

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

SUMMER 2019

# campaign



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# Much to do



**Dave Webb, CND Chair**

**I**T CAN sometimes seem that our very real concerns about nuclear weapons are largely ignored by the government and the media. However, this issue of *Campaign* looks at an important report by the House of Lords entitled ‘Rising nuclear risk, disarmament and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty’, that could change that. The report points out the collapse of arms control agreements and urges a revival of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty. It echoes our warning that the use of nuclear weapons is becoming a distinct possibility, whether on purpose, by

mistake or as a result of a cyber-attack. The report calls on the government to seek to reduce tensions between nuclear and non-nuclear weapon states, to be less aggressive to the Ban Treaty and its supporters and to defend and uphold the Iran nuclear deal.

All of these issues were discussed at the recent NPT Preparatory Committee at the United Nations, on which the UK Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament writes in this magazine. The UK is currently chairing the P5 group of nuclear states and has said it will focus on engagement with civil society, which gives us an important opportunity to make progress.

The Extinction Rebellion movement has demonstrated the deep level of concern about the future of our planet – read more on page 3.

President Trump’s recent state visit offered us an opportunity to demonstrate our concerns about US nuclear policy and in December we will

have another chance as NATO meets in London to mark its 70th anniversary. CND and the ‘No to War, No to NATO’ network will be organising protests and a counter-summit to discuss alternatives to NATO and its current policies.

Seventy countries have now signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. While the rate of signatories slows down – due to political pressure by nuclear states – communities are now demonstrating their support. States, cities, towns and local authorities around the world are becoming nuclear ban communities. There is a shortage of sign-ups from the UK – something for us to work on.

There is much to do at this crucial time. The political situation seems to be in chaos – but perhaps the conditions are right for change? We must ensure that any change is increasing, not decreasing, our chances of survival.

# Climate not Trident

CND Campaigns Officer **Sara Medi Jones** looks at the links between the recent climate change protests and CND.

**EXTINCTION REBELLION** exploded into popular consciousness earlier this year with their protests to highlight the unprecedented global emergency we face: climate change. And their actions have worked - polls show that public concern about the issue has soared, especially amongst young people.

Their direct action tactics and mass actions have drawn parallels with previous CND protests, including a march in Upper Heyford in 1983, which saw 339 people arrested, and the Greenham Women's Peace Camp.

It's not just methods that CND shares in common with

Extinction Rebellion, but a shared concern for the future of the planet. Humanity currently faces two existential crises – global warming and the possibility of nuclear war. In deciding the time on the Doomsday Clock, scientists have assessed political and military developments and determined that the twin threats of nuclear war and climate change are more likely to lead to disaster than ever before.

In fact, nuclear weapons could cause severe damage to the climate and environment on a scale incomparable to any other weapon. Research by the International Red Cross shows that a 'limited' nuclear war

would cause global temperatures to fall by an average of 1.3°C. The disrupted global climate would have an overwhelming impact on food production with a billion people at risk of starvation.

Our link with the environmental movement is not new. CND worked with the emerging green movement in the 1970s, addressing shared concerns about the future of our planet. Today, Climate not Trident is one of our key slogans on marches.

CND will continue to be inspired by and work with groups such as Extinction Rebellion on our shared campaign for a better future.

**CND is set to protest at the upcoming NATO summit**, which will be held in London this December. With heads of state, including US President Donald Trump, expected to be in attendance, CND will be taking this opportunity to voice our opposition to the alliance's nuclear warmongering.

NATO has not just condoned the reckless actions of Trump, the alliance itself has raised international tensions through its insatiable expansionism and interventionism. NATO's war of aggression in Afghanistan has resulted in tens of thousands of deaths and left the country fragmented. Furthermore, NATO's expansion into Eastern Europe continues to escalate tensions with Russia.

