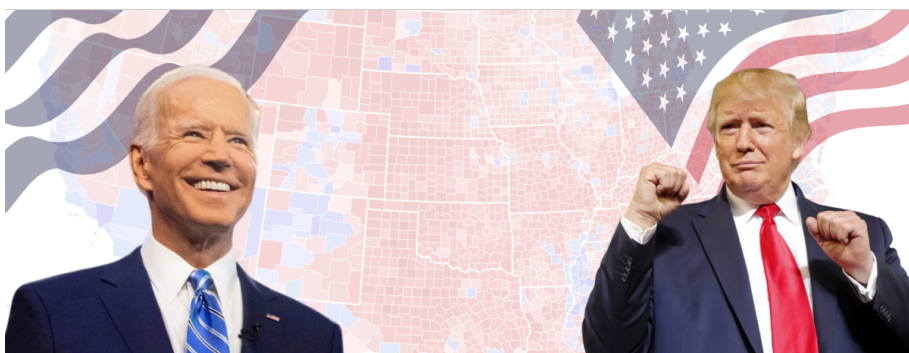


Campaign

High stakes on many counts

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** assesses where we are with the US election and what the result could mean for anti-nuclear campaigners.



AS I WRITE, the outcome of the United States presidential election is still uncertain. Joe Biden is edging ahead, but the clear and early win predicted by the pollsters hasn't happened. Votes are still being counted in a number of key states where the result is too close to call.

There has been outrage at attempts by President Trump to stop the counting of these votes and to undermine the democratic process. As Biden said on election night, it is not up to either candidate to declare the winner: it's up to the American people.

There have been fears that Trump might refuse to accept the election outcome if it goes against him and these are now borne

out, as he has been claiming victory and crying fraud, baselessly. As US peace activist Joseph Gerson says: 'Constitutional democracy and so much more hang in the balance. Every vote must be counted. And committed advocacy and organising for democracy, peace, justice, and the climate must continue.'

Regrettably, as our partners in the Stop Trump coalition have reported, UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab has refused to say Trump was wrong to claim victory in the election. We must demand that our government stands up for democracy and rejects any attempts to curtail the democratic process.

Please use Stop Trump's lobby tool to

lobby your MP on this issue:
<https://r.ippl.es/mp-trump-coup/>

We send our best wishes to grass roots groups that are trying to defend US democracy. The US coalition Protect the Results, comprising more than 100 grassroots groups, is organising to defend democracy and make sure every vote is counted. They plan to mobilise mass protests against Trump in the coming days. We stand in solidarity with them in their call for democracy and against repression and fear.

So what difference will the outcome make for us, in terms of peace campaigning? As Gerson says, 'Trump and Biden are both committed to U.S. hegemony, even as their strategies differ'. The fact of the US's long-term economic decline, simultaneous with the economic rise of China, requires a measured approach to avoid the Thucydides trap – the tendency to war when an emerging power looks like eclipsing the current hegemon.

Clearly a Biden presidency would continue with the main thrust of US policy, particularly with regard to China – after all, the Pivot to Asia originated as a policy under President Obama's leadership. But in terms of a range of issues, there would be opportunities to turn away from the most damaging paths

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chosen by Trump. It looks likely that Biden would go back to the Paris Climate Accords – few things can be more important than seriously addressing the climate emergency. And it is also possible that he will take the US back into the Iran Nuclear Deal – it's not lost on many observers that Trump was intensely critical of it as an 'Obama deal'. Biden would also be likely to extend the New START Treaty and to cut some of the new weapons programmes that Trump has initiated. It has also been suggested that he would limit nuclear use to retaliation – something that Trump had explicitly moved away from.

So there are high stakes on many counts in this election. Above all, it's about the everyday lives of US citizens, to defend and extend their rights, to live at peace and free from fear, to exercise the opportunity promised by the American tradition, in a diverse and inclusive society.

Our hearts are with them at this very difficult time.

Spotlight

**This month
St Albans CND**



All of us have had to adapt our campaigning in 2020 in the face of the pandemic. Like many other CND groups, St Albans CND found themselves asking what to do when street campaigning is not possible? And then they had a great idea!

The group designed and purchased a large banner to hang in the centre of their town. They decided to organise a rota to make sure the banner was displayed every Saturday in August, ensuring that thousands of summer shoppers saw the anti-nuclear message. And now St Albans CND is offering the banner (pictured) to any other group that might be interested – let them know.

