

# campaign



## Join our campaign

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** explains why CND is reporting the UK to the UN.

**B**RITAIN is behaving like a rogue state and we need the UN to intervene and uphold international law. That's the conclusion we reached after learning recently that the government's nuclear warhead increase breaches the UN's nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Following the UN Secretary-General's statement to that effect, CND sought a legal opinion from two top legal experts, Professor Christine Chinkin and Dr Louise Arimatsu from the LSE. They found that the UK is indeed in breach of the NPT – so that set us thinking: how could we best use this crucial information

in our work to overturn the warhead increase?

At a very simple level we thought that if a crime is taking place, the very least that happens is that it is reported to the relevant authorities, with the expectation that something will be done to stop it. In this case, where the UK is breaching the NPT, we decided that we should report it to the President of the next NPT Review Conference. But we were absolutely determined to make this a 'mass reporting'. People up and down the country have been outraged by the government's decision to increase the

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nuclear arsenal: it reverses thirty years of gradual nuclear reductions and makes us all less safe. So we want to give a voice to that anger by enabling people to demand international action.

As a result we have just launched the 'Report the UK to the UN' campaign. You can sign up to report the breach online, and we also have the report in petition or individual

their irresponsible expansion in nuclear capability, contrary to their treaty obligations, perhaps they will listen to the voices of the international community.'

Of course, it's not just the arsenal increase that is breaking international law. The legal opinion also found the British government's replacing and upgrading of its nuclear weapon system also

**The Non-Proliferation Treaty has been in force for over 50 years and it is vital to the future of the world that it is respected by all signatories, including the UK.**

card form. If you want to get involved and are looking for the best way, contact [information@cnduk.org](mailto:information@cnduk.org).

The initiative is winning strong support across parliament too. Kirsten Oswald MP, who is Chair of Parliamentary CND, commented that, 'The Non-Proliferation Treaty has been in force for over 50 years and it is vital to the future of the world that it is respected by all signatories, including the UK. The UK Government have ignored domestic calls to halt

breaches the NPT, as does the decision to widen the circumstances in which British nuclear weapons could be used – announced earlier this year alongside the warhead increase.

So there is much to speak to the UN about! Please help us to build a successful campaign – to ensure that Britain finally takes the necessary steps to get rid of its nuclear weapons.

■ Go to: [www.cnduk.org/report-the-uk-to-the-un/](http://www.cnduk.org/report-the-uk-to-the-un/) to get involved.

## Spotlight

### This month Salisbury CND



Salisbury CND organised a local Nurses not Nukes action in support of CND's presence at a People's Assembly national demonstration on June 26th to highlight that we should be spending public money on doctors, nurses and hospitals instead of weapons of mass destruction. The action was featured in the local press, along with a quote from the group.

Salisbury CND has plenty more planned for the coming weeks and months. If you live in the area, why not join them? To get in touch, phone 01722 321865 or email [c.lanyon@btinternet.com](mailto:c.lanyon@btinternet.com). And have a look at their website – [www.cndsalisbury.org.uk/](http://www.cndsalisbury.org.uk/)

# Moving the money out of nuclear weapons

**Steve Hucklesby** from the Joint Public Issues Team of the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches in Britain outlines the UK Nuclear Weapons Financing Research Group's campaign to get money divested from nuclear weapons.

**NINE COUNTRIES** are spending a staggering \$1 trillion to maintain and modernise their nuclear arsenals over the next 10 years. For publicly-listed companies involved in the production of nuclear weapons, this provides an opportunity to increase profits. These companies receive loans or feature in the investment portfolios of our banks and pension providers. That our pensions and savings are used for this purpose is not new. What has changed this year is the status of these activities under international law when, in January, the production of nuclear weapons was banned by an international treaty.

But why should bank and pension companies care? Firstly, because they take an interest in their customers and members' views on a range of environmental and social concerns. Secondly, because they have a duty to consider international treaties when making investment decisions. And thirdly,

because many major UK banks and pension funds already have policies in place to prevent any kind of involvement in indiscriminate weapons that are banned by international treaties. We simply need to bring to their attention that, as of this year, nuclear weapons have firmly entered this category.

Campaign and faith groups have come together to bring about change in the UK financial sector as part of a global effort to move the money out of nuclear weapons. The UK Nuclear Weapons Financing Research Group has surveyed the policies of 15 UK banks and pension providers. We find that several banks and pension funds are open to dialogue and some claim to be consulting with members and customers on this issue. If enough customers and pension members speak up, change may come.

The international Don't Bank on the Bomb research project lists just 27 industrial companies worldwide with a

significant involvement in the production or maintenance of nuclear weapons. Banning just 27 companies from investment is achievable. Indeed, some of the world's largest pension providers and some major banks have already implemented comprehensive investment bans.

The influence of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons could be profound. Extending beyond its primary audience of governments, the treaty has the potential to restrict the availability of funds for nuclear weapons, making such projects riskier for weapons producers. But more importantly still, if our banks and pension funds disinvest from nuclear weapons it will accelerate the shift in the public and political narrative towards recognition of the unacceptable moral, financial and humanitarian hazards that these weapons pose.

■ To get started on writing to your bank, see: [www.investinginchange.uk/action](http://www.investinginchange.uk/action)

### Hiroshima and Nagasaki 76th anniversary August 2021

Events are being planned across the country to mark the 76th anniversaries of the nuclear bombings of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

■ Please let us know – [information@cnduk.org](mailto:information@cnduk.org) – if you're arranging an event and we can advertise it on our website. And take a look to find out what is taking place in your area.

### Nurses not Nukes: Mark the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons 26th September

The Nuke-Free Europe network is coordinating a month of action this September to highlight the presence of nuclear weapons stationed across the continent. Here in the UK, we will be shining a spotlight on the nuclear chain by encouraging action at nuclear sites across the country on 26th September.

■ See [www.cnduk.org/Sep26](http://www.cnduk.org/Sep26) for more information.



### CND Conference 16th and 24th October 2021 No new nuclear arms race

Join us on 16th and 24th October 2021 for CND Conference, which will be held online due to the ongoing uncertainties of the Covid-19 pandemic. Have your say at our AGM and Policy Conference on Saturday 16th, and join in the discussion, debate and activities at the public event on Sunday 24th.

**2nd August:** Deadline for nominations for directly elected members of national council and national officers.

**2nd August:** Deadline for ordinary resolutions.

**10th September:** Deadline for amendments and special (constitutional) resolutions.



### Meet the staff

#### This month: John Asquith, Fundraising Officer

As CND's Fundraising Officer it's my job to design and manage our fundraising appeals, develop our membership recruitment programme, run CND's online shop, and promote legacy giving.

Essentially, everything involved in raising the funds that let us keep campaigning.

It's very varied work, and best of all it means lots of contact with our members and supporters. None of what we do would be possible without you, and we're privileged that so many of you are so generous – thank you!



### Covid-19: office update

The CND national office in London has now re-opened and is staffed every weekday 10am-6pm. Feel free to get in touch (020 7700 2393) if we can help or support you with anything, but please note that there is a limited number of staff in the office each day.

We hope all our supporters are keeping safe, and we thank you for your patience over the past few months as we've adapted to the circumstances.

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