Most importantly of all, NATO remains wedded to its nuclear weapons. The alliance hosts around 180 nuclear weapons across its European bases and operates a 'first use' policy. These deadly actions must be rejected in the strongest terms. Join us in December to make our message clear – NATO must be disbanded for the security of us all.

# Rising nuclear risk

CND's Campaigns Officer **Amy Keegan** explains the importance of a recent House of Lords report into nuclear disarmament.

**T**HE House of Lords International Relations Committee released a report in April stating that the threat of nuclear war is higher than it has been in years. It endorsed the principle that 'a nuclear war cannot be won and should never be fought' and cited 'irresponsible rhetoric, combined with a lack of communication between nuclear possessor states, [which has created] serious risks of nuclear use due to misinterpretation and miscalculation.' The overwhelming message from the report was that due to the increased threat, the UK should do more to support global disarmament initiatives.

This substantial report was the outcome of an inquiry into the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and nuclear disarmament generally by the committee, in which they considered evidence from a variety of experts in the field, including CND.

When examining causes of nuclear risk, the report cited changes in the global order from a cold war bipolar world, to a multipolar world; increase in

US/Russia tensions; tensions between nuclear-armed states India and Pakistan; and the emergence of China and North

**Ahead of the 2020 NPT Review Conference, the committee highlighted its importance and recommended that the UK government engage fully with the process.**

Korea as threats. The report examines how the development of new technological capabilities such as lower yield 'tactical' nuclear weapons have increased the chance of miscalculation and miscommunication. This is amplified by the ambiguity in UK nuclear defence policy which could lead to misinterpretation and use of nuclear weapons.

Ahead of the 2020 NPT Review Conference, the committee recommended that the UK government engage fully with the process. The UK should set out a clear vision for future work towards disarmament,

and seek to influence the nuclear weapon states to fulfil their obligations under the three pillars of the NPT. This year the UK is taking over control of the P5 leadership process, giving an opportunity to influence other nuclear weapons states. The report recommends that the UK encourages other nuclear weapons states to adopt a 'credible minimum deterrent', increase transparency through regular reporting on nuclear weapons systems, declare a no first use policy, and to constructively engage with non-nuclear weapons states on issues such as the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Whilst the report doesn't go far enough – notably on the notion of any kind of 'deterrent' – this is an encouraging and important set of recommendations and will be a useful contribution to the nuclear weapons debate in parliament. The report has been submitted to the government and they are currently formulating a response which should be published this summer.

# Nuclear Ban communities

Towns and cities around the world are becoming Nuclear Ban Communities as they sign up to support the UN's Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

**M**ANCHESTER recently became the first city in Europe to back the treaty after Manchester City Council unanimously passed a resolution voicing its support for the nuclear ban. Renfrewshire Council, Hebden Royd town council and West Dunbartonshire Council have all since adopted a similar motion. And this movement isn't just in the UK – cities across the world, including Washington, Paris and Berlin have already passed motions of support.

CND groups across the country have been getting involved. Andrew Methaven explains why Yorkshire CND is lobbying local councils: *'The TPNW is a key tool for moving us towards a world without nuclear weapons, and our role as anti-nuclear activists in the UK is to build support for it from the grassroots, building understanding, energy and support across the political spectrum.'*

*'The campaign shows political parties and national governments that banning nuclear weapons is a*

*significant concern at a local level, in a similar way to how many councils across the UK are currently passing motions declaring a climate emergency.'*

Yorkshire CND marked its first success when Hebden Royd town council became the first in Yorkshire to pass a motion. There were several factors involved in this – the council is already a member of the Mayors for Peace network for example, but the decision did coincide with a public meeting organised by Yorkshire CND, opened by the local mayor.

Yorkshire CND is now targeting a number of other cities in the region. Andrew says: *'We are using our contacts among councillors to find out whether there would be enough support to pass motions and also considering using petitions to push for debates in areas we have fewer contacts.'*

CND encourages all of our groups to push their local council to support this initiative.

