NURSES NOT NUKeS

NHS NOT TRIDENT

CND

Campaign Review 2021
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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.” So wrote Dave Webb in last year’s Campaign Review.

Dave served as CND Chair for eleven years, during which time he devoted himself to our organisation and the struggle for a better, nuclear-free world. I am proud to have worked with Dave and am equally proud – if a little daunted – to have been elected in his place.

Following Dave’s advice and example, CND continued our ceaseless work this year. 2021 opened with the coming into force of the TPNW. This important new treaty banning nuclear weapons was welcomed by activities, actions, and celebrations both national and local. CND will continue our work on the treaty, including promoting a possible pathway for the UK to join and teasing out the implications of Britain’s legacy of nuclear testing.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s ‘Integrated Review’ contained much predictable saber rattling, delusional visions of ‘Global Britain’ and self-congratulatory verbiage. It also carried deeply troubling announcements concerning Britain’s nuclear weapons and an increased warhead stockpile. Yet again, this government is in breach of international law and thousands have responded to CND’s call to report the breach to the United Nations.

The more recent announcement of the AUKUS agreement demonstrates again that much of British foreign policy has nuclear considerations at their heart. Not only that, but it signals an intensification of the ratcheting up of tensions with China. CND has played an important role in opposing AUKUS and warning against the prospect of a ‘New Cold War’ with China.

Amidst the many challenges, there have been moments of hope. Such hope was most clearly on display in the enormous protests and mobilisations at and around COP26. Our work to highlight and remove the existential risk presented by nuclear weapons and the prospect of nuclear war is as vital and urgent as ever.
2021 HAS reinforced the clear divide that exists in the world today: between the global majority that strives for peace, justice and nuclear disarmament, and the minority that seeks to perpetuate its global domination through war, increasing militarisation and nuclear threats.

In January, the majority took an unprecedented step forward: the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force making nuclear weapons illegal for the first time. So far the UK government has shunned the Treaty but we are determined to change that. We’ve always thought that government was out of step with the population by rejecting the Treaty, so we commissioned a national poll to check the facts. The poll showed that 59% of the public support the UK signing up to the TPNW and 77% support a ‘total ban on all nuclear weapons globally’. So yes, the government is at odds with the majority on the TPNW, not just globally, but here in Britain too. As government has failed to act we have built our nuclear ban communities across the country.

Unfortunately, March brought a very unpleasant surprise. The government’s long-awaited Integrated Review was not only revealed to be an attack document, promoting a post-Brexit ‘Global Britain’ that is on the offensive, ‘projecting force’ globally; it also announced a 40% increase in Britain’s nuclear arsenal. Huge public outrage focused on the scale of military spending, when nurses were being offered an insulting 1% pay rise. Our Nurses not Nukes campaign got under way rapidly.

Alongside the warhead increase came a change in nuclear use posture – now reserving the right to use nuclear weapons not only against nuclear threats but against supposedly comparable threats, such as chemical and biological weapons or ‘emerging technologies’. Our suspicion...
was that this was in breach of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) which requires each of the parties to the Treaty ‘to pursue negotiations in good faith’ towards nuclear disarmament’; we were proved correct when eminent lawyers from the LSE provided us with a Legal Opinion stating that the UK was indeed breaking international law. As a result we launched our ‘Report the UK to the UN campaign’, to try and get action taken to bring the UK government into line.

In May we saw the HMS Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier leaving Portsmouth for the Pacific, accompanied by a flotilla comprising up to 36 US F-35 fighter jets, numerous escort vessels, and a strike group company of some 1,600 personnel. Utterly wasteful and potentially dangerous, this was the largest British naval and air taskforce since the Falklands war. Touted by the government as a way to ‘make global Great Britain a reality’, it’s indicative of the new ‘attack’ mentality of the Johnson government. The flotilla is designed to underpin the key strategic shift that was outlined in the Integrated Review – a focus on the Indo-Pacific region – described as a ‘tilt’; this includes the Indian Ocean and its two key powers, India and Australia, along with the UK and Japan and others, as a network of regional allies against China – mirroring the US ‘Quad’ approach.

It wasn’t only peace activists who were worried about this provocative development – senior military figures also raised concerns. Lord Houghton of Richmond, who was chief of defence staff between 2014 and 2016, said it would be “foolish to turn China into an enemy”.

trives for peace
Quite so. As we said in a letter to the Prime Minister opposing the flotilla’s voyage, now is not a time for gunboat diplomacy; it’s time to explore new ways of cooperation instead of glorifying imperial myths. We didn’t receive a reply.

As the lockdown began to ease in May, for many of us our first demonstration was to be one of the enormous protests in support of the rights of the Palestinian people and the defence of their homes. As I said many times in the days and weeks that followed, this was not a struggle between equal adversaries but a situation where a nuclear-armed state, armed to the teeth with ‘conventional’ weapons with the help of foreign aid from the US, UK and elsewhere, wages war on a people denied their legitimate state, where all too often those on the receiving end of bullets are young people throwing stones. We continue to call for a nuclear weapons-free Middle East, as backed by the UN, and are hosting a conference on that theme in early 2022.

June saw two global summits – the G7 and NATO – both of which reinforced that US narrative now adopted by the Johnson government too, that these organisations are bastions of democracy and the rules-based order; this underpins systemic opposition to China and Russia and provides the ideological framework for massively intensified militarisation – including nuclear. G7 leaders gathered in Cornwall for their latest Summit, and thanks to Plymouth and Cornwall CND, we participated in the Resist G7 Coalition to ensure that anti-war and anti-nuclear messaging was strongly present in the protests, stressing the carbon boot print of the military and its expansionism.

