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Campaign Review 2020
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IT SEEMS a long time ago now, but the year started with protests against a possible war on Iran and the news that the hands of the Doomsday Clock had been moved nearer to midnight than at any other point in history.

By March, a surge of Covid-19 cases in the UK resulted in us all going into lockdown. CND offices were among the workplaces forced to close and many of our activities were curbed. But not even a global pandemic can stop our work and we saw CND and our groups around the country develop a whole range of innovative campaigning ideas. Although we have missed seeing each other in person, the burst of online events has often meant we have been able to reach a new audience and allowed international and high-level speakers to be more accessible.

Throughout the year, CND has continued to question why the government was so unprepared for a pandemic, but continues to spends billions of pounds on nuclear weapons. Covid-19 has certainly highlighted the government’s skewed spending priorities. CND joined the Build Back Better coalition, which campaigns for us to emerge from this crisis as a more sustainable and fair society.

A more sustainable world of course needs to address the climate crisis. We urgently need more renewable energy sources, not more investment in nuclear energy as the government seems intent on pursuing.

But there was good news in 2020 too! In October, CND joined the global celebrations when the historic Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was ratified by enough countries to enter into force. The defeat of US President Trump - whose policies and actions we have opposed and demonstrated against numerous times – also gives us hope.

Whether these developments can create meaningful change and halt our headlong dash to extinction will ultimately depend on us. We must not ease up and we cannot work alone to face the massive problems that still remain - international cooperation has never been more important.

Dave Webb
Most extraordinary year

It has been a year full of highs and lows, but certainly not the year we were expecting. General Secretary Kate Hudson assesses the world events which shaped CND’s campaigning in 2020.

2020 has been the most extraordinary year. It began with the US killing of Iranian general Qasem Soleimani and six others in a drone strike in Iraq. All that has happened since may have eclipsed this event in our minds, but it was pretty much a microcosm of what’s wrong with the world. By engaging in illegal extra-judicial killings, the US acted as a rogue state and our government’s support for that crime was deplorable. The context for this was US withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and the imposition of severe sanctions, which continue to inflict considerable economic hardship on the population, made worse by the terrible impact of the pandemic. With a change in the White House at the start of 2021, I hope there’ll be an end to this suffering and a return to the Iran nuclear deal – and a turn to respect for international law and treaty compliance.

February was due to see the start of Defender Europe 20, NATO’s biggest war games for over 25 years. 20,000 US troops were to participate in the US’s largest deployment to Europe in over quarter of a century – clearly a rehearsal for a US invasion of Europe.
targeted on Russia. With 18 states to be involved, totalling 37,000 troops, this was an extraordinary provocation in Europe’s border regions with Russia. Troop and equipment movements and exercises were due to last for months. Similar exercises were planned for the ‘Indo-Pacific theater’, focusing on ‘a South China Sea scenario’.

Those following US ‘defence’ strategy saw the link with the 2018 National Defense Strategy where ‘staying ahead’ of Russia and China was the clear strategic reorientation – away from counter-terrorism towards ‘inter-state strategic competition’. In other words, preparing for war against Russia and China.

But by mid-March the war games were pretty much called off. The pandemic had arrived and our lives rapidly changed, with profound impacts and consequences that may be with us forever. For some years, pandemics have been designated as tier one threats to our security yet appropriate spending on healthcare and preparations for such a national emergency weren’t made. We were quick to point out that the same security strategies have designated the risk of nuclear weapons proliferation and use as a tier two threat. Yet governments have chosen to automatically pour £205 billion into a new nuclear weapons system to ‘meet’ this lower level threat. And the government seems to have learnt nothing from this year of crisis: November’s spending announcement on an extra £16.5 billion for the Ministry of Defence, including the launching of a ‘space command’, fails to address the basic needs of the population.

As the pandemic continued to turn our world upside down, in July we saw a global uprising sparked by the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The murder of black people by police officers in the States is routine but this murder set off the biggest anti-racism protests seen there since the 1960s civil rights era. Within days ‘Black Lives Matter’ protests had spread across the globe through Africa and Latin America and Europe.

As is often stated, there can be no peace without justice, and the culture of racism and violence which has led to so many killings has to end. There has been a very strong feeling this
year that our communities must stand together, work together to bring change: to end racism, oppression and discrimination and ensure that a better life for all is won, out of the suffering and tragedy of the times we are living through. New thinking is essential, across the board, and nuclear weapons have to be part of that process too. That’s why we decided to participate in the Build Back Better alliance, discussing how our society can change for the better.

Understandably this year people’s minds have been focused on day to day survival, but President Trump continued to draw our attention as he played further havoc with humanity: criminal negligence over the pandemic, ignoring climate catastrophe, and launching a new cold war on China. He also had a new foray into nuclear matters. It was reported that US officials had discussed the resumption of nuclear testing – ending a 28-year moratorium – in an attempt to pressure China to join New START replacement talks with the US and Russia. To use a nuclear test as a bargaining chip is a disastrous idea and not surprisingly, concern was widespread. Fortunately, that threat has receded for the time being but the risks posed by increasing tension with China is something that we are very alert to. We have worked with the peace movement in the US and internationally to urge diplomatic solutions where concerns and disagreements arise.

Much of our work went online, working from home, and events conducted on Zoom. In August, the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Japanese peace movement held its commemoration events online too. While the virus prevented us visiting Hiroshima and Nagasaki to pay our respects in person, we were able to join together online, to hear international perspectives on the struggle for disarmament and recommit to our goal of global abolition.

In October the nuclear ban treaty arrived...in spite of Trump’s best efforts to derail it. The UN’s Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) received its 50th ratification, meaning it enters into international law on 22nd January. It constitutes a comprehensive ban on nuclear weapons and other related activity and its list of prohibitions includes the use, stockpiling, testing, production, manufacture, stationing and installation of nuclear weapons. This is a significant development – for the first time, legislation exists which rules nuclear weapons to be illegal. Previous international legal opinion which came from the World Court in 1996 indicated that under virtually all circumstances it would be illegal to use them – but not to possess them.

