

# Campaign

## Fifty years of the NPT

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** explains the successes and failures of the NPT, the international nuclear disarmament treaty.



Our own government claims to remain committed to the NPT as a disarmament process, yet does nothing to advance it.

**T**HIS YEAR we mark the 50th anniversary of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) – a milestone in global attempts to get rid of nuclear weapons, born out of concerns about proliferation and the spiralling stocks of the nuclear states in the early 1960s.

Including both non-proliferation and disarmament, the NPT was very popular and was overwhelmingly passed by the UN General Assembly in June 1968, when it received 95 votes to 4, with 21 abstentions. In July 1968, it opened for signature and was signed by the US, Britain and the Soviet Union.

It not only forbade nuclear technology transfer and the making or acquisition of

nuclear weapons by non-nuclear weapons states, it also crucially included Article VI: 'Each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.' But Article VI has remained to this day a dead letter.

In terms of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons by non-nuclear states, the NPT has had mixed success. The US has enabled Israel to become a nuclear power. South Africa became a nuclear power but renounced its nuclear weapons. Both India

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



and Pakistan have developed nuclear weapons, as has North Korea more recently. Still, as historian of the world peace movement Lawrence Wittner, has pointed out, ‘Although analysts had once estimated that as many as 30 nations might develop nuclear weapons by the 1970s, very few of them chose to do so. Indeed, numerous countries quite capable of developing the Bomb – Sweden, Canada, Switzerland, East and West Germany, Italy, Australia and Japan, among others resisted the temptation.’

When the NPT was launched, there was considerable optimism and enthusiasm for the eradication of nuclear weapons. For example, several countries at this time also took steps to make themselves nuclear-free. In January 1968, the Japanese prime minister pledged that Japan would not make nuclear

weapons. That same month, Canada’s Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau began the phasing out of the deployment of US nuclear weapons in Canada. Also in 1968, a nuclear weapons-free zone was established by 20 countries in Latin America, renouncing the acquisition and siting of nuclear weapons on their territories. Two other treaties were also signed around this same time: the Outer Space Treaty of 1966, which banned the deployment of weapons of mass destruction in space; and the Seabed Arms Control Treaty of 1971, which did the same for the seabed.

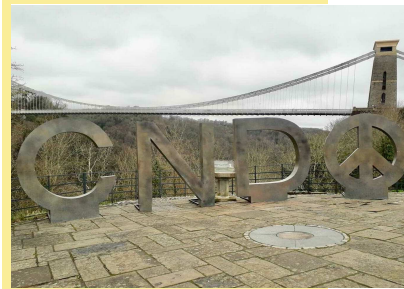
But in terms of disarmament, the NPT has been a disappointment, as nuclear weapons states have disregarded Article VI. Indeed, it has been frustration with the failure of the NPT which has led to so many countries taking matters into their own hands and bringing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons – which opened for signature in September 2017 – into being.

Our own government claims to remain committed to the NPT as a disarmament process, yet does nothing to advance it. So to mark its 50th anniversary, Parliamentary CND has introduced EDM 1122, urging the government to make good on its commitment. Please ask your MP to sign it.

## Groups Spotlight

### This month: Bristol CND

Bristol CND recently hosted a visit of CND’s symbol tour, even appearing on the evening news! This was no surprise as this fantastic group always has ideas for promoting the campaign, including arranging a film competition in the past.



The CND symbol on tour – at the Clifton Suspension Bridge, Bristol

■ If you’re a CND member in Bristol and interested in getting more involved with the group’s activities, please get in touch: 07419 186507 or [bristolcndchair@gmail.com](mailto:bristolcndchair@gmail.com)

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

**ecotricity** \*Terms & conditions apply

# Jobs not Trident

CND Chair Professor **Dave Webb** highlights the importance of research into defence diversification.

**D**ISCUSSION about Trident replacement often focuses on jobs – a particularly important subject in Barrow (where Trident and its successor Dreadnought are built); Derby (where Rolls-Royce produces the nuclear reactors) and around Faslane and Coulport (where Trident submarines are berthed, and the nuclear weapons are stored).

Although jobs should not be used as a justification for nuclear weapons, concerns about the future security of skilled employment reliant on a large-scale high-tech project should be taken seriously. In the past, the destruction of the coal, steel and car industries has shown how dependent communities can suffer under such circumstances.

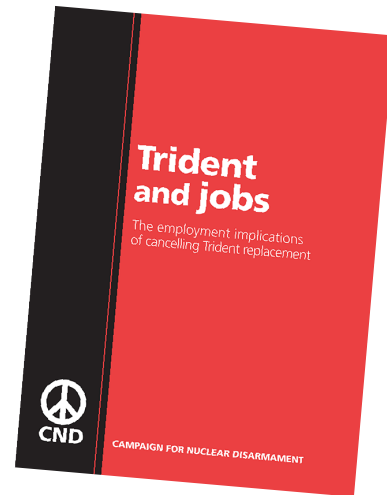
The defence industry is no stranger to these problems; changes in defence policy and military spending occur frequently. Jobs and livelihoods should not depend so much upon the replacement of Trident as there are other more diverse, more lasting and more socially useful activities that can be undertaken instead. This is

what is meant by defence diversification – the widening of the industrial and business base to enable certain regions and industries to reduce their dependency on military projects.