This has been a year where the human costs of war could not be more clearly drawn. In August the Taliban re-entered Kabul, almost twenty years since the US-led intervention in 2001 drove it out. The war on Afghanistan has been an unmitigated failure. President Biden has conceded that after nearly 20 years of war it was clear that the US military could not transform Afghanistan into a modern, stable democracy. In fact, they created a corrupt puppet regime with negligible popular support. The truth is, the US should not have been there attempting regime change in the first place.

So we named the US/NATO departure from Afghanistan for what it was: a humiliating defeat after twenty years of war, regime change, occupation and brutality. According to the Brown University Costs of War study, the war resulted in over 240,000 deaths, with countless more injured, displaced, suffering from mental health problems, and with lives blighted by poverty and deprivation.

The monetary cost of the war has been phenomenal. The US alone has spent over $2.26 trillion to date, and that excludes future costs of interest payable on money borrowed to wage the war, as well as lifetime care for
US veterans of this war. And after all this expenditure of blood and treasure, Afghanistan is still one of the poorest countries in the world.

Now the population faces starvation as the world fails to take action to alleviate their suffering. The UK’s role in the war and occupation has been utterly reprehensible. It is political and military intervention over decades, if not centuries, that has given rise to these problems, in Afghanistan and internationally. This was widely recognised after the Iraq war and there can be no going back to the idea that western intervention was driven by humanitarian concerns. Blair’s concept of ‘humanitarian intervention’ has been roundly trashed: it was never any more than window dressing for regime change in the interests of western powers.

In September, the UK announced the launch of its new military alliance together with the US and Australia – AUKUS. Billed as ‘a landmark defence and security partnership’, it echoes the G7/NATO rhetoric as being a values-driven agreement to support a peaceful rules-based international order; but at its heart is US/UK collaboration with Australia to help provide them with nuclear-powered submarines. Boris Johnson claims that the AUKUS agreement does not contravene the NPT – because AUKUS includes nuclear power not nuclear weapons. But it means providing weapons grade enriched uranium to a non-nuclear weapons state to power military submarines undertaking provocative action in a very fraught area of the world. And although the NPT does not stop the exchange of civil nuclear technology, it stipulates it must be ‘for peaceful purposes’.

Sending war-fighting subs to potential conflict in the Indo-Pacific region is hardly that.

We have pointed out that this is yet another breach of international law by our government, hard on the heels of the nuclear arsenal increase, and as agreed at our recent annual policy conference, anti-AUKUS campaigning will be priority work.

The catastrophic impact of war has also been made tragically clear by the humanitarian disaster in Yemen and the UK’s continuing arms sales to the Saudi government have been deeply controversial. This year has seen an increase in campaigns against arms fairs and we have been active in a number of these, including against the DSEI fair in London in September where we were able to highlight the presence of nuclear weapons producers.

A strong theme throughout our work this year is that the world faces two existential threats: nuclear war and the climate emergency. COP26 has been a significant opportunity to emphasise that inter-relationship, together with the carbon emissions produced by the military. This is an issue which will only gain in significance and Climate not Trident is our powerful message in the struggles ahead.
OVER FIVE MILLION people worldwide have now died from the Covid-19 virus. Our debt to healthcare workers who continue to care for the dying and save the lives of those who are seriously unwell is huge. And yet the UK government refuses to properly remunerate them with an adequate pay-rise, saying there is no money available. But there is always more money for nuclear weapons, as we saw this year when the Prime Minister announced an increase of over 40% in the number of Britain’s nuclear warheads.

To highlight the government’s warped priorities in this regard, CND launched our Nurses not Nukes campaign in 2021, which included a day of action at sites across the UK on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

Yorkshire CND organised protests outside Fylingdales and Menwith Hill bases; Oxford CND visited AWE Aldermaston and AWE Burghfield; and Tavistock Peace Action

Group was in Devonport. North Cumbria CND faced the submarine sheds at Barrow-in-Furness. And

Derby CND handed out leaflets at the Rolls Royce plant in Derby, highlighting the role of the company in building the UK’s nuclear-armed submarines. The group was joined by Nottingham CND, Leicester CND, West Midlands CND and East Midlands CND to hold
enormous Nurses Not Nukes banners. They received a lot of supporting car toots from people driving along the by-pass!

On the day, Crawley CND organised an action outside their local hospital. During the year, Salisbury CND also organised a Nurses not Nukes protest at Salisbury District Hospital, while Leeds CND and Calder Valley CND held flash-mob photoshoots outside their local hospitals.

Nottingham CND joined a protest at Queen’s Medical Centre alongside Keep our NHS Public to show their support for healthcare workers. The group used an eye-catching banner and the Nurses not Nukes placards to draw attention to the campaign on the NHS anniversary march and rally.

Merseyside CND spoke at an NHS rally in Liverpool to show support for nurses while also highlighting the cost of nuclear weapons.

Greater Manchester & District CND organised the Nurses not Nukes bloc at the Tory Party Conference march and rally. They also organised a session on the campaign in the Unwelcome the Tories tent. CND organised a Nurses not Nukes webinar in response to the initial announcement on nurses’ pay, as well as making it the theme of our TUC fringe meeting. We then took the message to the streets, organising a Nurses not Nukes presence on a People’s Assembly demonstration, where we were joined by London CND.
IT IS UNDENIABLE that the world faces increasingly complex challenges, but CND groups across the country continue to rise to the challenge of campaigning against the very specific dangers of nuclear weapons. Supporters were outraged in March when the government announced it would be increasing its number of nuclear warheads and expanding the number of scenarios in which they could be used.

But we had something to celebrate at the start of the year! After decades of campaigning, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force – the first time a treaty specifically banning nuclear weapons entered into international law.

Groups across the country marked the occasion, including Hereford Peace Council who held a vigil. In addition, they collaborated with other local organisations to produce a short film clip celebrating the TPNW coming into force. Also organising activities on the day were Isle of Wight CND, Oxford CND and Reigate and Redhill CND, among others.