This is very good news – for the collective determination of the global majority of peoples and states, and as a step towards dealing with the very real threat of nuclear annihilation that hangs over all our heads. It’s a welcome antidote to Trump’s trashing of treaties; now the real work commences to make it impact on the nuclear weapons states – including our own.

In November, Donald Trump was defeated. His four years in office have blighted the lives of millions of his own people. He has destabilised global politics, trashed treaties that had made us more secure, and given succour to far-right
forces. His cavalier disregard for lives lost to the pandemic, and his anti-science, fake news approach to the massive health emergency have shown his unfitness for any public office or responsibility. His production and deployment of ‘useable’ nuclear weapons and his failure to recognise the climate emergency have brought us closer than ever before to catastrophic existential disaster.

Clearly a Biden presidency will 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 will be opportunities to turn away from the most damaging paths chosen by Trump. We expect Biden to go back to the Paris Climate Accords – few things can be more important than seriously addressing the climate emergency. And it’s likely that he will take the US back into the Iran Nuclear Deal – Trump was intensely critical of it as an ‘Obama deal’ but it was, rightly, widely praised.

Biden is also likely to extend the New START Treaty and to cut some of the new weapons programmes that Trump initiated. It has also been suggested that he will limit nuclear use to retaliation – something that Trump had explicitly moved away from.

The work must now step up to ensure that Biden fulfils these policy pledges. We will be working with the peace movement – in the US and internationally – to make the progress we need to survive. And in the year ahead we will step up our work to ensure that the British government also shifts its policies and priorities – away from nuclear weapons and new forms of military spending, to meeting the needs of the people and the planet. Nothing could be more urgent.
At the beginning of 2020, most of us had never attended a Zoom meeting and no one could have told you what a socially distanced event even was! But adapting to the new normal caused by a global pandemic is what we’ve all had to do. And at times, the new way of doing things has offered our campaign some positive opportunities, such as reaching new audiences.

The pandemic has also clarified for many that we cannot return to ‘normal’ once the crisis is over. The old way of doing things just wasn’t working and hopefully 2020 will be the springboard for a new vision of what society should look like.

In this spirit, CND joined Build Back Better, a new coalition that is campaigning for the chance ‘to reset the clocks’ and create a new society 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.

CND has highlighted for years that the government has got its security priorities all wrong. While pandemics have been an official Tier 1 threat since at least 2010, the government was completely unprepared when Covid-19 hit. But of-course it wants to spend £205 billion on nuclear weapons, intended to ‘protect’ against a lower threat according to the government’s own National Security Strategy.
So CND launched our ‘Wash our hands of Trident to combat Covid-19’ action, which saw thousands of our supporters contact their MP about these twisted priorities. Greater Manchester & District CND interviewed CND General Secretary Kate Hudson about the campaign and followed this up with a successful letter-writing campaign to regional and national media. At the onset of the crisis, Isle of Wight CND contacted the government regarding their negligence at being unprepared.

Many CND groups were quick to adapt to the new normal of 2020. Aberdeen and District CND put together a series of monthly Zoom events, Salisbury CND’s website has never been busier and St Albans CND designed and purchased a large eye-catching banner to hang on railings in the centre of town to make sure the group’s presence was still felt in the absence of street stalls.
A world without

Amidst all the doom and gloom of 2020, there was a reason for celebrating towards the end of the year when the 50th state ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). It will enter into force in January 2021, shaking up international law on nuclear weapons.

From its founding meeting, CND has championed the global abolition of nuclear weapons. This treaty is a victory for grassroots campaigning and our anti-nuclear movement. CND groups and supporters marked the 50th ratification across the UK, including by sharing images online of the CND peace sign.

Christian CND held a thanksgiving service online. Groups such as Southampton CND made sure to update their members and supporters. Hereford Peace Council and Oxford CND gathered to celebrate in their respective towns. Stockport for Peace displayed the CND symbol by candlelight at their local war memorial.

Shamefully the UK government refused to even participate in the treaty talks and now says it will never sign. But that will not stop us from making progress. Towns and cities around the world – including Washington, Paris, Edinburgh and Manchester – are bypassing their governments’ opposition and becoming Nuclear Ban Communities as they sign up to support the TPNW. 2020 saw CND groups campaigning for their councils to pass motions of support. Oxford CND enjoyed a great success in January when Oxford City Council passed a resolution requesting the UK government to back the treaty.

Merseyside CND handed in a letter to Liverpool City Council calling on them to support the TPNW. Derby CND is contacting numerous civic leaders, including councillors, the Youth Mayor and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Wallasey CND contacted the Prime Minister, their local MP and councillors. Nottingham CND and Isle of Wight CND are among the groups turning their attention to their local councils in the coming months. Bristol CND has already contacted their elected Mayor.

Birkenhead CND met to discuss a plan of action. All local councillors have now been contacted, with many already showing support. The hope is that a motion in support of the TPNW will be presented to Wirral Council in 2021.
for the TPNW in their region, with more MPs and Peers supporting the campaign. The group launched the ‘Nuclear Ban Communities Pledge’ to encourage local councillors to promote the treaty within their elected chamber. So far, two town and two parish councils have passed resolutions and a number of individual councillors have signed the pledge. Yorkshire CND also launched a ‘Faith Leaders Pledge’, which has already garnered a number of supporters including two of the region’s Bishops. The group also organised a webinar on the TPNW and made a greetings card to celebrate the treaty coming into force, which they hope all their members will be sending out over the holidays.

