

campaign



CND supporters lobby UN official

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** looks ahead to a crucial nuclear summit taking place at the UN in January, and explains how CND supporters have already had an input.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who reported the UK to the UN for increasing Britain's nuclear arsenal – a breach of international law. Last week we presented the many thousands of signatures to Ambassador Ziaulvinen from Argentina, who is President-designate of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, taking place next month in New York. The Ambassador congratulated CND on our work to broaden awareness of the great dangers presented by nuclear weapons. He is of the view that this is the kind of

campaigning we need – not just in the UK but across the world – to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.

Next month's Review Conference is the delayed 2020 event – repeatedly postponed because of the pandemic. Owing to health concerns by the UN, civil society won't be participating in person, but we will have a strong online fringe presence, including a Parliamentary CND webinar on 10th January entitled 'Nuclear weapons are banned: what does this mean for Britain?', where speakers will include

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Kirsten Oswald MP, Rebecca Johnson and Julian Borger from *The Guardian*.

So what major debates can we expect at the Review Conference? Certainly the question of negotiating a WMD-free zone in the Middle East. It was lack of progress on a conference to negotiate this crucial issue that led to the failure to agree a Final Document at the 2015 Review Conference. There had been consensus agreement on a conference in 2010 but while virtually all Middle East countries agreed to attend, Israel did not and so the conference didn't happen. Let's hope real progress can take place this time.

Another key issue is likely to be the continued failure to bring the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) into force. Although the Treaty has been signed by 185 nations and ratified by 170, it cannot enter into force until it is ratified by

44 specific nations, eight of which have yet to do so: China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, Israel, Iran, Egypt, and the United States. The US Senate voted against ratifying the Treaty in 1999, then in 2009 President Obama said he would get the Senate to reconsider, but in the end he didn't follow it through. More recently the Trump administration appeared to open the door to renewed testing, so we are all looking to see a shift in approach from the Biden administration.

And finally, the impact of the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is likely to be under consideration. This is the first NPT Review Conference since the TPNW entered into force in January 2021. The Treaty's greatest supporters and greatest opponents will all be in the UN chamber together so there may be interesting debates!

Nuclear weapons are banned: what does this mean for Britain?

Parliamentary CND webinar on 10th January at 6.45pm (UK). Speakers will include Kirsten Oswald MP, Rebecca Johnson and Julian Borger from *The Guardian*.

■ To register for CND's webinar, contact information@cnduk.org

Spotlight

**This month
Leicester CND**



CND groups across the country are working on the Nuclear Ban Communities campaign and getting their local councils to back the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. One of these groups is Leicester CND which has presented a petition to Leicester City Council calling on the city to support the treaty. This will be discussed by the council in the new year.

If you live in or near Leicester and want to get involved with the group and its work for a world without nuclear weapons, please get in touch. You can phone Leicester CND on 0116 259 1053 or email rachelpepa@hotmail.com.

Building opposition to AUKUS

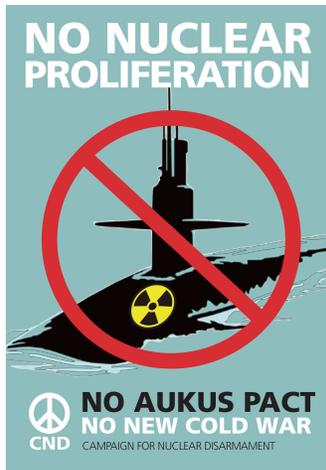
CND's Vice-Chair, **Sophie Bolt**, writes about CND's ongoing campaign against AUKUS.

THE GOVERNMENT'S new military pact with the US and Australia – AUKUS – will enable Australia to secure nuclear-powered submarines. It will be the first non-nuclear weapons state to gain them. The pact is very dangerous as it will drive nuclear proliferation and risks a war in the Indo-Pacific.

CND has been quick to respond. To build international cooperation, we jointly organised a meeting with the Australian and US peace movements, and, following a call from the Australian peace movement, took part in an international day of action on Saturday, December 11th.

In Australia, defiant protests took place in Canberra, Perth, Wollongong, Hobart, Brisbane and Adelaide, with over 200 mobilised in Sydney. A petition opposing AUKUS has reached 25,000 signatories. The Maritime Union of Australia has come out strongly against it, with its Assistant General Secretary, Warren Smith, saying, 'The MUA stands in solidarity with the peace movement and the growing number of trade unions and peace-loving people

who oppose this nuclear madness and drive to war.' The Liverpool Dockers have expressed international solidarity, standing 'proud with MUA brothers and sisters'.



Across Britain, local members organised activities to raise awareness about the threat of a new cold war. Merseyside CND took to the city centre, whilst Bristol CND supported a protest for refugees, highlighting how a new cold war will worsen the crisis. Groups in Yorkshire, West Midlands, Chichester, Bromley, Redbridge and Lewisham organised street stalls to engage local residents. Other groups

secured letters in the local press, including South Lakeland and Lancaster District CND which called on the government to make 'genuine efforts to invest in increased and more diverse employment opportunities in Barrow'.

Youth and Student CND produced an excellent explainer video on the dangers of a new cold war and called for action on climate change not war.

CND is building opposition in Parliament, supporting an Early Day Motion calling on the government to rethink the pact. On Friday, December 10th, we took this demand directly to the Prime Minister, handing in a letter with Stop the War Coalition to Downing Street.

We know that public opinion is overwhelmingly in favour of nuclear disarmament. Working out how we can further strengthen our links with campaigns for climate action, global justice and public spending for social good will be absolutely vital if we are to overturn AUKUS and stop this dangerous drive to a new cold war.

Abingdon Peace Group social meeting, 21 December

Online, 8pm.

■ For a link to join contact 01235 526265 or sallyreynolds@btinternet.com

Nuclear weapons are banned: what does this mean for Britain?

CND webinar, 10 January

Online, 6:15pm-7:45pm.

■ To register, contact information@cnduk.org

Time for Action: Yorkshire CND regional campaigners' meeting 12 January

Online, 6pm.

■ To register, contact info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk or 01274 730795.

Britain must sign the TPNW: Yorkshire CND AGM

22 January

In person, details TBC.

■ Contact 01274 730795 or info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Working for Peace in the Middle East – CND conference 20 February.

Online, 1pm-4:15pm

■ To register, contact information@cnduk.org

Nuclear convoys: did you know that nuclear warheads could be driving through your town? 3 March.

Online, 6:30pm-7:30pm

■ To register, contact information@cnduk.org

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our supporters



Thank you to all our supporters and groups for their support in this year of highs and lows. In 2021 we've witnessed a treaty banning nuclear weapons enter into force, the government announcing more nuclear weapons, UK alongside NATO troops withdrawing from Afghanistan leaving devastation in their wake, and a new military pact agreed with Australia and the US.

All of course set against a backdrop of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. We hope our supporters are able to have a safe and happy festive period, ready to continue our campaign for a world without nuclear weapons in 2022.

Meet the staff

This month: **Andrew Moffatt, Trust and Major Donor Fundraiser**

I've been working alongside the membership team for 18 months, leading on our applications to trusts and foundations, which involves a lot of research and application writing. We've had some success, especially for CND's Peace Education work.

I've also been working with membership on developing a new membership recruitment campaign, so we can grow our membership base and keep campaigning for as long as we have to.

During lockdown I was lucky enough to meet some of our local groups online to discuss ideas on fundraising, including local events and stalls – it was great to hear all the ideas and exciting actions members are doing in their areas to help raise money and spread the anti-nuclear message.