Christian CND joined friends in the Network of Christian Peace Organisations to hold an online event and worked with a number of churches and cathedrals to ensure bells rang out in celebration. While Salisbury CND’s plans to project images on local landmarks were thwarted by the lockdown, Photoshop came to the rescue and fantastic images were created instead.

Isle of Wight CND got together – outside – to celebrate the moment. Stockport for Peace celebrated with bells and lights around the Stockport War Memorial. Nottingham CND hung ‘Global Ban is Here’ posters in four local parks in Nottingham.

West Midlands CND organised a virtual demonstration, with members holding up placards and posters displayed in windows. Abingdon Peace Group chose to use socially-distanced placards and banners in the market place to mark the TPNW coming into force.

While these activities were very different in nature to what would be planned in non-Covid times, CND supporters across the country still managed to get together for this momentous moment in our campaign.

And despite the pandemic, many groups reported another successful year of protesting. St Albans CND displayed their giant banner on the cost of Trident on a number of occasions with hundreds of people now having seen it. The group also produced a leaflet which members distributed locally.
2021 was really busy for CND North East Scotland/Campaigning for Peace who have a new name and a new logo. The group started the year with a highly successful New Year Peace, Poetry and Music Party, which was great fun. They continued their monthly talks and meetings on Zoom.

Hereford Peace Council produced an exhibition charting the growth of opposition to nuclear weapons, culminating with the TPNW (the exhibition is available for any other groups who would like to host it). They arranged a stall at the Ludlow Green Festival where over a hundred people supported the campaign.

Birkenhead CND reported that it was difficult to find anyone who disagreed with them at their stalls! The group also met their local MP to discuss the TPNW and other nuclear issues.

Bromley Borough CND was very active in their community, joining a Black Lives Matter vigil, attending Bowie Festival and organising campaign stalls. One of the highlights of the
year was the Peace One Day event with music, poems and speeches, organised in conjunction with the SE London Peace, Justice and Solidarity Network.

Derby CND had another interesting year. They took part in Chesterfield’s May Day march and participated in a host of Zoom events. Once again, the group was heavily involved with Derby Peace Week, organising two events. With Derby CND having had multiple discussions with the Mayor, there is growing support within Derby City Council for membership of Mayors for Peace.

Christian CND was delighted to be able to join Pax Christi once again for the annual Ash Wednesday Witness, with over 120 people joining us online. As part of their ongoing work with the Nuclear Weapons Financing Research Group, they also hosted an online briefing on ethical investing. In July, Christian CND marked their 60th anniversary with a very special meeting, sharing memories of the past 60 years and opportunities for future campaigning. They attended the National

40th anniversary of Greenham

The legendary Greenham Women’s Peace Camp celebrated 40 years since the first women marched from Wales to RAF Greenham Common to oppose the siting of cruise missiles in the UK. When they arrived at Greenham Common they stayed on – setting up a peace camp outside the base. The camp remained, making a huge impact on British politics and society, until the missiles were removed.

Greenham Women Everywhere marked the anniversary with a re-creation of the original march, followed by a weekend of festivities. Bristol CND welcomed the march as it passed through their city with supporters gathering with banners. Groups, including Abingdon Peace Group, went to Greenham Common for the celebrations.

Isle of Wight CND supported a new book and exhibition to remember Greenham, with photos displayed at Ventnor Fringe Week.

Christian CND
Justice and Peace Network Conference and were delighted to be able to gather in person for their AGM in Newcastle. Monthly prayer meetings have continued, and during Thy Kingdom Come in May, they produced prayer resources and hosted a 24-hour prayer room which saw more than 100 people praying together from around the world.

Salisbury CND produced commemorative mugs of the group’s key activities (available via their website).

Bristol CND, alongside XR Peace, organised a four-day gathering for peace activists from across the South West. Beginning with a die-in, the weekend continued with bands, talks and workshops and provided a fantastic opportunity for networking between different campaigning groups. The gathering was brought to a close with a procession to City Hall to deliver a petition, shaped like a peace dove, calling on Bristol City Council to support the TPNW.

Isle of Wight CND had a gathering by its Peace Tree, which is looking fantastic as it approaches its 40th birthday. It also joined

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**Nuclear Ban Communities**

Towns and cities around the world are bypassing their governments’ opposition to the TPNW and becoming Nuclear Ban Communities. CND groups across the country are actively working with their local councils to win their support.

After lobbying their local councillors, **South Lakeland and Lancaster District CND** was successful in getting the City of Lancaster to pass a motion calling on the UK government to sign and ratify the TPNW. **Oxford CND** also celebrated Oxford City supporting the agreement, following a successful campaign.

**Birkenhead CND** is working to get Wirral Borough Council signed up. They have emailed all councillors and attended an election count to give out information sheets. After a meeting with the group, the Mayor has agreed in principle for the issue to be discussed at a council meeting.

**Isle of Wight CND** is also engaged in an ongoing campaign to ultimately see the whole Isle of Wight support the treaty.

Back in March 2020, **Leicester CND** presented a petition to Leicester City Council calling on the city to support the TPNW. **Reigate and Redhill CND** has started planning their campaign, while **SCANS CND** organised an online meeting to get started. **GMDCND** groups are very active on the issue: local faith leaders, councillors and MPs have already signed pledges of support. **Stockport for Peace** is making progress towards their local council agreeing a resolution.

**Yorkshire CND**’s nuclear ban communities work saw Leeds, Blackshaw Head, Hebden Royd, Shaw and Crompton, Shipley, and Todmorden City, Parish and Town Councils passing supportive resolutions.

**London CND** launched their Nuclear Ban Communities initiative and followed up with monthly meetings. The group designed a leaflet on the campaign to assist other groups with their work.

**West Midlands CND** is endeavouring to get councillors in the West Midlands to sign a pledge supporting the TPNW, with the hope of eventually getting councils to pass resolutions.
local celebrations at Ventnor Day, where the group engaged people in discussion about nuclear issues, collecting over a hundred signatures of support for our petition. Origami cranes were made and distributed, which were especially popular with children.