This historic agreement will no doubt generate international momentum towards global nuclear abolition. And CND groups have worked hard in difficult conditions this year to convince the public to back this treaty including Bromley Borough CND who organised campaign stalls to share information on the TPNW.
In February it was revealed that the UK government had secretly agreed a new warhead programme for the Trident nuclear weapons system. This was only inadvertently revealed by officials from the Pentagon in the US, and not officially announced to Parliament. The current nuclear warheads continue to be transported on our roads, monitored by Nukewatch. Many CND members are active in this group, including members of South Lakeland and Lancaster District CND who filmed the convoy carrying nuclear warheads from the AWE factory in West Berkshire to the nuclear weapons base at Faslane. Oxford CND members also spent many hours in 2020 as ‘nukewatchers’. Nigel Day from Oxford CND and Nukewatch gave a talk at a West Midlands CND meeting.

Aberdeen and District CND is in regular contact with Faslane Peace Camp, and supported them this year by visiting and providing finance for a new mobile for the camp, with the help of Aberdeen University CND.

Black Lives Matter

Following the brutal murder of George Floyd at the hands of the US police, a huge wave of Black Lives Matter demonstrations took place in all 50 states of America and globally. CND joined the huge international outcry about this shocking killing and the culture of police impunity and violence which goes along with it. It’s time for this culture to end. This is a moral issue and a human rights issue and our communities must stand together, work together to bring change: to end racism, oppression and discrimination and ensure that a better life for all is won. Abingdon Peace Group and Faringdon Peace Group were among the groups to attend local Black Lives Matter protests. Yorkshire CND arranged an online event exploring the links between the anti-nuclear and the anti-colonial/anti-racist struggle.

It is scandalous that the government did not have sufficient stocks of essential medical equipment for the first few months of the pandemic, while spending billions of pounds on nuclear weapons. CND groups across the country showed support for the NHS in this challenging period, including by getting involved in our initiative to bake birthday cakes for the health service.

Nottingham CND contacted their local MPs on the 72nd anniversary of the NHS to suggest that scrapping Trident would be a good way to raise extra funding to tackle Covid-19. Wallasey CND attended an NHS rally with our NHS not Trident placards.
**Merseyside CND**

organised a stall at the Live a Better Life mini vegan fair and showed the short film, ‘What if we Nuke a City?’. The group attended Liverpool Pax Christi’s Ash Wednesday event, which focused on Trident. A public Zoom meeting was organised with CND Vice-President Bruce Kent to discuss the immorality, expense and non-independence of Trident.

**Exeter CND** marked their 40th anniversary in 2020 and used the opportunity to launch a project to catalogue and digitise their archive materials. The group is applying for a heritage grant to properly conserve and store the archives, with the intention of producing an exhibition in the future.

Most of **Derby CND’s** plans for the year have had to be postponed, but Derby Peace Week happily went ahead. Kicking off on the United Nations’ International Day of Peace, the programme featured cultural highlights such as peace crane making and readings. As ever, new collaborations were formed during the week to strengthen the anti-nuclear alliance in the city.

Another event that was able to go ahead – although moved online – was **South East London CND Peace Coalition’s** Peace One Day event. The virtual event featured speeches, music, film and poetry. **Lewisham and Greenwich CND** and **Bromley Borough CND** were among the groups involved in making the evening a success, including by providing technical support.

**Youth activism**

Youth and Student CND had hoped that their planned event in March would re-ignite their links to other activist groups, however this was not to be as the event was unfortunately cancelled due to Covid-19. After an unusually quiet summer – sorely missing attending Glastonbury – the group has now begun working on how to make the most of the ‘new normal’. The shift to video calls and virtual events does present the opportunity to reach a much wider network than in the past, an opportunity which Youth and Student CND is keen to embrace.

Their first online event was with **London Region CND**, Stop the War Coalition, Extinction Rebellion UK and Demilitarise Education. ‘Climate, Care and Nukes’ saw people contributing their thoughts and ideas on how best to organise in a Covid-19 world.

**SOAS CND** has set up a Barefoot Gen reading group, which organises sessions exploring the journey of Gen through life in post-war Hiroshima. The reading group moved online for obvious reasons, and in doing so was able to welcome international participants.
CND included in police counter-terror list

In a year of unexpected news, it was still a surprise to find out early in the year that CND and other non-violent campaign groups had been added to a police counter-terror list. The list, which was produced by Counter Terrorism Policing, was being used as part of training for Prevent, the anti-radicalisation scheme designed to catch those at risk of committing terrorist violence.

This attack on civil liberties was resisted by the whole movement. CND joined other organisations in instructing solicitors to take action. CND arranged a very well-attended public meeting and urged our supporters to wear their CND badges. CND groups joined the campaign, including Greater Manchester & District CND.

The issue was debated in Parliament and the Prevent list recalled and reviewed.

Wimbledon Disarmament Coalition/CND continued their weekly peace vigil and monthly peace table as and when restrictions allowed. The peace table always features a topical theme and has colourful displays, with the aim, not just to attract public attention, but to persuade them to participate. The group also managed to distribute thousands of leaflets in and around Wimbledon.

Despite the Covid-19 crisis, Christian CND managed to have a busy and successful campaigning year. 2020 started with a visit from the South Korean Bargn Nuri Community for a conference and singing of peace songs outside Parliament. The group marked their 60th anniversary with a new hymn, Let us Raise our Voice, written by Christopher Idle and Sue Gilmurray. Before the lockdown, Christian CND was able to take part in the annual Ash Wednesday witness outside the Ministry of Defence, alongside Pax Christi and others.

Christian CND worked with other faith groups to publish a new report on the investment policies of UK financial institutions in regards to nuclear weapons.

Aberdeen and District CND is also working on divestment. The group is part of a consortium trying to get the local council pension scheme to disinvest from nuclear, arms and fossil fuels. They received good news this year that the pension fund has considerably reduced its investments in the arms trade. The group also arranged a meeting with a guest speaker from Don’t Bank on the Bomb.