■ Find out more on our website by visiting [cnduk.org/nuclear-ban-communities](http://cnduk.org/nuclear-ban-communities).

## No thanksgiving



CND and Christian CND protested outside Westminster Abbey in May to denounce the Royal Navy's 'Thanksgiving service', which saw officials, service persons and Prince William give thanks for having 50 years of a so-called 'Continuous At Sea Deterrent'.

We were joined by our allies to perform an iconic 'die-in', representing the victims of a nuclear war if these weapons were to be used, and CND's vice-president Bruce Kent led a service of repentance with Christian CND.

Garnering much press attention, this protest sent a clear message that we do not condone the celebration of nuclear weapons, much less in a place of worship.

# Banging the Drums of War

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** examines how US President Donald Trump's nuclear policies are making the world a far more dangerous place.



**I**T'S TEN YEARS since President Obama made his famous Prague speech, committing to a nuclear weapons-free world. I remember hearing his words broadcast, amid the tumultuous cheers of the crowd in Hradčany Square, as if it were yesterday. What heady days those were, what days of hope.

Then as President Medvedev of Russia added his voice to the call, hopes were high that real progress would be made towards that goal. Those were truly inspiring moments, and although over the year that followed there were times when I felt hope was receding, finally words were turned into actions. The new START Treaty was signed, which made significant reductions to US and Russian nuclear weapons, limiting their deployed strategic nuclear warheads to a combined total of 1,550. It wasn't everything

we wanted, but it was a step in the right direction.

How far away those days seem now. It's not just that moves towards arms reduction and disarmament have stalled – they have actually gone into reverse. Since Trump entered the White House, there have been sustained attacks on the treaty architecture that underpins the rules-based system that most countries struggle to uphold and extend. The whole principle of multilateralism has faced successive onslaughts, and with John Bolton at Trump's right hand as National Security Adviser, non-proliferation and disarmament treaties are not long for this world.

The Trump administration is doing its very best to destroy the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, whilst also banging the drums of war. Its withdrawal and reintroduction of sanctions on Iran can only lead to greater



instability in the Middle East and increase the likelihood of more countries in the region pursuing nuclear weapons. This move by Trump is not a popular one: all the other signatories to the deal are trying to uphold it – including Britain – but it's not clear how long this will be sustainable.

President Trump's next goal was the destruction of the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty with Russia, announcing US withdrawal. Russia has since done the same. This treaty has been a cornerstone of nuclear arms control since the Cold War, having eliminated thousands of nuclear missiles in Europe, playing a crucial role in ensuring that US missiles are not situated on our continent. There are many possible dangers as a result of its cancellation: a new nuclear arms race, US missiles back in Europe – and that includes

Britain – trained on Russia, US missiles in Okinawa trained on China, nuclear war.

As if it can't get much worse, US withdrawal from the INF treaty also calls into question whether Washington will work with Moscow to renew Obama and Medvedev's New START treaty in 2021, when it is due to expire. If Bolton has his way, once the Treaty expires there will be no restraints on nuclear weapons left. A grim prospect indeed.

Underpinning these very dangerous developments lies the policy approach which massively increases the risk of nuclear war. Trump's 2018 nuclear posture review has opened the way to both nuclear new-build and nuclear weapons use, in something of a throwback to the early years of this century. President Bush's 2002 review had backed the development of new nuclear weapons such as bunker-

busters and mini-nukes for use in 'regional conflicts', which we understood at that time to mean the Middle East. But the advent of President Obama knocked the project on the head for a number of years. Obama's 2010 review ruled out the development of new nuclear weapons, including bunker-busters.

The most significant element of Trump's review has been a return to the belligerent approach of the Bush years, notably the commitment to a whole new generation of nuclear weapons, with the emphasis on low-yield nukes, often described as 'usable'. Is it any wonder that the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists has placed the hands of the Doomsday Clock at two minutes to midnight? We've never been closer, even at the height of the Cold War. And it's never been more important to be active in CND.