**Leicester CND** has been sharing the anti-nuclear message, first on Radio Leicester. The recording has since been used at Labour Party meetings, while the group also met with their local MP.

**Oxford CND** nukewatchers continued to monitor nuclear convoys and bases throughout 2021. The group published newsletters and participated in webinars.

**Reigate and Redhill CND** was successful this year in recruiting new members, by contacting all CND members in their local area and by making links with their local XR group. Members of the group attended a meeting with the Shadow Minister for Peace Fabian Hamilton MP, and contacted their local MP. They delivered letters asking the group’s local churches to support the TPNW, and arranged information tables in their town centre.

**South Cheshire & North Staffordshire (SCANS) CND** arranged online meetings on the government’s plans to increase the nuclear weapons stockpile, and one in coordination with Campaign Against Arms

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**CND annual conference**

CND’s annual conference took place online again this year, with supporters and groups – including **Reigate and Redhill CND, SCANS CND and Kent Area CND** – coming together to make campaigning decisions for the year ahead.

As well as the AGM session, guest speakers discussed the global impact of the UK’s illegal nuclear arsenal increase and the legacy of its nuclear weapons testing.

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**Stop Arms Fairs**

CND was present to protest when nuclear weapons manufacturers exhibited at one of the world’s largest arms fairs – the Defence & Security Equipment International (DSEI), in London’s Docklands. An online rally, in-person actions, a peace walk and a march through the local borough were organised. **GMDCND** co-organised the main Stop the Arms Fair Day of Action. Many groups were represented at the protests, including **Bromley Borough CND, Christian CND and Salisbury CND**.

Later in the year, huge protests greeted an arms fair in Liverpool. **Merseyside CND** supported the actions and believe this particular fight is far from over.
Trade. SCANS CND organised a stall at a local vegan market, at Stoke Pride, and as part of the city’s ‘Better World Festival’. Greater Manchester & District CND (GMDCND) continued to organise online meetings, roundtable discussions and webinars, enjoying a geographically wider audience with a wider reach than pre-pandemic times. The events included ‘Nuclear-Free Manchester: Built on Co-operation with the Peace Movement’, marking GMDCND’s involvement in creating Manchester’s nuclear-free status; a TPNW workshop; a ‘Global Britain’ briefing webinar; and a Peace History Conference on state surveillance and the infiltration of the peace movement. Their work on the TPNW included articles in media across the region as well as bell-ringing, online vigils and writing letters to MPs. Representatives from the group spoke at various events across the region about subjects including AUKUS and military spending.

Stockport for Peace participated in a ‘Cap and Dove’ travelling theatre event, commemorating Peterloo, bringing different local community groups together. During 2021, Kent Area CND members participated in several activities organised by a variety of peace organisations.

Yorkshire CND took up divestment as a new area of campaigning. They made a fact-sheet and called a divestment day of action outside branches of Barclays and NatWest in the region, with letters handed to bank managers. The group has subsequently published a ‘Pensions of Shame’ briefing and held another action outside HSBC branches.

Merseyside CND found it good to get back to face to face meetings and has...
been active on the streets in 2021. They spoke at a peace vigil in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral on the work of CND. The group was also invited to speak on the history of CND at a Visual Art Group online presentation.

**London CND**’s year began with an online annual conference, and included a breakout session aimed at students about military influences in UK universities. Supported by London Region, CND groups in south east London got together to launch SE London Network for Peace, Justice, and Solidarity. In fantastic news, a new CND group in Lambeth was set up, which has already organised two public events. The group has maintained international solidarity, signing the Korea Peace Appeal for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. They published a video on the impact of nuclear testing on indigenous communities, as part of The World Transformed festival.

**North Cumbria CND** spent a lot of the year campaigning against proposals for a coal mine in Cumbria, expressing opposition at the inquiry. This was not only on the grounds of its environmental toll, but also because of its location within five miles of Sellafield and the world’s largest stockpile of plutonium. They even made an appearance discussing the issue on the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation!

**Mid-Somerset CND** and Peace Group made a video about nuclear weapons for an event for their local sixth form college, and ran an event at the fresher’s fair, finding lots of students interested in the campaign. They further ran two successful stalls, the first in Wells Cathedral as part of the ‘Wake up Wells’ Community Day event, the second in Street.

**West Midlands CND** has had several stalls
**Labour CND**

In January, Labour CND launched an online lobby encouraging party members to object to Labour’s support for the government’s rise in defence spending. When the Integrated Review was announced in March, we relaunched the lobby pressing Labour to withdraw support.

Labour CND’s virtual annual conference happened in March, with a keynote speech from Shadow Minister for Disarmament, Fabian Hamilton and a round-table discussion with Jeremy Corbyn, amongst other speakers. Two break-outs addressed the Nuclear Ban Communities initiative and discussed the nuclear elephant in the Green New Deal room.

When the AUKUS military pact was announced in September, we circulated an emergency motion for Labour conference opposing it, which passed with a clear majority. We followed up by encouraging Labour CND supporters to get their local parties to back the conference decision and lobby their MPs to support an EDM.

In November we held a virtual rally, ‘No Future in Nukes’, aimed at young party members. The rally included Young Labour Chair Jess Bamard, *Tribune* Editor Ronan Burtenshaw, MPs Apsana Begum and Richard Burgon, Shelly Asquith from Stop the War, NEC member Gemma Bolton, and kicked off by Labour CND’s Samantha Mason from the COP26 conference.

Throughout the year we have participated in the activities and events of other Labour Party organisations, making sure nuclear was raised at all opportunities.

during the year, some at Kings Heath farmers’ market and one in the city centre, with the public generally very happy to support CND’s campaigns.

