

campaign



Action not just words

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** responds to a statement by nuclear-armed countries.

“WE AFFIRM that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.” So say the leaders of the world’s largest nuclear weapons states in their recent joint statement, issued at the start of the year.

At a time of increasing global tension, it’s a welcome reaffirmation of the position that Reagan and Gorbachev took at their 1985 summit at the height of the cold war. At that time, those powerful words led to radical action: the removal of a whole class of nuclear weapons from Europe through the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces

(INF) Treaty – the very outcome that we, in the mass peace movements, had been demanding.

Reagan and Gorbachev employed actions as well as words. They followed through. That is what we need today but this joint statement looks like words instead of actions. Dialogue is good, but we want concrete outcomes – real steps towards disarmament, not the nuclear weapons modernisation programmes that all these countries are undertaking.

Many of the assertions in the statement are not borne out by reality:

that they are committed to preserving and complying with disarmament and non-proliferation treaties – yet the US under President Trump trashed numerous key treaties that have not been reinstated under President Biden; that they are committed to the NPT’s Article VI – this requires good faith measures towards nuclear disarmament, ridden roughshod over by all nuclear weapons states modernising or increasing their arsenals; and underpinning this is the continued false notion that nuclear weapons ‘serve defensive purposes, deter aggression, and prevent war.’

We also need their engagement with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, freely negotiated by the global majority.

Of course it’s good to hear leaders reiterating the validity of ‘previous statements on de-targeting, reaffirming that none of our nuclear weapons are targeted at each other or at any other State.’ But while it’s positive that our nuclear weapons aren’t pre-programmed to attack Moscow – or anywhere else, the truth is that they could

be re-targeted in around 15 minutes. We need further steps to be taken, to reduce the risk of accidental or precipitous use – such as ‘de-alerting’, which puts an actual physical block within the weapons system, to prevent firing.

At this time of enormous interlocking threats and challenges, we must welcome their commitment to ‘increase mutual understanding and confidence, and prevent an arms race that would benefit none and endanger all.’

But we also need their engagement with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, freely negotiated by the global majority.

So who will take the first step, to ensure that these fine words become reality? Now is the time for us all to ‘Look Up’ and see the dangers that are facing us and take the necessary steps to prevent nuclear annihilation. Continued and intensified campaigning is at the heart of that.

The full P5 statement can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-statement-on-preventing-nuclear-war-and-avoiding-arms-races>

Spotlight

This month Yorkshire CND



Yorkshire CND is calling for anyone who is feeling refreshed and re-energised after the break to get involved with their local campaigns in the region. In Bradford, Sheffield, Calder Valley, Keighley and Leeds there are peace activists organising events, actions and meetings throughout the year, and across the wider region there are pockets of activists putting forth the arguments and exerting public pressure on their MPs, and parish and town councils.

Yorkshire CND is also happy to discuss supporting you in any actions you may want to take up.

■ Please feel free to get in touch at info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk.

Who will pay the nuclear bill?

CND Campaigns Director **Sara Medi Jones** explains why new legislation approved by MPs is bad news for consumers and the planet.

I T HAS NOT been a good few years for the nuclear power industry in the UK – to put it mildly. No new plant has been completed since 1995 and government plans to build more have largely gone nowhere. From a list of eight locations identified as sites for new nuclear power stations by the coalition government in 2011, building has only started on one – Hinkley Point C.

So why is the nuclear industry in such disarray? In simple terms, no business is willing to take the financial risk inherent in nuclear energy – the private sector knows this is an outdated and failing technology, where design flaws, long delays and safety incidents are common.

So why does the government want to continue to bail it out? One reason could be the links between nuclear power and nuclear weapons. Scientists from Sussex University have confirmed that the government is using the Hinkley Point C nuclear power station to subsidise Trident, Britain's nuclear weapons system.

This could be why the government has pushed through controversial new legislation in

New legislation... will change the way nuclear energy projects are financed, allowing the government to designate companies that will receive a certain revenue, regardless of the status of the project underway.

the House of Commons which will change the way nuclear energy projects are financed, allowing the government to designate companies that will receive a certain revenue regardless of the status of the project underway. This means that consumers will end up bankrolling the nuclear power industry, with no protection from spiralling costs. This is the last thing we need on top of the current cost of living crisis, and in addition to the fact that the new rules don't make economic or environmental sense.

By guaranteeing an income, developers are under less incentive to meet their targets and come in under budget. This finance model already exists in the US, where consumers in Georgia have already covered the \$2.1 billion of cost over-runs incurred in the building of Plant Vogtle; while those in South

Carolina have to pay \$2.3 billion for a now-cancelled nuclear plant!

Many supporters of the new legislation claim that while not ideal, developing nuclear power is vital to save the planet as it is a 'carbon-free' energy option. But this is not true. Uranium mining, milling and enrichment are all carbon intensive, while nuclear electricity generation costs are twice that of renewables. Renewable energy sources have the potential to supply all our energy needs, with the right support and investment.

The last chance to stop this is at the House of Lords and CND will be speaking to peers to submit amendments to the Bill. Over three million people in the UK are believed to be living in fuel poverty. Let's not make the situation worse and encourage investment in a dirty and dangerous technology at the same time.

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

6pm, online.

■ To register contact
info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

**Rebuilding Global Britain vs
Real Security – London CND
annual conference**

16 January 11am, online.

■ To register contact
info@londoncnd.org to register

**Nuclear weapons are
banned: what does this
mean for Britain? – CND
webinar January 21**

3pm-4:30pm, online.

■ To register contact
information@cnduk.org

**Britain must sign the TPNW:
Yorkshire CND AGM**

22 January, 11am, online.

■ To register contact
info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

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

1pm-4:15pm, online.

■ To register contact
information@cnduk.org

**Nuclear convoys webinar
3 March**

6:30pm-7:30pm, online.

■ To register contact
information@cnduk.org

NPT Review Conference

The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference has been postponed yet again, due to the high number of Covid-19 cases in New York, where the event was due to be held.

This important conference assessing the status of the 1970 treaty in achieving its aim of a world without nuclear weapons was due to take place this month. CND met with the President of the conference in December to present our case that the UK has breached the NPT, and therefore international law, by announcing it will increase its number of nuclear warheads.

Our work highlighting the UK's lack of commitment to the agreement will continue over the next few months, with the NPT Review Conference now pencilled in for August 2022.

Meet the staff

**This month:
Malek Araj, Finance Officer**

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

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



CND vacancies

Want to help CND get our message out and make the world safer for future generations? We're hiring a full-time Press & Communications Officer, see cnduk.org/about/jobs for full details.

Could you help out at our London office? We're looking for a volunteer to assist with office tasks once the Covid-19 situation improves. Please email Rob at officemanager@cnduk.org.

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