

campaign

WORKING FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST



CND online Conference

Sun 20th February



Can the Middle East be nuclear-free?

CND is organising an online conference on 'Working for Peace in the Middle East'. Two of the speakers, Sharon Dolev and Emad Kiyaei from the Middle East Treaty Organisation, write here about efforts to make the region a nuclear weapons-free zone.

CALLS FOR the Middle East to become a nuclear weapons-free zone (NWFZ) go back to the 1970s. In 1995, states parties to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) adopted a resolution that linked the NPT's indefinite extension with the establishment of a 'verifiable' Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone (WMDFZ) and their means of delivery in the Middle East.

But there has been little tangible progress on the zone. Attempts to convene a conference on the zone in 2012 and to reach consensus on a final declaration in the

2015 NPT Review Conference failed.

In December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a decision, submitted by the Arab States, which requested the UN Secretary-General to convene a regional conference on the zone by the end of 2019. The first conference took place on 18–22 November 2019 in New York. All 22 Arab states and Iran participated. Four nuclear-armed states participated: China, France, Russia, and the UK. The United States and Israel did not. The conference

adopted a political statement, which reaffirms the intention to negotiate a legally-binding instrument for the establishment of a Middle East WMDFZ.

The second conference, which due to Covid took place only in 2021, also ended on a positive note.

The final report was adopted by consensus on the last day of the conference, and agreed to continue the discussion through inter-sessional meetings aimed at bringing technical and diplomatic experts together to develop ideas, policies, and technical solutions to an array of issues.

A failure on returning to a nuclear deal with Iran will decrease the shaky belief states already have in disarmament-related agreements with the superpowers.

However, the November conference room does not exist in a vacuum. A failure on returning to a nuclear deal with Iran will decrease the shaky belief states already have in disarmament-related agreements with the superpowers.

During the final days of the most recent NPT Review Conference in 2015, the five nuclear-armed states diverted attention from their failure to make progress on their commitments to disarm by

diverting the conversation to the lack of progress on the Middle East WMDFZ as a scapegoat for failure to reach a final document.

The upcoming 2022 NPT Review Conference will probably suffer from the same lack of commitment from the nuclear-armed states—but this time there will be growing pressure from those advocating for nuclear disarmament, and especially from the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

At the 2022 Review Conference, states must welcome the UN General Assembly resolution on the

WMDFZ and acknowledge that the resolution is being implemented through the November Conference and the intersessional work.

Join us in calling all states parties to the NPT, and in particular, the UK government to protect this precious November Conference process and let it take its course with as little interference as possible.

■ Email
information@cnduk.org to register for the conference.

Spotlight

This month Birkenhead CND



With the UK government refusing to engage with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), CND supporters across the country are taking matters into their own hands and building support from the ground up with our Nuclear Ban Communities Campaign. Birkenhead CND is one of the groups working hard on this, with their work to get Wirral Borough Council to support the TPNW.

Birkenhead CND has contacted every councillor, met with the Mayor and the local MP. If you would like to get involved with this work, or support the group in any other way, please contact 0151 201 2273 or cath.page@phonecoop.coop.

Talks not bombs

CND Campaigns Director **Sara Medi Jones** writes about CND's ongoing campaign to get Britain to attend a crucial conference on nuclear disarmament.

HAVING CAMPAIGNED for decades for the global abolition of nuclear weapons, CND supporters had reason to celebrate in 2021 when the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force. This United Nations treaty was supported by most of the world's states and makes nuclear weapons illegal in the countries that sign it.

86 countries have already signed up to the Treaty, but shamefully the British government will not even engage with this historical agreement. There was a particularly memorable moment when the UK representative at the UN stood alongside former US President Trump's Ambassador outside the building denouncing the talks (which eventually led to the agreement), while the more mature countries got on with the business of negotiating inside.

CND groups are already taking matters into their own hands in regards to the

TPNW by getting local councils to support the Treaty and building support from the ground up. And now we're asking our supporters to help us with a campaign to get the UK government to engage with the global majority who support the Treaty.

Countries that have ratified the TPNW will meet for the first time in Vienna this summer. The conference – referred to as 1MSP – was due to take place in March but has been postponed due to Covid-19 related practicalities. As a non-signatory to the Treaty, the UK can still attend as an observer. NATO states Norway and Germany have already indicated they will be doing so, despite the latter 'hosting' US nuclear bombs.

CND's campaign – Talks not Bombs – calls on the Foreign Secretary Liz Truss to commit to going to the conference in Vienna. Last week in Parliament she ignored a question from CND Vice-President Jeremy Corbyn MP on whether she would

attend. We must make her reconsider.

We have a page on our website with all the different ways you can get involved, including contacting the Foreign Secretary directly. Join our webinar which has the President of 1MSP, Alexander Kmentt, as the guest speaker. He sees "no reason not to engage constructively with the international community on these very serious arguments". There is a digital toolkit available with graphics to use on social media, and a poster you can print out and display.

There is no reason for the UK not to go along, especially as it proclaims to want – and is legally committed to working towards – a world without nuclear weapons. The government keeps insisting it wants multilateral nuclear disarmament – what could be more multilateral than a treaty supported by most of the world?

■ More details at: cnduk.org/talksnotbombs

Talks not Bombs webinar

9 February, 6:30pm-7:30pm
Online.

■ To register contact:
information@cnduk.org

Kill the Bill: live interview with Baroness Jenny Jones

14 February, 6:30pm
Online – London CND event

■ To register contact:
info@londoncnd.org

Abingdon Peace Group meeting

15 February, 8pm
Online.

■ To register contact:
abingdonpeace@gmail.com

Legacy of the atomic bomb: LABRATS seminar

19 February
Pendulum Hotel, Sackville
Street, Manchester M1 3BB
■ Contact
info@labrats.international

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

Nuclear power: not fit for purpose

14 March, 7pm-8pm
Online – CND webinar.

■ To register contact:
information@cnduk.org

SOS NHS Day of Action 26 February

**NURSES
NOT NUKES**

CND is supporting the SOS NHS campaign to highlight how the cost of nuclear weapons could instead be invested in the NHS.

A national day of action has been called for February 26th: get involved. Local groups will be organising stalls and events across the country – get in touch with your local CND group to see if they have anything planned.

Find out more at cnduk.org/nurses-not-nukes

Meet the staff

This month:
**Helen Griffin, Peace
Education Officer**

I was very pleased to join CND as the Peace Education Officer this January. My background is in teaching, training and global education and my role is principally to promote and further develop the excellent CND Peace Education resources

for schools. CND Peace Education provides free teaching packs, workshops and assemblies for schools and training for teachers and students learning to be teachers. We aim to empower students with knowledge on nuclear weapons and peace issues, so that they can come to their own conclusions on these crucial matters.

We have a wonderful group of committed volunteers to support the work in schools and universities and we are hoping to recruit more, particularly in the London region where demand is highest at the moment. So if you are interested in working with schools please do get in touch: peaceeducation@cnduk.org.

