

campaign



Protest and survive

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** writes about the nuclear implications of the Ukraine conflict.

AS THE DEVASTATING WAR in Ukraine escalates, there is increasing concern that the war will go nuclear. NATO and Russia between them have around 12,000 nuclear weapons; if anything – the declaration of a no-fly zone for example – tipped this over into a direct war between them, then nuclear war would become even more likely. In the peace movement we are well aware what

their use means. The challenge for us today is to get that knowledge out across wider society – and to our politicians, some of whom are so cavalier about pressing the nuclear button.

Our knowledge is based on Hiroshima. But – catastrophic as that was – the Hiroshima bomb was actually a small nuclear bomb in today's terms. Some of today's nuclear weapons are

Campaign for Nuclear
Disarmament,
162 Holloway Rd,
London N7 8DQ
020 7700 2393
enquiries@cnduk.org
www.cnduk.org



3,000 times its power. Can you imagine what that would do to your town or city, here or anywhere across the globe? Whatever politicians might say, there is no way to be prepared for a nuclear attack. We have to stop it happening.

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That is our most urgent task because it is in this time of escalating war, with nuclear arsenals on both sides, that we have to do everything possible to prevent nuclear use.

Of course the recent policies of nuclear weapons states are not making it easy. After decades of gradual reductions in nuclear arsenals, we are seeing modernisation programmes on all sides – like Britain's Trident replacement at a cost of over £205 billion. In some cases we are even seeing increases – like Britain's last year. But worst of all is the sanitizing of the idea of nuclear use.

Trump has much to answer for: he not only talked of so-called 'usable' nuclear weapons, he also produced them and deployed them in his last year of office. So now the idea that

they will never be used – the mutually assured destruction theory of the cold war – has gone. We hear of tactical nuclear weapons, as if you could use a small one on a battle field and everything would be fine elsewhere. This

is complete nonsense – and criminally dangerous nonsense.

So what can we do?

We must build pressure on government to change course. We must make people aware of the consequences of war, the existential threat that we face. We must get out on the streets, into our communities, in whatever forum; people need to hear this, loud and clear.

There are huge protests taking place for ending this war, across the world. Let's work together, supporting each other; and let's give ever greater support to the courageous peace protestors across Russia, as they face arrest and imprisonment for their actions.

It is truly now the time to Protest and Survive.

Spotlight

This month Derby CND



CND groups across the country mobilised for the Global Day of Action to stop the war in Ukraine this past weekend. One of these groups was Derby CND, who reported having their most positive response in years, especially with young people.

Derby CND organises many fantastic campaigns throughout the year, not least its annual Peace Week. If you live locally, why not get in touch and support the work of the group?

You can get in touch by phoning 07732 128480 or emailing moyra_jean@yahoo.co.uk.

Fukushima's terrible toll

Eleven years on from one of the worst nuclear accidents in history, CND Vice-President **Ian Fairlie** looks at the current situation at the site.

ELEVEN YEARS AGO, on 11 March 2011, the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster occurred 150 miles north of Tokyo. Shortly after, four reactor explosions and three nuclear meltdowns occurred; over 160,000 people were evacuated.

In 2012, an Investigative Panel of Japan's National Diet (Parliament) concluded that the Fukushima disaster was '...profoundly man-made' and attributed the accident to the 'collusion' of government, regulator and industry to gamble the public's well-being on lowering the high cost of safety from an inherently dangerous technology.

Many people are unaware the disaster continues to this day: it is still causing serious problems to the Japanese authorities and to the people of Fukushima. Hundreds of tonnes of melted nuclear fuel remain unstable underneath the three destroyed reactors. This has to be perpetually cooled by spraying about 200 tonnes of water on it every day. The resulting tritium-contaminated water is temporarily stored in

thousands of leaky tanks on site but the Government and Tokyo Electric Power Company are proposing to dump this radioactive water into the Pacific Ocean. The IAEA recently refrained from condoning this unsafe practice.

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Fukushima's toll is fearsome. Over 7% of the land area of Japan was contaminated to serious levels. Official reports state over 3,600 people died as a result of the nuclear disaster, including over 2,000 during the evacuations necessary to avoid high radiation exposures. Over 180 excess cases of thyroid cancer have been recorded in children and teenagers so far. From official WHO collective dose estimates, over 5,000 other cancers will also arise in the future. But no-one is counting the serious numbers of suicides, mental health effects, and 'nuclear' divorces. The Japan

Centre for Economic Research calculated the restoration, clean up, compensation and recovery costs will range from £240 to £560 billion, four times higher than official estimates.

Despite Fukushima's terrible toll, the UK government

recently announced £100 million support for a large nuclear plant presumably at Sizewell C, and has pledged £210 million to Rolls-Royce to build up to 16 new small modular reactors throughout England. Whether any will actually be built is a moot point however, given the lack of private investor funding.

In 1948, Winston Churchill stated "those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it". It looks as if current Prime Minister Boris Johnson is yet again ignoring his illustrious predecessor by pressing for new nuclear power plants.



What would a nuclear war look like?

10 March 7pm-8pm
Online – CND webinar
■ To register contact information@cnduk.org

London Region CND AGM
14 March 6:30pm-8:30pm.
■ Online. To register contact info@londoncnd.org

West Midlands CND meeting
30 March 7:30pm
Online
■ To register contact wmcndall@gmail.com

Nuclear power: not fit for purpose
4 April 7pm-8pm
■ To register contact information@cnduk.org

Crawley CND AGM
20 April 7:30pm-9pm
Location TBC
■ Contact keaveney753@gmail.com for more details.

Stop the war in Ukraine

Get involved with CND's actions:

- Write to the Prime Minister
- Download CND's petition and collect signatures in support
- Get your No Nuclear War poster
- Print your own poster at home

■ **Find out more at cnduk.org**

Meet the staff

This month:
Kate Hudson,
General Secretary

Being General Secretary is a full-on job! Right now it's 24/7 – with this terrible war on Ukraine, and the increasing risk of nuclear war. At this time our international links are crucial, and working to build solidarity with peace movements in Ukraine, Russia and internationally, is vital.

My role is to oversee and develop our work in whatever political context we are facing – to raise our campaigning priorities and advance the cause of nuclear disarmament at every opportunity. Usually the public face of CND, I also manage the staff in the national office, have final sight of all our output, and keep in close touch with the elected officers. Never a dull moment!



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