# Building bridges

CND Chair **Dave Webb** reports back from a recent visit to Moscow, St. Petersburg and Crimea.

**C**ND has been one of the 168 international affiliates of the Global Network against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space for many years. The importance of the campaign to ‘Keep Space for Peace’ has become increasingly urgent since the launch of Donald Trump’s Space Force, amid claims that Russia’s expansionism means that we must build up our military to counter aggressive intentions.

Many of us are dubious about this assessment and so the Global Network decided to hold its next meeting in Moscow and to conduct a study tour of Crimea to meet people, learn about the Russian annexation and build bridges of friendship and understanding at a citizen level.

The study group consisted of 18 people from the United States, four from Nepal, one from Ukraine and me from the UK. We visited Moscow, St. Petersburg, and three cities in Crimea holding daily meetings with Russian journalists, activists and academics.

In Moscow, members of

Veterans for Peace from the US and Russia spoke about their hopes for a peaceful world and signed a joint statement of solidarity.

**We must build more respect on both sides by encouraging understanding and forming more citizen bridges of friendship.**

In Crimea we heard how, following a right-wing coup in Kiev, local militia were quickly organized and a referendum held on whether to return to Russia or remain in Ukraine. There was an 83% turnout and a 96% vote for integration into the Russian Federation. In the capital Simferopol we joined a May Day parade with many in traditional dress, representing various ethnic groups present. We carried our ‘No to NATO’ banner and were warmly met with enthusiasm and invited to a specially arranged conference on ‘Public Diplomacy as the Instrument of Developing Friendship and Understanding

among Peoples’. Here we signed an ‘Agreement on Cooperation’ with the Black Sea Association for International Cooperation.

On Victory Day, May 9th, in St. Petersburg, we walked with 1.2 million citizens who carried pictures of family members lost in war. In the second world war 642,000 people died during the siege of Leningrad (now St Petersburg) alone – mostly from starvation – and a further 400,000 died during evacuations. Altogether 28 million Soviet citizens lost their lives – something it will take a long time to forget.

We learned that the Russian people want peace and security as much as we do and we call on governments and media to stop the demonisation. We also call for the easing of tensions by removing all nuclear weapons from Europe and cancelling intimidating war manoeuvres.

We must build more respect on both sides by encouraging understanding and forming more citizen bridges of friendship.



# The Road to 2020: Reviewing the NPT

**Aidan Liddle**, UK Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, writes for CND with his views on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

**T**HE Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review

Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons met in New York at the beginning of May. I thought it was a success, for two main reasons.

First, it adopted the procedural decisions that enable the RevCon to get straight down to business next year – including, most crucially, who will preside over it. Not very exciting, perhaps, but essential; the 2005 RevCon spent weeks arguing over its agenda, and achieved nothing.

Second, the discussions were largely constructive and respectful. The rancour of the first two PrepComs was less evident, though not entirely absent. Many of the side events focussed on finding common ground, and practical ways of making progress.

I was also proud of the UK's role. The centrepiece was the launch of our draft National Report, which sets out how the UK implements the Treaty. We are consulting a wide range of



CND at NPT PrepCom 2019

partners on the draft, so that the final document submitted to the RevCon really contributes to transparency and confidence.

That doesn't mean next year's RevCon will be easy. It was no surprise that the PrepCom failed to produce consensus recommendations on the substantive issues – no PrepCom ever has. But the discussions on the Chair's drafts exposed the wide disagreement on many of the important issues, such as progress on nuclear disarmament, mechanisms to guarantee civil nuclear material is not diverted to developing weapons, the establishment of a WMD-free zone in the

Middle East, or the handling of specific state programmes.

