

# campaign



## Letter to the Prime Minister

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** writes an open letter to Liz Truss, who this week becomes the UK's new Prime Minister.

### Dear Prime Minister,

As you enter the highest office in our land, I urge you to put aside the gung-ho rhetoric of the campaign trail, and shape up to meet the massive existential threats that our planet faces.

For the last two years, the hands of the Doomsday Clock have stood at 100 seconds to midnight, with climate catastrophe and the risk of nuclear war threatening to tip us over the edge into annihilation. Yet during that period, the government in which you have served has only made matters worse. It has pushed a vision of Global Britain which is that of a war-fighting nation, with an economy based on arms sales.

It has increased the UK's nuclear arsenal and it has increased the number of scenarios in which nuclear weapons may be used – both illegal under international law. It has entered into a pact with the US and Australia to provide that country with nuclear-powered submarines, ramping up tension in that region and breaching the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

That same government has done much to fan the flames of the terrible war in Ukraine, blocking negotiations and backing increased militarisation – with no recognition that NATO's own increased militarisation and expansion has been part of the problem. You even encouraged British nationals to go and fight there. Your approach at home seems equally

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warlike – a war against the people of Britain: against much-needed redistribution, against the NHS, against a just energy policy, cavalier about covid, happy to ditch environmental measures. What kind of future is this country facing?

Just a few days ago, the chair of the Defence Committee warned that nuclear weapons would be used in the next decade. Is this a view you share? What will you do to make sure that doesn't happen? My blood ran cold when you repeatedly stated at that Birmingham hustings that you were 'ready' to press the nuclear button. How do you not understand that such an action would destroy this country? That the world would be uninhabitable. That to press that button would be mass murder on the most monstrous scale.

None of our problems can be resolved by war, or by nuclear weapons. Our broken society cannot be rebuilt while profits come first, while lies are common currency in politics, while leaders trample on the hopes and aspirations of whole generations – for food, for homes, for warmth, health, jobs and education.

This is what we ask of you today, Prime Minister. To turn from war, from nuclear threats, from might makes right; to turn to the values of peace that your parents embodied, and which you turned your back on. That is what we demand of you, and what we will fight for.

Kate Hudson,  
CND General Secretary

### NPT Review Conference

The Review Conference of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) ended without an agreement at the United Nations in New York last month. Russia vetoed any final text that contained a reference to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which is at risk of causing a radioactive disaster due to Russian occupation of the Ukrainian site as part of its wider invasion.

But even before this veto, the text was already a disappointing result after a month of negotiations, with all nuclear states blocking progress towards disarmament.

CND Vice-President Rebecca Johnson was present at the conference and wrote a summary blog for CND – see CND website.

## Spotlight

### This month Greater Manchester and District CND



As referred to elsewhere in this magazine, Liz Truss has this week been announced as our new Prime Minister. When the leadership candidates visited Manchester earlier in the summer, Greater Manchester & District CND gave them a special welcome! The group made sure to tell the future PM we don't want their finger – or anyone's – on the nuclear button.

If you would like to get involved with the work of GMDCND, get in touch, they're a very friendly bunch: phone 0161 273 8283 or email [gmdcnd@gn.apc.org](mailto:gmdcnd@gn.apc.org).

# Raise the pay – not nuclear threats

**John Moloney**, Assistant General Secretary at the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) trade union, writes about how the anti-nuclear argument and cost of living crisis are intertwined issues.

## PCS TRADE UNION

Members, like our sisters and brothers across the labour movement, their families and communities, are facing the greatest crisis of pay and living standards for generations. Our own research has shown significant numbers of our members are worried about paying their bills this winter. This follows a decade of austerity where many members haven't had a pay rise to match inflation, and forced those administering our benefits system to claim in-work benefits themselves.

As Liz Truss takes over the reins of government with her small state and lower tax agenda, she will no doubt commit to going ahead with the 91k of job cuts announced by Boris Johnson. This 'war on Whitehall' is not only ideologically misguided but will increase government's inability to address the multiple crises facing us. These include climate change, the urgent need for a renewable energy transition that

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will also address issues of fuel poverty, and investment in real human security.

