

Campaign

CND takes climate action

CND Campaigns Officer **Sara Medi Jones** writes about the XR Rebellion taking place in London, and CND's role in the protests.



NUCLEAR WEAPONS cause severe damage to the climate and environment on a scale incomparable to any other weapon. Research by the International Red Cross shows the effect of a 'limited' nuclear war would disrupt the global climate to such an extent that a billion people could face starvation.

Although the UK's nuclear weapons system, Trident, has never been used, it still uses a massive amount of energy and resources when one takes into account the research involved, its production and operation, and the eventual waste storage. Scrapping Trident would be a great way

to cut the UK's carbon footprint.

And the UK certainly needs to do that. Urgently. The science is clear: climate change is real and requires immediate and ambitious action to prevent a drastic impact on life as we know it.

This is why CND is proud to be part of the XR Rebellion currently taking place in London to demand government action on climate change. Continuing our tradition of supporting non-violent direct action, we are a member of XR Peace – a coalition of peace organisations who are part of the wider XR movement. Other sections such as

Campaign for Nuclear
Disarmament,
162 Holloway Rd,
London N7 8DQ
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www.cnduk.org



Animal Rebellion and Scientists for XR have also been formed.

XR Peace kick-started the two weeks of protest with some of the first arrests of the Rebellion. Fantastic XR Peace activists blocked the road on the Embankment, near the Ministry of Defence, by locking-on to a giant Trident missile. The arrests – and protests – have continued since then, with actions including a die-in outside the Ministry of Defence and blockading the entrance to BAE Systems, who manufacture Britain’s nuclear submarines.

Alongside this direct action, CND organised sessions with speakers and performers, all highlighting the link between nuclear weapons and climate change. But the heart of XR Peace’s presence at the Rebellion has been the wonderful direct-action activists.

One of these, Jane Tallents, explains why she is protesting: ‘Climate change causes war and war causes climate change. About 6% of global carbon emissions are from military activity. All people of the earth face the twin existential threats of nuclear weapons and the climate emergency. To avert catastrophe, we must find new

ways of thinking and work together to save our shared home.’

Brian Larkin is another that has been actively involved in the Rebellion. The solution as he sees it is that ‘the government should use the resources currently going to Trident to address the climate crisis’.

Another XR Peace activist, David Mackenzie, remains optimistic. ‘Being in London this week has given me hope that such an awakening is possible,’ he says. ‘It has been humbling to witness the commitment, the imagination, the human connection and the steadfast adherence to non-violence even under aggressive police pressure. I think we all have to catch up, and quickly, before it is too late.’

While the government remains determined to spend £205 billion on a new nuclear weapons system, CND will certainly continue to campaign. Rather than an imaginary nuclear foe, the real threat facing us today is the increase in the Earth’s temperature caused by humans, which has potentially devastating consequences for our communities.

Urgent action is needed and the government must stop prioritising war and weapons over the future of our planet.

Spotlight

This month: **Tower Hamlets CND**



Tower Hamlets CND started off as ‘Stepney & Poplar Against the Bomb’ in 1959. As with many other CND groups, there was a resurgence in its popularity following the 1979 decision to deploy US cruise missiles in Britain.

THCND member Paul Barlow will reflect on the group’s history in a special meeting this week (details back page).

If you would like to go along, or find out more about the group, contact 020 7247 5269 or email towerhamletscnd@yahoo.co.uk.

The new world disorder

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** explains why CND will be protesting at the upcoming NATO summit.

THIS MONTH'S Queen's Speech pledged to honour the NATO commitment to spend at least two per cent of national income on defence. This vast sum of money, demanded by the US – and backed up by threats from President Trump – includes UK spending on Trident and its replacement.

Of the many statements in the speech, no doubt this one will be little commented on. Few people really get how negative and destructive NATO's role in the world is, and even people who are opposed to nuclear weapons can be misled into thinking that NATO is a defensive alliance. If it was ever that, those days are long gone.

In reality, NATO is an aggressive and expansionist nuclear and military alliance, and it plays an increasingly dangerous global role. It's still in Afghanistan 18 years on and is expanding its reach and activities into Latin America and Africa, as well as through its alliances into Asia, Australasia and the Pacific.