Our approach for the RevCon is not to ignore those issues, but to focus on what unites us, rather than on what divides us. On the 50th anniversary of the NPT, we need to remind ourselves what an astonishing achievement it is; it has limited the spread of nuclear weapons, and provided a framework for the safe sharing of civil nuclear technology and huge reductions in the numbers of nuclear weapons. It is the only instrument that unites nuclear and non-nuclear weapon states on a pathway to a world without nuclear weapons.

Next year, we need to find a way of expressing both our commitment to that pathway, and our honestly held differences about how to proceed along it. But whatever happens at the RevCon, the NPT has been, and continues to be, a huge success.

■ For CND's view on the conference, see [cnduk.org/nuclear-non-proliferation-treaty-npt/](http://cnduk.org/nuclear-non-proliferation-treaty-npt/)

## CND's trade union volunteer **Annie Tunnicliffe** updates us on the work currently taking place.

**S**HOULD CND be in discussion about nuclear disarmament and defence industry diversification with the General Secretaries and other top officials of the main unions, or should we be asking local and regional groups to engage with unions/workers at a local level? To me the answer is obvious – we need to do BOTH of these things, urgently.

With this in mind, we contacted the General Secretaries and sent them the Nuclear Education Trust report on international defence diversification. We have also contacted the

editors of union journals offering articles on the issues.

I have been chasing up union branches and trades councils pointing out the motions that have been passed at TUC conference and other union conferences about defence diversification and urging them to affiliate to CND. We have had several new affiliations as a result.

I am in the process of collating answers from local and regional groups to a series of questions I asked about whether they are working with unions at all and if not, what would help them to do so? The TU section on the CND website has also been updated.

In Manchester a

programme of workshops on the New Lucas Plan has been launched. It is proposed to spread this out across the country. There is a new documentary film available called 'The Plan (from the bottom up)', with a 30-minute version available for groups to use at meetings. I will be contacting regions and local groups about this shortly and how it might be used to communicate with local trade unions.

Any further suggestions or information from individuals or branches on this topic of CND involvement with the unions would be very welcome. Please email me at [tradeunions@cnduk.org](mailto:tradeunions@cnduk.org).

### IPB Triennial Congress: 20 October 2019

**THIS YEAR** CND is privileged to host the Triennial Congress of the Nobel prize-winning International Peace Bureau on the Sunday of our conference, under the banner: '21st century security: challenges and solutions'. Joined by activists and experts from around the world, we will have a real global take on the problems we face together, strategising for global and local alternatives, for a vision – and reality – of peace and justice. Themes will include: common security, resource wars, climate change, nuclear dangers, and human rights.. IPB President Reiner Braun looks forward to attending and sends this message to CND supporters: *'A conference between a very successful national organisation and the biggest international peace network can create new ideas and strategies for world peace. The end of the INF treaty shows dramatically that a great war is not any longer excluded. What can we do globally, nationally, regionally and locally for peace? What are the alternatives to a politics of confrontation? How to come again to a process of common security? How to realise disarmament and a world without nuclear weapons? These are questions which need our common wisdom and our common actions. Please join us!'*

**WE LIVE** in increasingly unstable times, where nuclear proliferation and climate change pose significant threats to humanity. With the rise of the far-right, increased militarism under President Trump, and the development of dangerous new military technologies, we are living in an uncertain era in which our international rules-based system is under strain.

With this in mind, CND groups have been hosting a wide range of meetings and events as part of CND's Global Dangers Tour.

Beginning in April, **East Lancashire CND** hosted a 'Britain can say No to Nukes' public meeting, emphasising the alternatives to our increasingly dangerous world. Shortly after, **Exeter CND** was joined by the Green Party's deputy leader, Amelia Womack, as they hosted a general meeting discussing the dangers we face today. Following this, **Norwich CND** staged a public meeting with retired Royal Navy Commander Robert Forsyth, as he explained why, after decades of belief in the idea of nuclear deterrence, he now campaigns for an end to Trident. To finish up the month, **Calder Valley CND** discussed war and peace in the age of Trump.