A more politically pro-active term for this is arms conversion – where moves are taken to transform industry from a war-based to a people-based economy. Either way, this change should be undertaken through schemes and incentives developed by industry and the government working in close cooperation with trade unions and the communities at risk. However, it is trade unions and campaign groups that have mostly taken the lead on conversion projects in the past.

Scottish TUC and Scottish CND have previously investigated the economic and employment consequences for Scotland if Trident was not replaced. They found that Scotland would actually be better off because other opportunities would not be lost by the increased dependency on Trident.

During his leadership campaign, Labour leader Jeremy



Corbyn proposed the establishment of a Defence Diversification Agency (DDA) by a future Labour government. In 2017, TUC conference passed a resolution calling on Labour in opposition to set up a shadow DDA to get the ball rolling in advance of being in government, with a Unite delegate speaking in favour on behalf of defence, aerospace and shipbuilding workers at Rolls-Royce in Derby.

The Nuclear Education Trust is currently reviewing the available literature on defence diversification. The aim is to analyse and draw conclusions from defence diversification projects at home and abroad – so that recommendations can be made to ensure that cancelling Trident will be a job creator not a job loser. Look out for a report in the near future.

### **Global ban lobbying training day, April 7th,**

10:30am-4pm, 52-54 Featherstone Street, London EC1Y 8RT.

■ Contact ukwilpf.peace@gmail.com

### **Kent CND meeting**

**April 8th,** 11am-1pm  
Gorewell, Old Wives Lees, Canterbury CT4 8BD.

■ Contact pambrio@ntlworld.com or phone 07772 471905

### **DSEI Arms Fair Trials**

**April 11th-12th**  
Stratford Magistrates Court, 389-397 High St, London E15.

■ Contact 0345 3488 363 or tplegalsupportengland@tridentpoughshares.org

### **An evening with Kate Hudson – Llanelli**

**April 12th,** 6:30pm,  
Selwyn Samuels Centre, Park Crescent, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, SA15 3AE

■ Contact soniaklein68@gmail.com

### **Developing a United Welsh Front Against Nuclear Power**

**April 14th,** 10:30am-3:45pm  
Owain Glyndwr Parliament House, 93 Heol Maengwyn, Machynlleth SY20 8EE.

■ Contact info@wana.wales

### **Sydenham & Forest Hill CND meeting**

**April 17th,** 7:30pm  
47 Dacres Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 2NS.

■ Contact 020 8690 6117 or anneschuman@gmail.com

### **From Trident to What? Defence, Jobs and Diversification – Derby**

**April 27th** 7pm-9:30pm  
Friends Meeting House, 56 St Helen's St, Derby DE1 3HY

■ Contact 07557 271015 or email viv.carnea@gmail.com

### **Yorkshire CND Day of Dance, April 28th**

Victoria Hall, Saltaire, Shipley.

■ Contact 01274 730795 or info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

### **Jobs not Bombs – Manchester public meeting, April 29th**

3:15pm-4:15pm, Mary Quaile Room, Mechanics' Institute, 103 Princess St, Manchester M1 6DD

■ Contact gmdcnd@gn.apc.org or 0161 273 8283

### **Nuclear power talk – Sheffield, May 9th,**

7pm-8:30pm, Sheffield Quaker Meeting House, 10 St James' St, Sheffield S1 2EW.

■ Contact 01274 730 795 or info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

### **West Midlands CND AGM June 2nd,**

10:30am, Cafe on top of House of Fraser, Birmingham B2 5JS.

■ Contact wmcndall@gmail.com

### **Campaigning in the Age of Trump: CND at 60 public lecture, June 4th,**

6:30pm-8pm, Wolfson Lecture Theatre, London School of Economics, London WC2A 2AE.

■ Contact enquiries@cnduk.org or phone 020 7700 2393

### **Hereford Peace Council Quiz, June 8th,**

7pm

Friends Meeting House, King Street, Hereford HR4 9BX

■ Contact 01981 510223 or carolanson@yahoo.co.uk

### **Trident and the Labour Party: Wallasey Public Meeting, June 9th**

2pm.

Venue to be decided.

■ Contact 01516 383967 or barb.hardcastle@gmail.com

### **Yorkshire CND Spring Peace & Craft Fair, June 16th,**

Victoria Hall, Saltaire, Shipley BD18 3JS.

■ To book your stall contact info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk or 01274 730795

### **Global Conference to Resist Nuclearisation of Space, June 22nd-24th**

Friends Meeting House, 43 St Giles', Oxford OX1 3LW

■ Contact globalnet@mindspring.com

### **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 07376 188216  
faslanepeacecamp@protonmail.com

#### **Menwith Hill vigil**

Every Tuesday 6-7.30pm.

■ For more info contact Sarah – 01765 600928 or sswift64@gmail.com