

campaign



Next stop Vienna

CND Chair **Tom Unterrainer** writes about the upcoming gathering of states committed to a world without nuclear weapons.

THE COMING INTO FORCE of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), in January 2021, marked an important milestone in the ongoing campaign to rid the world of nuclear weapons. This June, a second major milestone will take place in Vienna, Austria: the First Meeting of State Parties to the Treaty.

The signing, ratification and coming into force of the TPNW signalled a complete

rejection by a significant number of non-nuclear-armed states of all nuclear weapons. For far too long, the nuclear-armed states have stalled, prevaricated and failed to fulfil their verbal – and treaty – commitments and obligations to nuclear disarmament. Instead, they have relied on agreements that asked far less of the nuclear-armed states than the non-nuclear. When they saw fit, the nuclear-armed states have broken the

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agreements they signed up to and breached their treaty obligations. We need look no further than the British government for evidence of this: when, in the Integrated Review, the British government

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announced plans to increase nuclear warhead stockpiles this was a clear breach of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Like the other nuclear-armed states and their allies, the British government pledges support for and adherence to this treaty. Yet Britain carries on without sanction. What gross hypocrisy!

No wonder, then, that the non-nuclear states – together with campaigns like ICAN, of which CND is a member organisation – combined to both reject the nuclear status quo and go further: to propose a means in international law to ban nuclear weapons once and for all. This law now exists and those states that have ratified it have pledged to prohibit the development, use, threat of use, possession or stationing of another country's nuclear weapons in their territory.

There are currently 86 signatories and 62 state parties to

the TPNW. Representatives from each of these states will meet in Vienna to discuss the development, implementation and progress of the Treaty. They will be joined by anti-nuclear activists from across the world in

discussions, deliberations and strategising. I will be there to represent CND, and we'll be playing a full part in thinking through and planning how to bring the impact of the TPNW home, how to spread the word and build momentum – political and social – around the 'Ban' and how to remove the 'roadblocks to peace' that represent the British government's hostility to the TPNW and refusal to engage constructively. CND's Vice-President, Rebecca Johnson, has mapped how Britain can engage with the TPNW: the task is now to turn such possibilities into reality.

This task is all the more important given the acute nuclear threats faced by humanity. Those gathered in Vienna – states, campaigns and individual activists – will be aware of the urgency of our tasks.

Spotlight

This month Faringdon Peace Group



Even though the UK government refuses to acknowledge the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), CND groups are continuing their campaigns to get their local council to support this historic Treaty. Most recently, CND congratulates Faringdon Peace Group on their work in getting Faringdon town council to pass a motion supporting the TPNW!

The group will now build on this success with further events and campaigns over the year.

■ If you're local and would like to make contact, please get in touch by phoning 01367 710308 or emailing steve.jenny@hotmail.com.

CND and Glastonbury Festival

As CND joins the 200,000 people attending Glastonbury Festival next week, CND Campaigns Director **Sara Medi Jones** looks at the history of our involvement with the event.

WHILE the first ever Glastonbury Festival took place in 1970, the first Glastonbury CND festival came in 1981 and was a pivotal moment for this iconic event. As Michael Eavis, the founder of the festival, says:

“1981 was the year I decided to join up with the CND. I called up Bruce Kent, the CND’s general secretary, and asked if they’d like to be involved. At the time our image was slightly shabby and I wasn’t totally sure the Festival was going to work. We were still losing money and the whole event hadn’t really caught on.

“Bruce said he liked the sound of me. The idea was that they’d help promote us and we’d give them the proceeds and rename it the Glastonbury CND Festival. With their help, we were getting incredible nationwide publicity for nothing, at a time when we still weren’t very well known. It was of huge value for us. The whole success of the Festival was actually down to that, I think.”

Michael was already involved with CND, having formed a local group after the birth of his daughter, Emily. He says, “I felt



a great need to protect her. She really made me think, ‘I’m not going to let her get blown up by a cruise missile!’”

As the years passed, CND became more involved in organising the festival, staffing the gates and the information stalls, dealing with the press and advertising. 1982 was the first year the CND logo appeared on top of the Pyramid Stage, where it remained throughout the decade.

A change in the political climate ahead of the 1992 Glastonbury Festival caused the event to focus on green initiatives. Of course, anti-nuclear campaigning goes hand in hand with the environmental movement and CND continues to attend the festival.

Our team spends their time talking to festival-goers about the

campaign against nuclear weapons – signing up almost 2,000 new members at the last festival. Glastonbury attendees also hear about our campaign through our slot on the main stage of the festival. This year, we’re delighted that campaigner Jack Monroe will give the CND speech.

CND is proud to be a part of this incredible festival. It is a political event which proudly supports the vision of a more sustainable and nuclear-free world. Attending is always a reminder that our campaign is part of a wider movement of organisations, charities, musicians and people who all want a better world.

We can’t wait to be back for 2022 – come and see us if you’ll be there!

We Demand Better: CND bloc at TUC demo

18 June, assemble 10:30am
Portland Place, London W1.

■ Contact
information@cnduk.org

No to War No to NATO protest 25 June 2pm-4pm Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, London.

■ Contact
enquiries@cnduk.org

Independence from America event

2 July, 2pm,
Menwith Hill, Yorkshire.

■ Contact mail@themhac.uk

Post-Vienna, where next for the peace movement?

Yorkshire CND meeting

6 July 6pm, online.

■ To register contact
info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Common Security Report 2022: UK launch – CND webinar

14 July 7pm, online.

■ To register contact
information@cnduk.org

How to get our councils to support the TPNW – CND workshop

19 July, 7pm

■ To register contact
information@cnduk.org

UK nuclear policies: proliferation not disarmament, 3 August

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

■ To register contact
information@cnduk.org

Bruce Kent

It was with great sadness, but deep gratitude for his life and gifts, that Bruce Kent's family announced his death, on 8 June after a short illness. Bruce was a Vice-President of CND at the time of his death, having previously served as General Secretary and Chair during the 1980s. He was known to us all as a charismatic and dedicated campaigner for peace.

Bruce read every edition of *Online Campaign* thoroughly and sent the editor an email each month with encouragement, feedback and ideas (always along with an invitation for coffee and cake!). All the CND staff will miss him very much.

An online photographic exhibition celebrating Bruce's life will be available on the CND website shortly.



Meet the staff

This month:

Bethan Siân, CND Cymru National Secretary

"I have been working as CND Cymru's National Secretary for just over a year now. My work includes arranging meetings, keeping minutes, writing reports and articles, attending conferences as well as convening events and demonstrations. I am certainly learning all the time, and it is a real privilege to work with such experienced campaigners and lovely people.

This year, CND Cymru is celebrating 40 years since Wales declared itself a Nuclear-Free Zone. This is being marked by many events including a travelling exhibition collated by Mary Jones.

In other news, the youth cohort of CND Cymru is organising a seven-day march from Trawsfynydd Nuclear Power Station in Gwynedd to Wylfa Nuclear Power Station on Ynys Môn in September, in protest against the Westminster government's decision to locate Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMRs) on the decommissioned sites. The march will be held from Sunday the 4th of September to Saturday the 10th of September 2022."