**Abingdon Peace Group** has continued to meet online every month.

**Nottingham CND** wrote to all local MPs expressing concern over the nuclear announcements in the Integrated Review. Playing and selling vinyl records at the Nottingham Green Festival raised over £125. Members attended Nottingham and Chesterfield May Day events.

Despite difficulties caused by the pandemic, **Chesterfield CND** is still alive and well, continuing to hold group meetings online and attending various events. With help from fellow campaigners from **Nottingham CND**, **Derby CND** and **East Midlands CND**, the group continued their tradition of joining the famous Chesterfield May Day march and rally. One activist carried on her back a cartoon showing money being poured into nuclear weapons, while an NHS worker was carrying an empty begging bowl. All the groups present reported the positive nature of being able to campaign together after a difficult period.
Hiroshima and Nagasaki

CND groups across the country – including Leicester CND and Stockport for Peace – remembered the victims of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Crawley CND ran a stall in Crawley town centre, St Albans CND displayed large banners and CND North East Scotland/Campaigning for Peace held a memorial. The Bishop of Hereford sent a message of support to Hereford Peace Council’s remembrance ceremony.

Bromley Borough CND’s Hiroshima Day vigil was followed by a march through central Bromley and a ceremony of scattering white flowers on a lake.

Mid-Somerset CND and Peace Group also remembered Hiroshima with a candle float.

Salisbury CND made a film, which included lanterns that had been specifically sent over from Hiroshima. SCANS CND’s vigil was followed by a flash mob protest against the government’s plans for more nuclear weapons. On Nagasaki Day, the group organised a ‘Music, Poems and Prose for Peace’ online event.

GMDCND held socially distanced events and vigils marking the anniversaries, as well as joining in with the international Peace Wave. Yorkshire CND groups arranged commemorations in Sheffield, Calder Valley, Bradford, Leeds, Huddersfield, Grassington and Keighley, with assorted Mayors, councillors and faith leaders present.

Merseyside CND held three separate events. These took place in Wallasey, Birkenhead, and in Liverpool, the Lord Mayor laid a wreath of white poppies in the Peace Garden in Liverpool city centre.

London CND’s Tavistock Square Gardens event returned this year, with Jeremy Corbyn MP among the speakers. The event was streamed live to 56,000 people on Facebook!

Kent Area CND participated in the Deal United Nations Association Hiroshima Day event.

Nottingham CND commissioned new posters for
the occasion, designed by one of their members. **West Midlands CND** held a ceremony with the reading of poems and silent reflection.

**Abingdon Peace Group** had a vigil on Hiroshima Day, and a Peace Picnic a few days later, where they were joined by peace walkers en route to Oxford. Members of the group joined the walk, which culminated in a Nagasaki Day event.
South Lakeland and Lancaster District CND
A World Leaders headed home from Glasgow after a disappointing conclusion to the COP26 climate change conference, CND supporters will continue to highlight the links between militarism and climate change. Nuclear disarmament will help save the planet.

During the COP26 summit, CND groups joined the protests and actions taking place across the globe. Over a hundred thousand people demonstrated in Glasgow, where the conference was being held, and tens of thousands more joined other events across the country.

CND North East Scotland/Campaigning for Peace organised a large pre-COP 26 rally with the help of local environmental groups. The group was also active alongside Scottish CND and other Scottish campaigners during the event itself.

CND arranged a bloc on the London demonstration, which was one of many events taking place on an international day of action. Derby CND was involved in the planning of their local protest, as was Oxford CND and SCANS CND. Merseyside CND joined the march through Liverpool. North Cumbria CND, alongside other Cumbria and Lancashire Area CND groups, joined local social action and sustainability activists for an event in Carlisle, which ended with chants of ‘Nurses not nukes! Trees not nukes! Climate not nukes!’.

Birkenhead CND arranged street stalls while COP26 was ongoing. Nottingham CND played an active role in the Nottingham Coalition for Climate Justice, organising a public meeting and a big march and rally for the day of action. Chesterfield CND attended their local demonstration with the group’s banner, distributing Climate not Trident leaflets.

West Midlands CND
reported that their banner was very popular on the Birmingham march.

After the conference, Crawley CND held a public meeting to talk about the aftermath of COP26, especially in relation to jobs.

In other climate-related events during the year, dED_UCATION read a message of solidarity on behalf of GMDCND at Extinction Rebellion’s Northern Rebellion, making the connection between environmental security and peace.

Merseyside CND organised a very successful online meeting on ‘The Carbon Bootprint of the Military’. Mid-Somerset CND and Peace Group designed a ‘Climate not Trident’ mug.

Kent Area CND took part in a well-attended annual peace service at Canterbury Cathedral, which this year included the topic of climate change. The group took part in the procession of local peace and climate change guardians.

No to nuclear power

Our campaign against nuclear power is as vital as ever, with many voices misguidedly supporting the technology as the answer to both the climate and energy crises. The links between nuclear power and nuclear weapons must continue to be highlighted, as well as the legacy of radioactive waste.

CND organised a film screening of the documentary ‘The Atom: A Love Affair’, followed by a Q&A session with the director. Salisbury CND organised a webinar discussing ‘Zero Carbon - Why Not Nuclear?’

Nottingham CND submitted official opposition to a proposed nuclear fusion experimental reactor to their local council, although sadly the site was put forward for consideration. Better news for South Lakeland and Lancaster District CND, who successfully lobbied City of Lancaster council to adopt a motion opposing proposals for a fusion plant in the area. The group is also supporting local campaigning on renewed attempts for a geological disposal facility in West Cumbria.

Bromley Borough CND held regular vigils to remember the nuclear disaster at Fukushima. It also organised a vigil on Chernobyl Day and continued its anti-nuclear trains campaigning.

GMDCND organised a ‘Living with Chernobyl: Personal stories from the world’s worst nuclear disaster’ webinar, and a roundtable discussion on nuclear power and wildlife.
International tensions

The Government’s Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, announced this year, outlined a country on the offensive – a heavily armed nation, a leader in NATO, deploying forces worldwide. These are not the ideals of CND supporters of course, and groups protested all year against the very real outcomes of these policies.