We need to address the obscene profits of the energy companies, but also the investment of tax payers' money into the Trident replacement programme, and new nuclear energy. Our public services are facing an investment crisis, deliberately driven to undermine them paving the way for privatisation of the NHS, and more cuts, for example in transport. Millions of pounds are being used to underwrite new nuclear power, along with a financing model that will frontload risk onto bill payers in England and Wales. The

new nuclear (financing) act will do nothing to lower energy prices.

PCS is clear that these are all political choices. We need a long-term government plan, supported by a well-paid, and resourced civil service. This includes public ownership of our energy system, homes that are adequately insulated through a mass, publicly run, retrofit programme, and investment in our wider public services.

At the end of September, PCS will begin balloting our civil service members over the cost of living crisis, jobs and the redundancy scheme. We hope that CND members will help support us in this and all trade unions taking industrial action over the costs of living crisis, as well as other labour movement events.

It is time to unlock the nuclear money dedicated to increasing the global nuclear threats, and invest this in a future that is safe for everyone.

### March from Trawsfynydd to Wylfa 4-10 September

North Wales

■ Contact

[heddwch@cndcymru.org](mailto:heddwch@cndcymru.org) for more information.

### The UK's new nuclear warhead in context – NIS webinar 8 September

2pm-3pm, online

■ To register contact

[office@nuclearinfo.org](mailto:office@nuclearinfo.org)

### Abingdon Peace Group meeting 20 September

8pm online

■ For a link to join contact

[abingdonpeace@gmail.com](mailto:abingdonpeace@gmail.com)

### Derby Peace Week event 23 September 7:30pm

Friends Meeting House, St Helen's Street, Derby

■ For more info contact

[moyra\\_jean@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:moyra_jean@yahoo.co.uk)

### Christian CND AGM

1 October 10:30am-3:30pm

C3 Liverpool, 79-81 Kempston Street, Liverpool

■ For more info contact

[CCNDdevelopment@cnduk.org](mailto:CCNDdevelopment@cnduk.org)

### Keep Space for Peace week: march and rally at USAF Croughton 1 October

12 noon-3:30pm

RAF Croughton NN13 5XP

■ For more info contact

[oxonpeace@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oxonpeace@yahoo.co.uk)

### Faringdon Peace Group meeting 5 October

7:30pm, online

■ For a link to join contact

[steve.jenny@hotmail.com](mailto:steve.jenny@hotmail.com)

## Demonstration postponed

The planned demonstration at Lakenheath airbase on Saturday, 17th September has been postponed owing to a rail strike. A new date will be arranged in due course, with updates posted to our website.

### CND Conference 8th and 16th October 2022

CND's annual Conference this year will take place over two weekends in October. The AGM & Policy Conference will take place online on Saturday 8 October, while the public conference day – including a trip to Menwith Hill – will be hosted in person by Yorkshire CND on Sunday 16 October.



With the prospects of nuclear war the highest they have been in a generation, now is a vital time for CND members and groups to have your say.

Find out more at [cnduk.org/about/cnd-conference/cnd-conference-2022/](http://cnduk.org/about/cnd-conference/cnd-conference-2022/) or contact Rob Wells ([officemanager@cnduk.org](mailto:officemanager@cnduk.org) / 020 7700 2393)

## Meet the staff

### This month: Rob Wells, Office Manager

"I look after the admin and HR side of things at CND, as well as being responsible for the CND office.

The absolute highlight of my job is meeting and speaking with CND groups and members, and hearing about all of the brilliant things you do.

Our AGM is online again this year, but I'm sure – and hope! – there will be other opportunities to see you all in person soon."



### Day school for climate and peace campaigners

29 October 11am-5pm

West Oxford Community Centre, Botley Road, Oxford

■ Contact [NualaYoung@hotmail.com](mailto:NualaYoung@hotmail.com)

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