

CND

General Election

Campaign 2019



Party policies

Conservative Party policy remains in support of the maintenance and replacement of Trident set out in their 2017 General Election Manifesto, which stated:

'We will retain the Trident continuous-at-sea nuclear deterrent to provide the ultimate guarantee of our security.'

Green Party policy remains opposed to the maintenance and replacement of Trident. Their 2017 General Election Manifesto stated:

'Cancel Trident replacement, saving at least £110 billion over the next 30 years.'

Labour Party policy remains in support of the maintenance and replacement of Trident set out in their 2017 General Election Manifesto, which stated:

'Labour supports the renewal of the Trident nuclear deterrent. As a nuclear-armed power, our country has a responsibility to fulfil our obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Labour will lead multilateral efforts with international partners and the UN to create a nuclear-free world'.

Liberal Democrat policy supports the maintenance and replacement of Trident with a scaled-down alternative. Their 2017 General Election Manifesto stated:

- 'Work to lead international nuclear disarmament efforts.'
- 'Maintain a minimum nuclear deterrent. We propose continuing with the Dreadnought programme, the submarine-based replacement for Vanguard, but procuring three boats instead of four and moving to a medium-readiness responsive posture. This would mean replacing continuous at-sea deterrence – instead maintaining the deterrent through measures such as unpredictable and irregular patrolling patterns.'

Plaid Cymru policy remains opposed to the maintenance and replacement of Trident, as was stated in their 2017 General Election Manifesto:

'We are determined to scrap Trident, resisting any attempts to relocate it to Wales. We will instead invest in home-based troops and strengthen our conventional forces.'

The Scottish National Party policy remains opposed to the maintenance and replacement of Trident. Their 2017 General Election Manifesto stated:

'Scrap Trident: SNP MPs will build a cross-party coalition to scrap Trident as quickly and safely as possible. We will vote for the billions other Westminster parties are committing to renewing Trident to be spent on our public services.'

CND General Election campaign plan 2019

Our aims:

- To ensure that the vital issue of Trident is not forgotten in the 2019 General Election campaign.
- To make sure all candidates know that their views on nuclear disarmament can affect voter choices.
- To raise awareness amongst potential MPs of public opposition to nuclear weapons.
- To engage with candidates and help shape their views on Trident and nuclear weapons.
- To gather information on candidates' views that can help future campaigning.

What CND Groups need to do:

The priority for local CND groups now is to engage with party candidates in each constituency and find out their views on:

- Trident replacement and securing its cancellation in the next Parliament;
- Supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Many candidates will only have a limited grasp of the issues, so engaging with them and helping shape their views is very important.

If they share our views, thank them and keep in touch with them. If they support nuclear weapons, engage in a lobbying process to shift their opinions. Even if they aren't elected to parliament they may well be active local politicians.

CND local activists have a powerful role in being able to influence local candidates, as MPs care most about what their constituents think.

CND's election campaign initiatives:

Lobbying candidates online

To make it easy for local activists to find out candidates' views on nuclear weapons, we have set up an online lobbying system. You can lobby your candidates via our website, where we have a model letter with questions prepared, for you to email your candidates. Feel free to amend the letter as you see fit.

Holding a local constituency hustings

Local CND groups can organise Trident-focused hustings events to ensure candidates understand that Trident is a vital issue.

- More information on organising a hustings is available below.

What to do with candidates' answers

- Please email any answers you receive to parliamentary@cnduk.org so we can post them on our website as we receive them.
- You can also make the information available in your local media
- Publish a press release both in advance and in reporting the results afterwards – to maximise your coverage.

ACTION: How to hold a local constituency hustings

Preparation

Working with others

Invite other local organisations to sponsor the event and try and have a wider audience than the local peace activists – invite your trade council and union branches, faith organisations, anti-cuts campaign groups, climate activists. They may be able to share any costs.

Inviting candidates

Invite all candidates and if you live in a town or area with multiple seats, ensure all parties are invited to send one representative. Give them as much notice as possible so their diaries are free. For contact details check our online lobbying tool or look at candidate or local party branch websites. You could ask at your Town Hall.

Accessible venue

Ensure you have an attractive and accessible central venue for your meeting – this may be a town hall, college lecture theatre or faith hall. Check it has disabled access.

Time to mobilise

Give yourself time to publicise and mobilise for the event so people are aware of it.

Publicity

Use all means of publicity – your own email list, ask co-sponsor organisations to email their members, social media such as a facebook event and use of twitter, face-to-face leafleting from a stall, outside the supermarket, or deliveries door-to-door near the venue.

Advertising

Advertise in the local newspaper – if you can afford a small advert this will put it on the agenda of local candidates and other political activists who read local media. The paper may be more likely to report on it if you have discussed your advert with them.

Press Release

Press release the event – make sure local media, both traditional print and any local news websites or blogs are aware of the event and offer to send them a follow-up report and photos.

Overleaf there are two examples of model press releases for local use: the first has a main focus on Trident and the second on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Example 1.

People in [TOWN/CONSTITUENCY] grill election candidates on nuclear weapons spending

'At a time when we are seeing increased poverty and huge cuts to the public sector, people are quite rightly questioning why over £205bn of our money should be spent on a new nuclear weapons system to replace Trident which even senior military figures have described as "completely useless".

'This is tax payers' money that would be better spent on the National Health Service, jobs and education.

'Now we are heading into a general election, we want our elected representatives to use their influence, and engage in the process of cancelling Trident and its replacement.'

The hustings will take place at [VENUE] at [TIME] on [DATE], and is organised by members of [GROUP NAME]. Parliamentary candidates attending to discuss their position on Trident replacement include [NAME (PARTY); NAME (PARTY); NAME (PARTY) etc.].

Example 2.

People in [TOWN/CONSTITUENCY] grill election candidates on nuclear weapons possession

On [DATE], residents of [TOWN/CONSTITUENCY] are to hold a hustings of parliamentary candidates ahead of the general election in December 2019: to debate Britain's possession of nuclear weapons.

[NAME], spokesperson for [GROUP], said:

'As a signatory to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, it is not good enough that the British government claims to support global nuclear disarmament whilst at the same time still possessing deadly nuclear weapons.

'It's time for the UK to support the UN's Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons – to ensure the abolition of all nuclear weapons worldwide.

'As we head towards the general election, parliamentary candidates have to know that scrapping Trident is a vote winner.'

Event details

[NAME]

[DATE]

[VENUE]

[SPEAKERS]

For further information, please contact [NAME] on [MOBILE/EMAIL].



Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament • parliamentary@cnduk.org