A day of action was organised against AUKUS, a military partnership between the UK, the US and Australia. The US and UK are providing Australia with nuclear-powered submarines which risks nuclear proliferation.

CND North East Scotland/Campaigning for Peace held meetings on anti-war issues, discussing ‘How to stop the UK’s endless wars’, ‘Is the US leading Britain into a new cold war with China?’ and the ‘Economic impact of conflict in Syria’. The group was also joined by the coordinator of the Afghanistan Peace Project to discuss what comes next for the country.

This year of course saw UK troops leave Afghanistan, alongside other US and NATO troops. After twenty years of war and occupation by Western countries, the country now faces a humanitarian disaster and Taliban rule.

London CND was present in Parliament Square when MPs debated the withdrawal. Derby CND joined a vigil to mark the occasion.

It was another difficult year in Palestine. After months of rising tensions, just over a week of fighting left at least 255 people dead, most of them Palestinians in Gaza. CND joined the national demonstrations in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

CND North East Scotland/Campaigning for Peace spoke at protests in Scotland, while Christian CND teamed up with Pax Christi for a special event on Nakba Day to pray for peace.

Chesterfield CND commemorated the International Day of Peace with an event that was addressed by a range of speakers including the leader of the council. The Nottingham Clarion Choir sang, and everyone was offered an origami peace dove, and a sprig of rosemary for remembrance.

Glastonbury Festival founder Michael Eavis joined Mid-Somerset CND and Peace Group to mark the day at their annual laying of a White Poppy wreath at the Harry Patch Memorial in Wells, an event which was covered in the local press.
Bromley Borough CND held a white poppy ceremony at Bromley War Memorial, with speeches and poems. Isle of Wight CND and Abingdon Peace Group distributed white poppies. Stockport for Peace laid wreaths with white, red, pink and black poppies on Remembrance Sunday. Nottingham CND re-commenced their white poppy appeal, distributing poppies to 12 venues with profits going to the Nottingham and Notts Refugee Forum.

Leicester CND held a small ceremony at a local memorial stone for conscientious objectors. GMDCND also organised an event to mark Conscientious Objectors Day.

East Midlands CND, Derby CND and Nottingham CND joined UK Drone Watch to fly kites at RAF Waddington to protest at the siting of military drones in Lincolnshire.

Oxford CND was one of the groups marking Keep Space for Peace week, organising a webinar and attending a protest at USAF Croughton, alongside Abingdon Peace Group. Yorkshire CND organised a protest outside Menwith Hill as a part of the International Day of Action against Foreign Military Bases. It had around 30 people in attendance and a lively walk around the base. As part of the actions on the day, Keighley peace campaigners organised a vigil against military spending and members supported a global twitterstorm.
CND Cymru

TPNW

The TPNW was celebrated online. The event saw messages of support from high-profile supporters, and performances from poets and musicians. Local authorities in Wales are beginning to show their support for the treaty. So far, Bangor City Council, Nefyn Town Council, Gwynedd County Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council have adopted resolutions supporting the treaty.

Greenham Celebrations

The celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Greenham Common Women’s Peace Camp saw the re-enactment of the original march from Cardiff to Berkshire, with speeches and singing at the start.

CND Cymru at 40

In keeping with the theme of 40th anniversaries, CND Cymru celebrated its 40th birthday in September. A film filled with memories and messages of support from notable figures in the peace movement was livestreamed on CND Cymru’s Facebook page.

‘Land of Song’

Folk singer Frankie Armstrong very generously organised a beautiful online concert in June entitled, ‘Songs and Sounds’.

Demonstrations and active participation

Having been involved in campaigns supporting Palestine, refugees and asylum seekers in Wales, the CND Cymru banner was also waving at the Liverpool Arms Fair protest and the Conservative Party Conference protest in Manchester. CND Cymru banners, placards and supporters gathered for the COP26 mobilisations in Swansea and Cardiff on 6th November, where CND Cymru national secretary Bethan Siân spoke about the connection between nuclear weapons and climate change on the steps of the Senedd.

Ongoing campaigns

Although Aberthaw and Pembrokeshire’s Haven Waterway have been ruled out as potential sites for new nuclear fusion project, there are ongoing campaigns against the nuclear mud-dumping by the EDF in the Severn Estuary, as well as active opposition to new nuclear proposals at the decommissioned Wylfa (Ynys Môn) and Trawsfynydd power stations.
IN THE YEAR of Glasgow hosting COP26, Scottish CND has worked with other peace groups in Scotland and around the world, to draw attention to the connections between nuclear weapons, war and global warming. Online and in-person events included a Scottish Parliament-sponsored event with speakers directly affected by nuclear tests and uranium mining.

We have seen a gradual return to in-person activities: from dying-in at Faslane, to rallying for COP26 in Aberdeen, to joining the mass rally in Glasgow. But we continue to balance this with online events, which draw together members from around the country.

In this spirit we held online events in remembrance of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and a celebration of the TPNW in July, with speakers joining us virtually from around the world.

Early in the year, a group of volunteers from Glasgow CND organised a beautiful online commemoration for Marshall Islands Day of Remembrance, to honour the communities devastated by nuclear detonations in the name of ‘testing’. In October, a small group of activists took our protest to the doors of the UK government outpost in Edinburgh, seeking recognition and accountability for the impact of the UK’s nuclear tests around the world.

We are grateful that the May 2021 election returned a Scottish Parliament with a substantial majority in support of nuclear disarmament. This has already led to the re-establishment of the Cross-Party Group on Nuclear Disarmament; and to the SNP adopting a three-year deadline for getting rid of Trident after Scottish independence, thanks to the hard work of the SNP CND group.