We have a major opportunity to raise public awareness about this, as the

next NATO Heads of State Summit is taking place on 3rd and 4th December in London. Donald Trump will be one of those participating.

CND, as part of the international *No to War – No to NATO* network, is helping to organise a counter-summit on Saturday 30th November, for in-depth discussion of the many issues surrounding NATO, as well as the alternatives we are putting forward. We are also organising a protest on Tuesday 3rd December, when the Queen will be receiving Trump and others at Buckingham Palace for a State Banquet.

The counter-summit, entitled *The New World Disorder*, takes place at the Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church in central London, and brings

together a range of international speakers in highly topical sessions, including NATO and the new cold war; NATO goes global; Oil, War and the Middle East; Climate Change and militarisation, and much more.

For a US perspective on current challenges we'll hear from Medea Benjamin from Codepink and Pat Elder from Civilian Exposure; from Europe we'll be joined by Arielle Denis from France, and Reiner Braun from Germany, as well as parliamentarians and activists addressing Racism, Islamophobia and the Far-Right; and how New Technology is changing warfare.

Please join us, to have your say about our vision of a more peaceful world – and how we fight to win it.

No to NATO protests

As NATO heads of state – including US President Donald Trump – prepare to meet in London for a summit, join us to protest against this nuclear-armed alliance.

November 30th: Counter-summit to discuss the alternatives to war and nuclear weapons.

December 3rd: Demonstration

For more information see cnduk.org/campaigns/no-to-nato/ or contact information@cnduk.org / 020 7700 2393.

For a full, updated list of events, see cnduk.org/events/

Disarming Tower Hamlets

October 17th, 6pm,
Tower Hamlets Local History
Library & Archives, 277 Bancroft
Road, London E1 4DQ.
■ Contact 020 7247 5269 or
towerhamletscnd@yahoo.co.uk

**Peace, Poverty & the
Climate Crisis: CND Cymru
public meeting**

October 19th, 2pm
The Muse, Old Museum,
Glamorgan Street, Brecon.
■ Contact
heddwwch@cndcymru.org

Christian CND conference

October 26th, 10:15am-
2:45pm, Brentwood Cathedral,
Ingrave Road, Brentwood.
■ Contact 020 7700 4200 or
christians@cnduk.org

**Labour CND report back
from conference**

October 28th, 6:30pm-8pm
McMillan Room, Portcullis
House, Houses of Parliament,
London SW1A 2JR.
■ Contact
labourcnd@gmail.com

Leicester CND meeting

October 31st, 7pm
Methodist Church Rooms, 10A
Bishops Street, Leicester.
■ Contact
cndmiduk@yahoo.co.uk

**Remembrance Sunday
event – Bradford**

November 10th, 1pm-2pm
Bradford Cenotaph, Prince's
Way, Bradford BD5 0BQ
■ Contact 01274 730795 or
cath@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

**CND Conference 2019
19th-20th October**

St Thomas' Hospital, London SE1 7EH
Full details: cnduk.org/cnd-conference-2019/



Global Dangers Tour

We live in increasingly unstable times, where nuclear dangers are growing alarmingly. CND has been highlighting these dangers in a national tour throughout 2019.

There are only two more dates left, so make sure you get involved if you live near the following areas: Birmingham (Oct 26th) and Kingston on Thames (Oct 29th).

Contact: information@cnduk.org or phone 020 7700 2393

**Remembering and
Forgetting: A response to
Remembrance Day**

November 16th, 3:30pm-
9:30pm, Secular Hall 75,
Humberstone Gate, Leicester.
■ Contact 0116 220 7125

**Yorkshire CND Peace &
Crafts Fair November 23rd**

10am-4pm, Victoria Hall,
Saltaire, Shipley BD18 3JS.
■ Contact
cath@yorkshirecnd.org.uk or
01274 730795

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

The weekly vigil is now switching
days – please contact Sarah:

■ Tel: 01765 600928 or
sswift64@gmail.com