One of the strengths of
CND groups is that they are embedded in their local communities and get involved with what’s happening, politically and culturally. Southampton CND supported a classical music concert by the Conchord Singers, by providing drinks in the interval. Birkenhead CND has contacted many local organisations offering to provide a speaker for meetings and hopes this will be viable in 2021. Kent Area CND participated in a virtual meeting hosted by Canterbury UNA on ‘Nuclear Arms issues, what can we do?’, which included a discussion about how we the people might act effectively. For International Women’s Day, Peterborough CND had a stall at the Peterborough Women’s Festival, organised by Peterborough TUC. It was a great opportunity to collect signatures for the Scrap Trident petition. Faringdon Peace Group organised many meetings throughout the year, both online and offline, including one highlighting ‘Why Trident?’, a new book by Robert Forsyth, retired commander of a Polaris submarine. Their 39th Annual Grand Peace Fete went virtual with several light-hearted activities such as singing, making paper doves and circle dancing. The Curry Kitchen was not forgotten, neither were the hedgehogs, and there was face painting too, as well as juggling!

After a Covid-induced hiatus, Hereford Peace Group resumed their poster campaign, producing an A4 poster every month, with a relevant quote. South Cheshire and North Staffordshire CND held meetings throughout the year, including with guest speaker and former MEP Julie Ward, to discuss the European dimension of nuclear disarmament and campaigning within the Labour Party. Greater Manchester & District CND produced great videos throughout the year which were shared widely, including a Zoom interview with Sean Morris from Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA).
and Mayors for Peace. **GMDCND** co-hosted – with **Yorkshire CND** – a webinar on the ‘End of the Nuclear Age’ with Shadow Minister for Peace and Disarmament Fabian Hamilton MP and Alicia Sanders-Zakre from ICAN. Another hugely successful event the group organised was ‘The Bomb on My Back’ webinar with US and Japanese activists, which attracted an international audience. **GMDCND** also worked with the NFLA to organise the latter’s 40th anniversary webinar and attended and spoke at numerous other online meetings and webinars, including Manchester May Day and one on the New Lucas Plan.

**Norwich CND** organised a socially distanced demonstration with banners and posters on the International Day of Peace. Peace vigils were held when possible throughout the year and a film screening was arranged.

**Isle of Wight CND’s** Peace Tree gathering this year was scaled back – but went ahead – in line with Covid-19 restrictions and the group decided to produce a postcard to send out with their campaigning actions.

**Bath CND** was busy in 2020 preparing submissions for Parliament’s Defence and Foreign Affairs committees. Their weekly vigil outside Bath Abbey may have been out of action for parts of the year, but took place, socially distanced, when possible.

**St Albans CND** produced a leaflet to distribute locally, in the hope of attracting new members.

Covid-19 may have stopped us from campaigning on the streets and in our town centres for most of the year, but many groups used the opportunity to become more active on social media and had more time to contact the press. **Rochdale and Littleborough Peace Group** had letters published in *The Guardian*

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**Poster competition**

As we were inundated with requests for posters at the beginning of lockdown, CND decided to organise a competition in conjunction with artist Peter Kennard. The winning designs were announced in June, full information available on our website: [https://cnduk.org/cnd-poster-competition/](https://cnduk.org/cnd-poster-competition/).

Peter Kennard sent his congratulations to all who took part: “It was great to see the artwork you sent in expressing such powerful and passionate condemnation of nuclear weapons and the arms race. It showed that we must use our creativity to campaign ever more furiously against these obscene weapons of total destruction.”
and the *Morning Star* and created plenty of Facebook and Twitter content. *Wallasey CND* was active in writing letters and arranging posters in windows to keep the CND message in people’s minds. The group was also invited to write an article for the local Methodist Church’s weekly newsletter.

**Abingdon Peace Group** responded well to the lockdown, continuing to hold monthly meetings online from April onwards, and attracting audiences from a far wider geographical range than usual. Like everyone, **Christian CND** has been taking advantage of Zoom, with bi-monthly prayer meetings gathering members together from across the country. **East Lancashire CND** also got used to online events.

**Aberdeen and District CND’s** programme of online events included a meeting on SNP plans for the removal of Trident in the event of independence, one with local MPs on promoting peace at Westminster and one on the TPNW. The new year party has also moved online, but there will still be poetry, music and plenty of fun!

**Faringdon Peace Group** decided to re-start their monthly newsletters as a way of keeping in touch with members. **Oxford CND, Stockport for Peace** and **West Midlands CND** were among the groups continuing their regular newsletters.

And finally, one of our favourite images of the year was **Yorkshire CND’s** socially distanced demonstration to mark the 75th anniversary of the first nuclear test. Around 80 supporters formed a human CND peace sign in Bradford. The event played a part in the formation of a new CND group – a huge welcome to **Bradford CND**!
Hiroshima and Nagasaki events

In 1945, the United States Air Force dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with tragic and devastating consequences. 75 years later, 14,000 nuclear weapons still threaten our survival.

Despite the pandemic, CND supporters across the UK marked the anniversary. CND launched an online exhibition which included testimonies and artefacts from survivors. We also hosted a cultural evening, again online, alongside Musicians for Peace and Disarmament in memory of the victims.

Salisbury CND was determined to stage a significant event despite the crisis. They made a fantastic film of their usual candle float, in place of the usual public event, which included a personal letter from the Mayor of Hiroshima.

Many events did manage to go ahead in person. Bath CND organised a well-attended commemoration. Bromley Borough CND went ahead with a vigil, a march and a ceremony of scattering white flowers on the lake on Hiroshima Day and a peace picnic on Nagasaki Day. East Lancashire CND managed to get coverage in the local press for Chair Dave Penney’s garden commemoration.

Merseyside CND and Wallasey CND’s event was attended by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool. Wallasey CND put up Hiroshima-themed posters around their area in advance of the day. Nottingham CND’s event made an impact, with supporters wearing face masks with CND symbols on them. Abingdon Peace Group’s vigil and peace picnic went ahead, albeit both socially distanced.

Stockport for Peace hopes their event generated interest among local shoppers. Wimbledon Disarmament Coalition/CND held a candle-floating ceremony.