Contact the group – about the banner or any other matter – 01727 569574 or stalbands.cnd@gmail.com.

Nuclear ban is here

CND Campaigns Director **Sara Medi Jones** assesses a new United Nations treaty that will now officially enter into force in January.

IT'S RARE as anti-nuclear campaigners that we have genuine good news to celebrate. Instead, it can seem at times like we have an insurmountable challenge in front of us, with never-ending battles in the way. But it's important to remember that all ground-breaking campaigns would have felt like this at times, including the struggle for universal suffrage and the anti-apartheid movement. More recently, campaigners against biological and chemical weapons celebrated as these became illegal.

And now we have a treaty that bans nuclear weapons in international law! The caveat being of course that the law only applies in the countries that sign it, more on that later. But that doesn't take away from this momentous achievement, which reached a crucial step last month.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) needed fifty states to sign and ratify before it could enter into force 90 days later. Honduras became the 50th ratification on 24th October,

Nuclear ban is here



meaning this UN agreement will enter into force on 22nd January, 2021. It makes it illegal under international law for its signatories to develop, have, test or use nuclear weapons.

But the terms of the TPNW only apply to the countries that have signed and ratified the agreement. And shamefully, the UK government refused to even participate in the treaty talks and now says it will never sign. So how will this treaty make a difference to the current situation?

We cannot forget that the TPNW is a significant pointer towards changing international attitudes to nuclear weapons. Previous treaties prohibiting chemical and biological weapons helped to stigmatise them in the minds of the public, a process now taking place with nuclear weapons. We now have a new story developing about nuclear weapons from the status quo of the last 75 years, one that moves

away from our security being based on owning weapons of mass destruction.

It's up to us to use the momentum to make progress regardless of the government's position. Towns and cities around the world – including Washington, Paris and Manchester – are becoming Nuclear Ban Communities as they sign up to support the TPNW. Campaigns are under way in the UK to add even more towns and cities to this list, with the number of supportive councils growing every week. CND has launched a new petition so individuals can support the campaign.

The next step for the treaty is that states parties will meet within a year to discuss how to make progress on the international stage. And our work in the UK can't be static either.

Yes, let's celebrate and take a moment to reflect on our achievement, and all the hard work of grassroots movements across the world. But let's not forget that this is not the end of the hard work, but the beginning.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus situation, CND nationally and at a local level continues to arrange mainly virtual events. Keep checking our website and social media accounts.

MAW Annual Remembrance Lecture: Peacebuilding in the post-Covid world

7 November, 2pm.

■ Online – contact info@abolishwar.org.uk to register.

West Midlands CND meeting 10 November, 7:30pm. Online.

■ To register contact wmcndall@gmail.com

Parliamentary CND webinar – Global Nuclear Abolition: Why ratifying the TPNW is vital for peace 12 November, 11am.

■ Online – contact parliamentary@cnduk.org to register.

Abingdon Peace Group meeting

17 November, 8pm.

■ Online – contact sallyreynolds@btinternet.com to register.

Leeds CND meeting

18 November, 6pm. Online.

■ To register, contact leedscond@gmail.com.

What is real security? CND webinar

19 November, 7pm.

■ To register, contact information@cnduk.org

Faringdon Peace Group meeting, 2 December, 7:30pm. Online.

■ To register contact steve.jenny@hotmail.com

Christmas shopping



If you're starting to think about Christmas gift buying, why not check out official CND merchandise from our online shop at cnduk.shop?

As well as classics like our CND logo T-shirts and badges, we've also got some great new items available, like our delightful new Christmas card, or our range of vintage badges – a perfect stocking filler.

We've also got water bottles, tote bags, brand-new coasters, stickers and more, so we're sure you'll find something for the peace-lover in your life at cnduk.shop. And best of all, all purchases help support the campaign for a nuclear-free world!

Meet the staff

This month: Malek Araj, Finance Officer

"My work focuses on preparing the accounts and other finance reports on a weekly, monthly and annual basis for CND's treasurer and the other members of our Administration and Finance Group (AFG). I also work with the external accountant. I work on monthly bank reconciliations and prepare cashflow forecasts regularly.

I enjoy working at CND, the environment is very amicable."