We know the year ahead presents challenges and opportunities: we will continue to work to ensure that nuclear disarmament remains a public and political priority within Scotland; and to make the most of the unique opportunities presented by Scotland’s opposition to nuclear weapons, to unravel the whole of the UK’s nuclear programme.
Parliament and parties

CND strongly welcomed the entry into force of the TPNW in January. But the government has no intention of engaging with this new agreement, as it made clear in responses to our parliamentary questions, and has no intention of honouring its long-held claim of commitment to a ‘world without nuclear weapons’. Parliamentary CND produced Early Day Motion 1072 to welcome the TPNW, which received over 70 signatories – thanks to our supporters’ lobbying.

In early March we marked the tenth anniversary of the Fukushima disaster and looked back at its tragic human impact. This came as the government’s delayed Energy White Paper was released. The government’s plan to pursue “… large-scale nuclear, whilst also looking to the future of nuclear power in the UK through further investment in Small Modular Reactors and Advanced Modular Reactors” is irresponsible. The White Paper failed to recognise just how dirty, dangerous and expensive nuclear power production is and again – with the help of supporters – we lobbied MPs on the issue.

During the pandemic and at such a critical time economically, socially and politically, it was outrageous that Defence Secretary Ben Wallace announced that Trident replacement would go ahead. Devastating – and a further sign of the government’s wrong priorities – was the government’s decision to increase the UK’s nuclear weapons arsenal by 40%.

Since the announcement of the Integrated Review in March, we have continued to work with parliamentarians; tabling questions, submitting early day motions and having online meetings, in order to tackle this government’s dangerous stance on nuclear weapons. In a significant change to policy, the government will no longer be transparent about nuclear weapons - a huge frustration for Parliamentary CND. This makes it increasingly hard to hold government to account.

In May, Parliamentary CND hosted the public launch of our new Legal Opinion authored by...
renowned experts from the LSE. Their findings show the warhead increase to be a clear breach of the NPT. The document continues to be very useful in strengthening our campaigning work.

Following the Legal Opinion, we have campaigned to report the UK to the UN for its breach of international law and the Chair of Parliamentary CND met with the President-designate of the NPT Review Conference in December.

During conference season, we held a successful fringe event at Labour Party Conference with CND Vice-President Jeremy Corbyn, Vice-Chair of Parliamentary CND Bell Ribeiro-Addy, and Labour’s Shadow Peace and Disarmament Minister Fabian Hamilton.

Parliamentary work continues on the AUKUS pact, the new military alliance between Australia, the UK and US. Members of parliament have worked closely with us to oppose this agreement including submitting Early Day Motion 493, which has gained cross party support.

The CND Peace Education programme is continuing to adapt to circumstances as dictated by the Covid-19 pandemic. There are now online sessions (of course!) and more of a focus on providing resources and support for the teachers to deliver peace education lessons.

The programme’s resources continue to be extremely popular and were downloaded over 600 times from The Times Educational Supplement alone.

Many CND groups are involved with peace education. CND North East Scotland/Campaigning for Peace held a meeting about the work of the Scottish Peace Education Network.

Leicester CND has been working with the University of Leicester. 2021 is the centenary of the university, and it has agreed to support the Leicester Schools Peace Project with a series of lesson plans and assemblies, which are available free from the Peace Pledge Union.
Thank you so much to everyone who responded to our appeals this year, all of which were very successful. Over £100,000 has been raised and donations are still coming in at the time of writing.

With your help we were able to fund a huge amount of work, and have two full page adverts in The Guardian voicing our opposition loud and clear to both Trident replacement and to the government’s appalling plans to increase the UK’s nuclear arsenal. Your generosity and commitment also enabled us to hold many events both online and in-person this year.

It also made it possible for us to launch our Report the UK to the UN campaign, with thousands of people backing our call to see the government held to account for their illegal warhead increase. And a big thank you to everyone who responded to our Direct Debit appeal – the reliable extra income generated will make an enormous difference to our ability to plan for future campaigning, as well as reducing our administrative costs. If you have a Direct Debit set up, then thank you! If not, but you think you might like to, then you can visit our website or give us a call on 020 7700 2393.

Our merchandise has also been selling well this year, with lots of new items that have gone down well – especially our Nurses Not Nukes T-shirt, which you can order online at www.cnduk.shop or by phone on 07508 778 357.

Legacies left to CND continue to be essential in helping to fund our campaigning. They enable our supporters to continue making a difference to the cause beyond their own lifetimes. We are incredibly grateful to all our members who have made a bequest to us in their will. If you would like more information about leaving a legacy to CND, you can find it on our website at www.cnduk.org/legacies; alternatively, please email legacies@cnduk.org.

2022 is set to be another crucial campaigning year as we continue to oppose nuclear proliferation at home and abroad. And none of the work we do would be possible without your support. So to all of our members, to all of our supporters, to everyone who has made a donation, attended a march, worn one of our T-shirts or badges, handed out leaflets, written to their MP, or made any other contribution towards making our campaign a success: thank you!
CND in the media

IT WAS a dramatic year for nuclear disarmament campaigning. From the highs of the TPNW entering into force to the lows of the Integrated Review, CND has been featured in a variety of publications commenting on developments.

To coincide with the TPNW entering international law, CND commissioned opinion polling showing that 59% of the UK population want the UK to sign, and 77% support a ‘total ban on all nuclear weapons globally’. The Guardian covered this news, alongside a quote from our General Secretary Kate Hudson.

Many publications covered our outraged response to the news that Britain would increase its number of nuclear warheads, including the Daily Star! The news that an undercover police officer was planted in CND’s office from 1981 to 1984 as part of the Spycops scandal, was also widely covered.

Kate Hudson has written regular articles for publications including Tribune, Declassified UK and Left Foot Forward.