Christian CND remembered the bombings by arranging a service in Chelmsford Cathedral and coordinated a statement with 220 Christian leaders from nine denominations calling on the government to cancel Trident.
Rochdale and Littleborough Peace Group
Nottingham CND
Oxford CND
Yorkshire CND
West Midlands CND
Bromley Borough CND
Bath CND
Stockport for Peace
Norwich CND
Roger Elliot
Rochdale and Littleborough Peace Group
Oxford CND
Norwich CND arranged a vigil and took part in the peace crane challenge, launching their 75 cranes on to the River Wensum. A delicious vegan CND cake was made for all to share. As well as encouraging their supporters to put posters up, West Midlands CND had a socially distanced silent vigil.

Peterborough CND held two vigils on Hiroshima Day, folding paper cranes. A further two vigils were held on Nagasaki Day, with flowers floated down the River Nene.

Other groups attending or organising events included Oxford CND, Greater Manchester & District CND, Yorkshire CND and Rochdale and Littleborough Peace Group. But of course, many of us had to re-arrange our plans this year.

Members of South Lakeland and Lancaster District CND held a variety of ‘household’ events, including participating in the international ‘Peace Wave’, folding 75 paper peace cranes, an early
morning commemoration near a local waterfall, scattering petals on the River Gowan, and displaying a CND scarf on their local high street. **Aberdeen and District CND**’s event took place online, featuring a speaker from Japan. **Lewisham and Greenwich CND** and **Sydenham and Forest Hill CND** moved their event online and were joined by a good crowd, speakers, poets and musicians. **Southampton CND** marked Nagasaki Day with an online event with a guest speaker from Medact.

But perhaps the most creative commemoration this year took place in Bristol. **Bristol CND** – along with Trident Ploughshares and XR Peace – worked together to run a four day ‘Peace Gathering’.

Events started with a die-in at 8:15 on the morning of August 6th, the time the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. This was covered by both BBC and ITV local television news. This was followed by an ambitious banner drop along the full length of Finzels Reach Bridge. An eye-catching giant ‘Never Again’ mushroom cloud banner, plus a literature stall, were set up. The Peace Gathering offered craftivism workshops – making peace lanterns, screen-printing and embroidery. There were also drop-in discussion workshops, as well as veterans from Greenham and other campaigns sharing their personal experiences. Each evening, a pop-up cinema showed anti-war films, including Dr Strangelove.

The four-day event concluded with a die-in at 11:02 on the morning of August 9th, the time the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.
NUCLEAR annihilation and climate catastrophe are the two biggest threats to human existence. This has been confirmed by the atomic scientists that maintain the Doomsday Clock: in 2020 its hands were set at 100 seconds to midnight, the closest since its foundation in 1947. They cite the potency of the dual threats of nuclear weapons and climate change as the reasons.

The threat of climate change, which has received an increased level of attention in recent years, is usually understood as a separate issue to that of nuclear disarmament. But rather than only tackling these issues in isolation, the threat of nuclear war and the threat of climate change have a symbiotic relationship as each threat exacerbates the other in a variety of ways.

CND campaigns for robust action on climate change to be coupled with nuclear disarmament and believes that anti-nuclear activists and climate change activists are natural allies.

This is why CND is part of XR Peace, a sub-section of Extinction Rebellion. We joined this year’s ‘We Want to Live’ autumn rebellion – because of the pandemic from our homes, gardens and local streets. Abingdon Peace Group attended a rally in Oxford. Merseyside CND and Wallasey CND attended a Youth Strike for Climate in Liverpool.

Following the announcement of a lockdown, South Cheshire and North Staffordshire CND postponed a public meeting on nuclear war and the climate catastrophe and eventually rearranged it as an online event.

Nottingham CND had planned a public meeting with a focus on nuclear weapons and their threat to the environment, and hope to re-schedule once coronavirus restrictions are lifted. Yorkshire CND organised a meeting on the links between militarism and climate change.
EVEN with a global pandemic raging, international tensions continued to escalate in 2020. The year started with the extra-judicial killing of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani and six others in a US drone strike in Iraq. Iran launched strikes on US bases in Iraq in retaliation, which raised fears that the US drone attack had sparked a war.

CND responded by working with allies to arrange a demonstration in central London. Groups also arranged further protests across the country, including Bromley Borough CND, Nottingham CND, Yorkshire CND, Norwich CND and Wimbledon Disarmament Coalition/CND.

Greater Manchester & District CND produced and promoted a video on Iran with Dr Jenny Clegg, and made sure to send their supporters regular updates on the situation.

It is estimated that around 40 wars and conflicts are ongoing around the world. CND groups campaigned for peace internationally, including Abingdon Peace Group who have been corresponding with their MP, Layla Moran, about the conflicts in Cameroon and Israel. Their work resulted in Layla Moran asking parliamentary questions.

This is the year that it became clear that many world leaders seem intent on getting ready for using space for war as well. As well as US President Donald Trump’s plans for a space force, the UK government announced plans for a Space Command.

The militarisation of space is an increasing concern for peace activists, which makes the Global Network against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space’s annual Keep Space for Peace week of actions especially important. CND is a member of the network and participated in British and international events. Oxford CND and Yorkshire CND organised webinars.

Yorkshire CND was also active in the Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign, holding both in-person and virtual events. East Lancashire CND participated in an online Menwith Hill demonstration on American Independence Day, July 4th.

Oxford CND organised an event to walk the Path of MADness (Mutual Assured Destruction) up and down the runway at Upper...
Heyford, to remember the base’s role in that cold war mutual nuclear stand-off.

**Rochdale and Littleborough Peace Group** put on a successful showing of the film ‘War School’, which attracted a good audience and discussion.

This year’s Remembrance Day events felt very different from normal because of the Covid-19 restrictions, but CND groups still commemorated the occasion and campaigned for peace.

**Bromley Borough CND** participated in a white poppy ceremony from Bromley War Memorial, which was recorded and live-streamed. **Wimbledon Disarmament Coalition/CND** participated in their local ceremony with a red and white poppy wreath.

Also marking the day were **Stockport for Peace** and **Yorkshire CND**.