May brought a month of yet more insightful discussions, including **London**

## Global dangers tour 2019



**CND's 'Denuclearising the Korean Peninsula'** meeting with South Korean peace activist, Francis Daehoon Lee. Francis also visited Scotland and Yorkshire, including Menwith Hill where **Yorkshire CND** hosted a tour of the US spy base, discussing common struggles in the UK and South Korea against US bases.

In his last leg of the tour, **Leeds CND** hosted Francis as they organised a roundtable discussion with peace activists, academics, and students from Leeds University on the impact of the inter-Korea peace process on denuclearisation of the peninsula. Finally, **Leicester CND** wrapped up May as they hosted a public meeting on 'Nuclear Weapons from a Green Perspective', considering the Green Party and nuclear

weapons with Amelia Womack.

Many more meetings are due to be held as part of the Global Dangers Tour, with events upcoming from June until October in **Nottingham, Crawley, Haringey, Canterbury, Derby, Reigate and Redhill, Birkenhead and Oxfordshire!** If you are interested in attending any of these events, please visit [cnduk.org/globaldangerstour/](http://cnduk.org/globaldangerstour/) to find out more.

CND's Global Dangers Tour is well underway and CND groups have hosted some amazing talks already – but it's not too late to sign up to host a meeting or event in your local area.

■ Please contact [enquiries@cnduk.org](mailto:enquiries@cnduk.org) or 020 7700 2393 if you are interested in learning more.

## What's on

**We are very sorry to share the news that CND vice-president Walter Wolfgang has died aged 95.** This is a huge loss to our movement. Walter was a founding member of CND and was on the committee which organised the first Aldermaston march. At the Labour Party's 2018 annual conference Walter received a merit award from his long-time friend Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the Labour Party. Corbyn describes Walter as 'a very special and very thoughtful man. I have huge respect and admiration for him'. Walter was active in CND until the very end.

### Global Dangers Tour

We live in increasingly unstable times, where nuclear dangers are growing alarmingly. CND is highlighting these dangers in a national tour this year.

Upcoming dates: Canterbury (5 July), Isle of Wight (26 July), Derby (6 August), Reigate and Redhill (12 September), Birkenhead (13 September) and Oxfordshire (21 September).

■ For more information or if you are interested in hosting a visit, please contact 020 7700 2393 or enquiries@cnduk.org

### No Nuclear Day at DSEI Arms Fair 4 September

One of the world's largest arms fairs takes place at the Excel London every two years and CND and others will be highlighting the presence of nuclear arms manufacturers at this year's event with a day of action. This will be a part of a two-week programme of protests called by Stop the Arms Fair.

■ For any enquiries please contact enquiries@cnduk.org or phone 020 7700 2393.

### IPB Youth Conference, Berlin 20-22 September

The International Peace Bureau Youth Network are jointly organising an international youth conference entitled 'Transform! Towards a Culture of Peace' in Berlin. The aim is to build bridges between campaigns

and foster discussions on and approaches to peace, justice and sustainability.

■ To find out more, contact: information@cnduk.org or 020 7700 2393.

### Keep Space for Peace demonstration 5 October

The 2019 Keep Space for Peace demonstration at USAF Croughton is scheduled for Saturday 5 October.

■ For any enquiries, contact oxfordcnd@phoncoop.coop

## 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 or faslanepeacecamp@protonmail.com

### Menwith Hill vigil

Every Tuesday 6-7.30pm.

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



## CND Conference 2019 – 21st century security: challenges and solutions

Join us at St Thomas' Hospital in London for CND Conference on 19th and 20th October 2019. This year we'll be joined by the International Peace Bureau for a day of public discussion, debate and activity on Sunday, with the AGM and policy conference for members and observers taking place on Saturday.

**8th July:** Deadline for nominations for directly elected members of national council and officers.

**2nd August:** Deadline for ordinary resolutions.

**9th September:** Deadline for amendments and special (constitutional) resolutions.