CND organised a very fruitful media training workshop for our groups, where ideas and strategies on securing local press coverage were shared. GMDCND had regular letters published in The Guardian and Morning Star. Christian CND worked with the Bishop of Birmingham on an article for Christian Today on the warhead increase announcement, amongst other media work including for the Church Times.

In addition, Christian CND has a regular column in the Catholic Universe and the Independent Catholic News.

Many CND groups are now developing a positive relationship with their local media, which is a real opportunity to reach new audiences.

A Crawley CND action outside their local hospital featured in the Crawley Observer.

St Albans CND, Kent Area CND and South Lakeland and Lancaster District CND all had many letters published in their local paper.

This is a highly recommended campaign action for all groups and new tools to help with this will hopefully be available in the new year.
Looking ahead

2022 launches straight into the re-scheduled NPT Review Conference (RevCon). CND has participated in each RevCon – which have been taking place at five-yearly intervals since the treaty came into force in 1970. Even though we won’t be going in person to the UN in New York this time due to Covid-19 restrictions, this will be an opportunity to highlight the government’s breach of the treaty in increasing its number of nuclear warheads.

We’ll also be arranging an online meeting to launch a report about what another international treaty – the TPNW – means for the UK. And talking about the TPNW, the first meeting of this agreement’s state parties will take place in Vienna in March. The government of course refuses to engage with the whole process, so in January we’ll be launching our Talks not Bombs campaign, aiming to get the UK to attend the conference in an ‘observer’ capacity. NATO states Norway and Germany have already announced they’ll be going along, and the UK can’t ignore this crucial progress for a nuclear weapons-free world any longer.

As international tensions rise, and a new Cold War with China looms, CND will continue to work with our allies across the world to call for peace.

Campaigning against the AUKUS deal will continue, as will our work on highlighting the military’s impact on climate change. Domestically, we’ll be keeping a close eye on the building of the Dreadnought-class submarines for the UK’s new nuclear weapons system, a programme that is already likely to go over-budget.

After another fractious year in the Middle East, CND is bringing together experts from the region to discuss how we work for peace, and can the region ever be nuclear-free? Join us on 20th February for this online conference.

And finally, we know that our campaign’s ultimate success will come from grassroots activism, from the hard work of our groups and supporters – you! And our next collective challenge is to get communities across the country signed up to the global ban. Oxford has done it, Glasgow has done it, Merthyr Tydfil has done it. Can you get your council to adopt a motion in support of a world without nuclear weapons and the TPNW? We know many of you are already working on this, and we’re planning on setting up an action group in 2022 so we can learn from each other’s successes and strategise together.

Because together, we are making progress. Let’s go even further in 2022!

CND Conference 2022: Save the date

Join us on Saturday 8 October 2022 to have your say at CND’s AGM and Policy Conference. More details to come — depending on the course of the pandemic!

1 August: Deadline for nominations for directly elected members of CND Council and officers; deadline for ordinary resolutions.
9 September: Deadline for amendments and special (constitutional) resolutions.
CND personnel

Officers: Chair Tom Unterrainer; Vice-Chairs Daniel Blaney, Sophie Bolt, Carol Turner; Treasurer Linda Hugl; Company Secretary 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: Peter Adamson, Adam Beese, Sarah Cartin, Jenny Clegg, Ros Cook, Tom Cuthbert, Philip Gilligan, Anna Liddle, Sam Mason, Murad Qureshi, Hannah Tweddell, Julie Ward, Rebecca Warren, Dave Webb, Katy West. Nations, regions and areas: CND Cymru – Bethan Siân, Linda Rogers, Philip Steele; Eastern (Norwich) Clive Fudge; East Midlands – Barbara Coulson, Moyra Jean, Diane Lunzer; Kent – John Hemsley; London – Gini Bevan, David Leal; North West (GM&D) – Jacqui Greenfield; North West (Merseyside) – Barbara Hardcastle; North West (SCANS) – Jason Hill; Northern (Cumbria & Lancashire) – Irene Sanderson; Scottish CND – Janet Fenton, Lynn Jamieson; South West (Penzance & Cornwall) – Alana Bates; South West (Exeter) – TJ Milburn; South West (Tavistock) – Tony Staunton; Southern – Nigel Day, Peter Gloyns; West Midlands – Gill Cox; Yorkshire – Colin Archer, Hugh Hubbard; Specialist sections: Youth and Student CND – Ellie Kinney, Lucy Tiller, Harry Weaver; Labour CND – Rae Street; Green CND – Simon Hales; 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 Michael Muir; Supporter Database Manager Kirsty Stewart; Finance Officer Malek Araj; Fundraising Officer John Asquith; Trust and Major Donor Fundraiser Andrew Moffatt; Peace Education Officer (until September 2021) Joe Jukes; Office Manager Rob Wells.

National, regional and specialist sections – CND Cymru Jill Gough, Bethan Siân, Phil Steele; Scottish CND Emilie McSwiggan, Cristina Tofan; Greater Manchester Jacqui Burke, Andrew Gibson; London Region Julie Saumagne; Yorkshire Jonas Marvin; Christian CND Claire Poyner, Russell Whiting.
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For a list of local groups: www.cnduk.org/local-groups/
LEGACIES are always important to CND’s long-term security, and this year we were fortunate enough to receive a legacy of £17,800 from a committed member. This made a real difference in our ability to oppose the Government’s planned nuclear arsenal increase, allowing us to print more materials, hold more meetings, and engage in more lobbying both at home and internationally. Earlier in the year, we also received a legacy of £500, which helped us to organise our Nurses Not Nukes bloc at the People’s Assembly National Demo in June.

No matter how big or small, gifts left to us in wills really make a huge difference to our work and our ability to provide a voice for everyone who wants to see the global abolition of nuclear weapons.

After taking care of your loved ones, please consider leaving a gift to CND in your will – it will make a real difference to our work for many years.

Please consider leaving 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 N7 8DQ; or telephone 07508 778 357. Thank you.