peaceeducation@cnduk.org, or phone 020 7700 2393.

Together, we can empower even more of the next generation.

■ To learn more about CND Peace Education, go to www.cnduk.org/education.

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What's on

As you may have noticed, CND has cut down on the number of hard copy *Campaign* magazines we publish in a year. Instead we publish a monthly online magazine which can provide more up to the minute news and actions. However, we understand that not all of our members have an email address. If you would like a paper copy of this monthly magazine, please phone 020 7700 2393 to confirm and to provide your address. Please also phone or email us if you're not receiving the email version and would like to! Thank you!

1st July

Faringdon Grand Peace

Fete 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 or 01367 710308 for more information

5th July

Nuclear tensions on the Korean Peninsula: What next?

7pm-9pm, Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, London SE1 7AA.

Tensions continue to mount as President Trump threatens military action over North Korea's ballistic missile tests. Former editor of Asian Times, Keith Bennett considers what might happen next. All welcome. Talk to be followed by London Region CND Council meeting.

■ Phone 020 7607 2302 or email info@londoncnd.org.uk for your free ticket.

8th-16th July

Trident Ploughshares Coulport Disarmament

Camp 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 there will be workshops on all sorts of practical and campaign issues. More info: 0345 4588 362.

7th-14th October

Keep Space for Peace Week

– Save the Dates. Join the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space as they commemorate Keep Space for Peace Week. Events happening across the UK, as well as the rest of the world.

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 or faslanepeacecamp@hotmail.com

Menwith Hill

Women's Peace Camp

Contact Yorkshire CND for details: 01274 730795 or email: info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Weekly vigil every

Tuesday 6-7.30pm. For more information contact Sarah: 01765 600928 or sswift64@gmail.com.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Confrontation or cooperation?

Nuclear abolition in dangerous times

Saturday 14th October 2017

10am – 5pm. Admission free.

Arlington Conference Centre, London NW1 7HE

Register here: <https://cndconference.eventbrite.com>

CND AGM & Policy Conference

Sunday 15th October 2017

10am – 5pm, Arlington Conference Centre, Camden, London NW1 7HE

Register here: goo.gl/mSWYPS