**Abingdon Peace Group** offered white poppies in their local church, while **Nottingham CND** sent a white poppy to all 54 of

Nottingham’s councillors with information on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. **East Lancashire CND** had a letter printed in their local newspaper with a photo of their white poppy wreath.

**Liverpool Arms Fair cancelled**

CND was delighted to see the cancellation of the Electronic Warfare Europe arms fair, due to take place in November 2020. It was scheduled to take place at the ACC Exhibition centre in Liverpool. This is a welcome development and testament to the great campaigning work done on the ground in Liverpool – including by **Merseyside CND** – and campaigning groups

**Trump defeated**

CND welcomed the defeat of Donald Trump in the US Presidential election, as Joe Biden was declared the next President.

Trump’s four years in office have blighted the lives of millions of his own people, through policies based on hate and multiple forms of discrimination. He has destabilised global politics, trashed treaties that had made us more secure, and given succour to far-right forces. His production and deployment of ‘useable’ nuclear weapons and his failure to recognise the climate emergency have brought us closer than ever before to catastrophic existential disaster.

For the past four years, CND has campaigned against Trump’s policies and played a crucial part in the Together against Trump coalition. We will now continue working with our US partners to hold Biden to account on the Iran nuclear deal, New START extension and his nuclear weapons policies, among other issues.
As part of a 10-point plan for tackling climate change, the Prime Minister announced in November 2020 that the UK government will take forward ‘plans for new nuclear power, from large scale to small and advanced modular reactors’. However, there was no specific funding announced for new nuclear power stations. A £525 million fund is expected to mostly go towards small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs).

The government is still a long way from investing enough in renewable energy for Britain to urgently decarbonise and meet its climate obligations. This irresponsible announcement will no doubt divert investment away from clean, reliable renewables to new nuclear.

There is no clean nuclear. Whatever the size, nuclear power stations are dirty, dangerous, and expensive.

Another reason CND opposes nuclear power is its links with the production of nuclear weapons. Both industries share a common technological basis and are mutually beneficial. CND hosted a webinar this year about the connections with Professor Andy Stirling and Dr Phil Johnstone. Watch it on our website.

**South Lakeland and Lancaster District CND** (SL&LD CND) was very active with their anti-nuclear power campaigning this year. The group joined the Close Capenhurst campaign’s picket at URENCO’s uranium enrichment plant in Cheshire, calling for the end of uranium mining, the immediate closure of all nuclear power plants, and for URENCO to contribute to the cleaning up of the radioactive mess which it has caused. Later in the year, SL&LD CND joined a socially distanced march and lobby of Cumbria County Council, calling on them to refuse planning permission for a new coal mine very close to the former Sellafield nuclear power station and its hundreds of thousands of tonnes of dangerous nuclear waste.

Annual events to commemorate the anniversary of the accident at Fukushima nuclear power plant were affected by the emerging Covid-19 crisis. The parliamentary public meeting was cancelled, but the vigil and march went ahead, with groups such as Bromley Borough CND joining. Wallasey CND marked the anniversary with a Fukushima-themed stall in Liverpool.
IN MARCH we held a successful event at the Senedd (Welsh Parliament) promoting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, showing the ‘Beginning of the End of Nuclear Weapons’ film, and talking to many elected members. Plans are now in the pipeline for events to celebrate the treaty entering into force early next year.

Hitachi withdrawing from the proposed Wylfa Newydd nuclear power station prompted a lot of press and social media work – and some celebration! However, the nuclear industry still hasn’t given up on the site, hoping that the government’s new Regulated Asset Base funding mechanism, when it appears, might provide enough of an incentive for someone to take on the project. We will continue our campaign against the development.

We have been very involved in the Geiger Bay campaign, to try to stop further dumping of sediment containing radioactive particles off Cardiff Bay. The company responsible – EDF - hopes to dredge more sediment from Bridgewater Bay, where the outflow pipes of Hinkley Point A and B have deposited the particles over the last 55 years, as part of the construction of Hinkley Point C. We had some successes, but there’s months of campaigning ahead of us.

With so many events cancelled, enormous progress was made in making all our membership magazines and newsletters since 1990 available online. There’s still some indexing work to be completed, but it will be a valuable resource and history of our activities.

September saw the launch of Academi Heddwch Cymru, the Welsh Peace Academy, as a joint venture involving all the universities in Wales, after many years of discussion and development. Although the initial projects will not focus on nuclear issues, CND Cymru fully supports the venture, and we wish it every success for the future.
Scottish CND continues to work with our allies at the hub of the peace movement in Scotland. We held our AGM in November with a keynote speech from Alexander Kmentt, an Austrian diplomat, on the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Key milestones this year included the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the build up to ratification of the TPNW. Despite Covid-19, local groups made particular efforts for the 75th anniversary.

Several hosted online events with speakers and music or film (Aberdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Renfrewshire CND, Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre, and SCND). Outdoor events also took place (Cromarty, Dunbar, Glasgow, Portobello and Stirling). Visits to and support for Faslane Peace camp continue. Local connections to the risks of radiation are recurrent campaign issues, along with marking the anniversaries of Chernobyl and Fukushima.

We highlighted the increased discharges of tritium into the Gareloch from submarines, the relaxing of safety standards that enabled the Office of Nuclear Regulation to restart Hunterston B, nuclear convoys on our roads, and the radioactive submarine hulks at Rosyth.

SCND provides the secretariat to the Scottish Parliament Nuclear Disarmament Cross Party Group. The first minister, the ruling SNP party and the Scottish Greens have public commitments to the removal of nuclear weapons indicating that signing the TPNW would be an early act of an independent Scotland.

We’ve increased online campaigning to highlight the links between environmental catastrophe and nuclear weapons, and drawn attention to the racism threading through the history of nuclear industries and nuclear bombs.

Our campaign now looks forward to a Scottish Parliament election in early May as our immediate focus. Other campaigning work will include COP26 in November, encouraging political interest in the TPNW, and the re-scheduled nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.
LIKE MUCH of our campaigning, work in Parliament this year has been very different. However, we have managed to work closely with our parliamentary partners to ensure CND’s issues have been on the agenda.

