

campaign

Build back better



Sara Medi Jones, CND Campaigns Officer, explains why a new coalition is launching this week demanding a better future for us all.

THE WORLD is reeling from a coronavirus pandemic that has changed our lives in an unprecedented fashion. Covid-19 has caused personal devastation and economic hardship for many and it doesn't seem like our lives will return to 'normal' any time soon. But perhaps we don't want to go back to exactly the way things were before.

Out of this catastrophe we need new thinking from the government, to meet the real challenges our society faces. Pandemics will continue to affect our lives. The climate crisis has not gone away and is

indeed worsening – a heatwave is currently underway in the Arctic unusually early in the year, with temperatures reaching record highs for spring and kick-starting an earlier annual melting season. Water and food insecurity will intensify, especially with the expected post-pandemic economic crisis. These are all genuine security issues that the government needs to urgently address.

The government's own National Security Strategy has highlighted pandemics as a tier one threat for the past decade, and yet when Covid-19 hit, there were not enough ventilators or personal

protective equipment for nurses, doctors, social workers and others caring for our most vulnerable. The government should not only be judged on how they responded to this crisis, but how they prepared for it. And unfortunately, this government – and ones before it – got their priorities wrong.

Instead of spending on health, successive governments have chosen to go ahead with building a new generation of nuclear weapons, at a cost of at least £205 billion. But it's not too late to change course. Work on the first submarines are only in the initial stages. It's time for a new vision of society, we must be bold enough to declare that nuclear weapons have no part in it.

As campaigners rooted in our communities, we must speak up about the type of

world we want to live in. As part of this work, CND is delighted to be working as part of Build Back Better, a coalition which campaigns for a new economic deal that protects public services, tackles inequality in our communities, provides secure well-paid jobs and creates a shockproof economy which can fight the climate crisis.

Build Back Better officially launches next week. And while we can't take to the streets right now, we can still get involved with Build Back Better's actions and make sure our voices are heard. More information to follow next week, but for now you can visit the website buildbackbetteruk.org or follow on Twitter (@BuildBckBetter).

Another world is possible, but only if we fight for it.

Groups Spotlight

This month:
Leeds CND



In this new world of social distancing and Zoom meetings, we have all had to adjust and find new ways of campaigning.

Leeds CND is one of the groups that has quickly adapted and now holds its monthly meetings online. If you're local to this group, now is the time to get involved from the comfort of your home!

Contact:
leedscnd@gmail.com
to find out how you can get involved.

Build Back Better demands

- 1 Secure the health and needs of everyone in the UK now and into the future
- 2 Protect and invest in our public services
- 3 Rebuild society with a transformative Green New Deal
- 4 Invest in people
- 5 Build solidarity and community across borders



BUILD BACK BETTER

Trump pulls out of yet another treaty

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** writes about the latest international agreement torn apart by US President Donald Trump.

TRUMP is pulling out of yet another international treaty. The Open Skies Treaty has been a fundamental part of building and maintaining some level of transparency and trust between states and their militaries for almost thirty years.

Signed in 1992, the Treaty allows participants to carry out short-notice, unarmed, reconnaissance flights over the other's territory. They can collect data on military forces and activities and the observation aircraft have intense probing capacities enabling them to identify significant military equipment, such as artillery, fighter aircraft, and armoured combat vehicles.

The idea for the treaty actually originated in the US. In July 1955, President Eisenhower proposed that the United States and the Soviet Union allow aerial reconnaissance flights over each other's territory. At that time, Moscow rejected the idea, claiming it would be used for extensive spying. But when President George H.W. Bush revived the idea in 1989,

negotiations between NATO and the Warsaw Pact started the following year. The treaty entered into force in 2002, and prior to US withdrawal, 34 states were party to the treaty.

On May 21, President Trump announced that the US would be withdrawing from the treaty due to alleged Russian violations. This echoes recent US withdrawal from a number of crucial arms-related treaties. Russia also accuses the US of

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violations but nevertheless values the treaty; regret for US withdrawal was also expressed by ten European member states, including France and Germany.

As Tim Morrison, a former senior director on the US National Security Council has pointed out, 'The [US] administration has made clear that it is ready to withdraw from any treaty that is not being implemented fully. Of course, it is also prepared to withdraw from agreements that are being implemented fully, as with the Iran nuclear deal.' Unfortunately the same type of approach seems to be operating with regard to the urgent need to renew the New START Treaty, the only remaining treaty limiting and reducing US and Russian nuclear arsenals.

And there may be worse to come. The *Washington Post* recently reported that the White House is considering resuming nuclear weapons testing, ending the moratorium that has existed since 1992. Whereas Trump may think a show of 'strength' may make Russia and China more compliant with his demands, it's more likely to lead to a resumption of testing by a number of nuclear weapons states. What a disaster that would be.

Due to the coronavirus crisis, all in-person public events have been cancelled for the next few weeks. But you can join CND, and our groups, for virtual events. Keep checking our website for online activity.

Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp Webinar

June 12th, 7:30pm

Join us for a 'Camponair' – an evening of speakers, discussions and live music from the comfort of your own home. Find out about Trident warhead convoys, a short history of the women's peace camp and how we can build a better future after lockdown.

■ Register here:

<https://form.jotform.com/201432831853350>

Leeds CND meeting

June 17th, 6pm-7pm

Are you a CND member in Leeds or interested in finding out more? Join this monthly online meeting, all welcome.

■ Contact leedscnd@gmail.com for details on how to join

London CND is holding weekly training sessions for members who would like to get to grips with social media campaigning. We're covering Twitter, Facebook and creative content. Join us every Wednesday, online at 3pm.

■ Email ahead to join – info@londoncnd.org

Meet the staff

This month:
Rachel Earlington,
Parliamentary Officer



A very important part of my role is lobbying Members of Parliament to take a stand against Trident and its replacement.

Another significant part of my work is coordinating Parliamentary CND, which is a cross-party group of both Peers and MPs working together to hold the government to account on Trident and other nuclear weapons issues. The coronavirus pandemic has changed the way we work over the past months and as a result, there has been less face-to-face interaction in Parliament. But this hasn't stopped us, and we've held successful online meetings and continued to raise questions on Trident in parliament.

NHS not Trident

We have had many requests for NHS not Trident posters from supporters who would like to display these in their windows during this pandemic crisis. You can now download these for printing at home by visiting cnduk.org/NHSnotTridentPoster. CND would like to add our thanks for the tireless work of NHS staff and all other frontline workers at this difficult time.



Partial office reopening

The CND national office in London has this week partially re-opened, but under strict Covid-19 related health and safety guidelines. This means that only designated staff members are able to enter the building, one person at a time.

It does mean that we can now send out merchandise and leaflet orders, so please let us know if we can send you anything, ideally via our website.

You can get in touch with us by emailing enquiries@cnduk.org or phoning 07891 870732 (between 10am-6pm, Monday-Friday).