

# Campaign

## Election 2019: **Make Trident count**

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** explains why it's as important as ever to make Trident replacement an election issue.



**A**FTER MONTHS of uncertainty, the election is finally upon us. The challenge, as ever, is to ensure that the crucial issue of nuclear weapons is part of the debates that shape how people vote on December 12th. We have a strong track record of raising Trident in the election debates and we need to do the same again. Politicians may be reluctant to engage – or may think it's done and dusted because of the parliamentary vote on replacement in 2016 – but the truth is, Trident replacement can be cancelled and this has to be raised with every candidate.

Just the cost of Trident and its replacement – at least £205 billion of public

money – merit its inclusion in key economic discussions. The fact that nuclear weapons make us a target and fail to contribute to our security in any way whatsoever should mean that parties are falling over themselves to promote new security visions that can address the real threats that we face. Some are – but not all.

The top priority for any UK government surely has to be addressing the climate emergency, not wasting vast amounts on a cold war weapons system that will be rendered obsolete by new technological developments, even before it hits the water. But we still see a reluctance to address the new reality facing this

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country – and all countries. We face extinction through both climate change and nuclear weapons. Can we please have a government that recognizes and addresses these!?

No potential major party of government in the Westminster parliament is opposed to nuclear weapons. In the run up to the election we must step up our work to ensure that all candidates are aware that their views on nuclear weapons count and may affect voter choices. Once the new parliament is convened, all MPs must be aware of the majority opposition to Trident replacement and the enormous support for the UK signing up to the UN's Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

For those who are members of parties that support Trident, the work must be stepped up within those parties to achieve a change in policy. There can be

no fundamental positive change in British society while we squander public resources that could go into health, education and dealing with climate change. Or while we measure our standing in the world on the basis of our ability to inflict nuclear annihilation. Party values and policies must reflect the deep respect for humanity and all forms of life – which the overwhelming majority crave.

So business as usual cannot be an option. In spite of the media saturation with other matters, we must get our issues out there. Please work with us to lobby all parliamentary candidates – use our online lobbying tool to find out their views and let them be in no doubt: Trident has to go.

Details of how you can lobby your candidates as well as party policies are available online in our General Election 2019 pack. See <https://cnduk.org/general-election-2019/>

## 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.

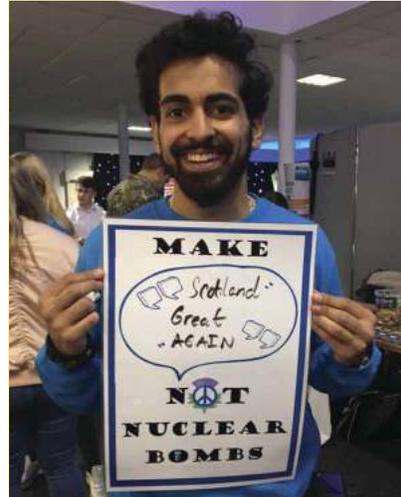
**November 30th:** The New World Order counter-summit to discuss the alternatives to war and nuclear weapons. Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8EP, 10am-5:30pm.

**December 3rd:** No to Trump demonstration. Assemble 4pm at Trafalgar Square to march to Buckingham Palace.

■ For more information see [cnduk.org/nato-summit/](https://cnduk.org/nato-summit/) or contact [information@cnduk.org](mailto:information@cnduk.org) / 020 7700 2393.

## Spotlight

This month:  
**Scottish CND**



An exhibition chronicling the history of Scottish CND and the wider Scottish peace movement has toured a number of venues across Scotland recently. The Heritage Lottery-funded Peace of History exhibition has been very well received and can be viewed at [banthebomb.org/history](http://banthebomb.org/history).

If you live in Scotland and this inspires you to get involved, get in touch with Scottish CND by phoning 0141 357 1529 or email: [scnd@banthebomb.org](mailto:scnd@banthebomb.org).

## The more inclusive – the more powerful

Our campaign must be an inclusive one, says CND Parliamentary Officer **Rachel Earlington**.

**YOUNG PEOPLE** have been big mobilisers on the climate emergency, but protest is certainly not age specific! Older people brought a lot of the magic to the recent XR Peace rebellion in October this year: from blocking roads, getting arrested, gluing themselves to gates and on some occasion even to each other!

It had much in common with the inspiration brought to the protests at the DSEI arms fair, where every day different communities came together to protest in different ways – from praying and singing, to dancing and lock-ons. There is no ‘One size fits all’ approach to campaigning.

These recent actions have demonstrated the diverse creativity we have amongst our supporters.

But it’s not just a pleasure – it’s also a principle. It is completely right that the peace movement reflects all communities. Only by being inclusive and creating our campaigns to have broad appeal, can we be our most effective.

As campaigners, it is our job to mobilise and unify all sections of society that oppose nuclear weapons, as well as



linking with the issues of war and the climate emergency. These are global issues which need a global voice and our movement must reflect this. We will only get stronger the more our campaign looks like all the people on this globe that are fighting for survival – and the more it looks like our society. We must reach out to all communities not just our traditional areas of support.

Political change comes in many different guises and in different actions to achieve success. Diversity in methods of campaigning is also crucial. In fact, the debate on this has opened up in recent months as Extinction Rebellion has brought direct action and civil disobedience back into the mainstream of protest. Sometimes it’s controversial.

In the very early years of CND there was an ‘either-or’ debate about what kind of campaigning methods to focus on – direct action or entirely legal methods. Very quickly, CND conference came to the conclusion that the answer was actually to embrace all non-violent methods.

There are always tactical considerations of course, and not everyone is able or willing to consider all forms of action. Personal decisions on how to be active deserve respect – but we are all part of the process and we all bring different valuable experiences to the table.

We will continue to work to build alliances, link up with, and involve as many people in our campaigning as possible, in the full vibrant diversity of our society.