Although mainly through the prism of ‘would you press the nuclear button’, Trident had a reasonable profile during the 2019 General Election. At the start of the year we were then able to use the information gathered from our election campaign to identify newly elected and supportive MPs.

Our first parliamentary CND meeting in March was well attended. We brought our parliamentary colleagues up to date on CND’s main areas of focus around parliamentary action; this also enabled helpful discussions around Trident replacement, the situation globally and the UK’s security strategy, plus much more.

Unable to have our first Westminster public meeting, we moved our NPT Review Conference event online.

We were able to bring together cross-party MPs to discuss how to push the government towards nuclear abolition.

Another significant part of our Parliamentary work this year has included keeping a close eye on the government’s security strategy, which for the past decade has highlighted pandemics as a tier one threat.

There has been much speculation throughout the year about the timing of the Integrated Review and the Comprehensive Spending Review. It is now clear that the Review will not take place this year, but CND has taken the opportunity through parliamentary questions and submitting evidence to committees to highlight the billions of pounds wasted on nuclear weapons.

When the pandemic spread across the UK, there were not enough ventilators or PPE for health and social care workers – the people caring for our most vulnerable. Back in in May, CND launched a ‘Wash your hands of Covid’ tool to lobby our MPs, with a renewed call to scrap Trident’s replacement and to prioritise the real threats to our security.

Towards the end of this year we celebrated the fiftieth ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Parliamentary CND’s public webinar, ‘Global Abolition: Why ratifying the TPNW is vital for peace’, saw diplomats from states supporting the treaty come together to share best practice.

Running Early Day Motion 1072 alongside this has shown strong cross-party support for the TPNW and has brought concerns to the fore about the government’s refusal to back it. Our work is to change this!
NEEDLESS TO SAY, CND Peace Education was heavily impacted by Covid-19 this year, but our programme has now adapted well to the new educational landscape.

The year started successfully with ever-increasing demand for our in-person workshops and assemblies delivered by trained Speakers. In fact, before the phrase ‘social distancing’ was on our lips, we’d managed to schedule enough bookings that we expected to work with a whopping 100,000 students across England by the end of the year! Groups such as Merseyside CND had also made plans to run sessions. This said, we were still able to work with approximately 6,200 students in some 42 schools and colleges.

Meanwhile, our teacher training sessions exploring ‘teaching controversial issues’ also enjoyed high demand. 350 new teachers were trained as Peace Educators from 2019-2020.

For the new academic year, CND Peace Education has attempted to support teachers in doing their own peace education in the classroom, as we can’t be there in person. We’re developing more bite-size activities that can be accessed online by students and teachers alike. These include an online version of our assembly presentation; a video tutorial for making an origami peace crane; and an interactive map resource about the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the countries making nuclear weapons illegal.

We’re also proud of our podcast series ‘Ask an Activist’, featuring 15-minute conversations with young people working for change. Whether climate activists, anti-racist organisers or peacemakers, we’ve so far spoken to those whose experiences can inspire other young people to seek positive changes in their communities. You can listen to these interviews at bit.ly/AskActivist.

After a year that has seen the Department for Education show increasing intolerance towards progressive educational and campaigning groups alike, CND Peace Education will continue delivering balanced, critical thinking sessions about nuclear weapons and peace issues, albeit via Zoom for the moment! This year has given us much food for thought about what security means to each of us. Young people across the country appreciate being asked their views on these matters, and our resources, workshops and speakers remain ideal to help them explore such crucial questions.
Fundraising

This has been an incredibly strange and difficult year for all of us, but thanks to your support, we’ve been able to keep campaigning throughout 2020.

What you’ve helped achieve this year

In the first part of the year, much of our work was focused on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, which was originally scheduled to take place in New York in April/May (it has now been postponed until next year). Thanks to our supporters we were able to take out a full-page newspaper advert encouraging people to lobby the Prime Minister to start taking Britain’s 50-year-old disarmament obligations under the NPT seriously.

Thanks to your help, we were able to mark the 75th anniversaries of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with a host of activities, events and resources. Asking our supporters to get sponsored to fold origami peace cranes had a fantastic response!

As it has for many of us, this has been a tough year for CND financially. This meant that as the year drew to a close, we turned to you, our members and supporters, to ask for help in ensuring that we can keep campaigning as urgently as ever; work which is all the more vital given the current political climate. The response has been fantastic, so thank you – together we will win a world free from the threat of nuclear war.

Continuing your support, and how you can help

CND depends on a strong membership base to campaign effectively. So, get social! Speaking to people you know about nuclear weapons and related issues is one of the best ways of growing our network. We have free materials available to help explain these issues, or you can direct people to our website: cnduk.org/Join.

To help support our work in the long-term, please consider switching your membership payments to Direct Debit, if you haven’t already. This saves us time and money, meaning we have more of both to spend on campaigning.

Lastly, we are incredibly grateful to everyone who has pledged a gift in their Will to CND. By doing the same, you can extend your support for the campaign, potentially for decades. You can call us on 07508 778 357 or email legacies@cnduk.org for advice on how to do this.

Once again, an enormous thank you for being a part of the campaign.
CND in the media

CND GROUPS have been particularly successful in securing press coverage this year.

South Cheshire and North Staffordshire CND’s local paper, The Sentinel, published an article by the group’s Honorary President, Joan Walley, the former MP for Stoke North.

Christian CND continues to be a strong voice in the Christian media, regularly featuring in publications. The group has also been interviewed on UCB, Premier Christian Radio and BBC local radio to discuss Hiroshima and Nagasaki and their 60th anniversary.

An article by Wallasey CND was featured in a local free magazine. Wallasey CND was also interviewed on BBC Radio Merseyside on Hiroshima Day.

St Albans CND was just one of the many groups who have had several letters published in the local press. The group’s banner displays were also featured.

CND nationally continued to respond to developments and featured in publications such as the Independent, Tribune, Huffington Post, Left Foot Forward, Morning Star and a range of international publications. Our campaign in response to CND’s inclusion in a counter-terror list received a lot of publicity, including in The Guardian.

In addition, our social media accounts continue to grow and we encourage all our groups to get in touch should they require support to set up a Facebook, Twitter or Instagram account.

Please contact: pressoffice@cnduk.org for any help with your communications work.
Looking ahead

2021 BEGINS on a bright note for anti-nuclear campaigners. A historic United Nations treaty enters into force on January 22nd, one which will make nuclear weapons illegal in the countries that ratify it. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is a breakthrough in international disarmament efforts and will be of enormous support in achieving the goal that most of the world shares: that there is no place for these weapons of mass destruction.

CND is encouraging all our groups and supporters to organise a banner drop in their local area on the day the TPNW becomes international law. We may not be able to gather together to celebrate this moment, but CND will be making sure the UK government is aware of the support this treaty enjoys. We’ve already launched an Early Day Motion in Parliament to gather support from MPs and we’ve launched a petition demanding the UK signs the treaty. And we plan to present a letter on all our supporters’ behalf to 10 Downing Street and organise a virtual lobby of Parliamentarians.

However, we need to be realistic and realise it will not be easy to get the government to engage with the TPNW, as it continues to wrongfully maintain that the UK’s nuclear weapons are essential for our security. CND will continue to challenge this assumption in 2021, highlighting instead the real security threats we face today.

And how will the departure of Trump affect the international order? We’ll have an opportunity to gauge the new US administration’s positions at both the re-scheduled nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and the COP26 summit taking place in Glasgow in November. CND will attend both.

Thank you to all our supporters, groups and allies for your ongoing commitment to our goal of a world without nuclear weapons. We are taking tentative steps forward – let’s continue the onward march!
CND personnel

**Officers:** Chair Dave Webb; Vice-Chairs Daniel Blaney, Carol Turner, Tom Unterrainer; Treasurer Linda Hugl; Company Secretary (new position from October) Annie Tunnicliffe; General Secretary Kate Hudson.

**Vice-Presidents:** Pat Arrowsmith, Jeremy Corbyn MP, Dr John Cox, Dr Ian Fairlie, Dr Rebecca Johnson, Bruce Kent, Caroline Lucas MP, Alice Mahon, Canon Paul Oestreicher.

**CND National Council:** Directly elected: Sophie Bolt, Jenny Clegg, Roslyn Cook, David Cullen, Tom Cuthbert, Philip Gilligan, Anna Liddle, Sam Mason, Murad Qureshi, Mark Soames, Tony Staunton, Hannah Tweddell, Julie Ward, Rebecca Warren, Katy West. Nations, regions and areas: CND Cymru – Duncan Rees, Linda Rogers; East Midlands – Barbara Coulson, Moyra Jean, Diane Lunzer; Eastern Region (Norwich CND) – Clive Fudge; Kent Area CND – Geoff Meaden; London Region – Gini Bevan, David Leal; North West (Greater Manchester) – Jacqui Greenfield; North West (Merseyside) – Barbara Hardcastle; North West (South Cheshire & North Staffordshire) – Joanna Brown; Northern (Cumbria and Lancashire) – Irene Sanderson; Scottish CND – Janet Fenton, Lynn Jamieson; South West (Exeter) – TJ Milburn; South West (Cornwall) – Alana Bates; South West (Plymouth) – Michal Lovejoy; Southern (Oxford) – Nigel Day; West Midlands – Gillian Cox; Yorkshire – Colin Archer, Hugh Hubbard; Richard Outram; Specialist sections: Youth and Student CND – Amber Goneni, Ellie Kinney; Labour CND – Barbara White; Green CND – TBC; Christian CND – Kelvin Gascoyne.

**Staff at Holloway Road** – General Secretary Kate Hudson; Campaigns Director Sara Medi Jones; Campaigns Officer (Parliamentary) Rachel Earlington; Press and Communications Officer (until June 2020) Ian Chamberlain; Press and Communications Officer (from November 2020) Ed McNally; Campaigns Assistant / Social Media Officer (February – November 2020) Alex Carlen; Social Media Officer (June – October 2020) Katie Clark; Supporter Database Manager Kirsty Stewart; Finance Officer (until March 2020) Eve Cuthbert; Finance Officer (from March 2020) Malek Araj; Fundraising Officer John Asquith; Trust and Major Donor Fundraiser (from March 2020) Andrew Moffatt; Designer Sue Longbottom; Peace Education Officer Joe Jukes; Office Manager Rob Wells.

**National, regional and specialist section** – CND Cymru Jill Gough, Brian Jones (until April 2020), Phil Steele; Scottish CND Emilie McSwiggan, Cristina Tofan, Flavia Tudoreanu; Greater Manchester Jacqui Burke, Andrew Gibson; London Region Julie Saumagne; Yorkshire Catherine Bann, Matt Fawcett, Jonas Liston; Christian CND Claire Poyner, Russell Whiting.
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For a list of local groups: www.cnduk.org/local-groups/
After taking care of your loved ones, please consider leaving a gift to CND in your will – it would make a real difference to our work long into the future.

This year, CND was fortunate enough to receive a legacy of £20,000 from a long-time supporter. This is enough to make a significant contribution towards the costs of our Parliamentary work for the next year, including our work around the UN’s historic Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). It can do much to cover the meetings, the lobbying, and the briefings that will go into marking this milestone.

We’re now in a much stronger position for our next campaign push: pressing our government to seriously engage with the treaty and to scrap its nuclear weapons for good. No matter the challenges we face, legacies like these have made an enormous difference to our ability to campaign for the global abolition of nuclear weapons.

Leave a lasting legacy of peace that will support the struggle for a nuclear-free world: to find out more, please contact legacies@cnduk.org; write to us at: CND Legacies Department, 162 Holloway Road, London N 8DQ; or telephone 07508 778 357.