

campaign



End the war in Ukraine

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** writes about why we urgently need negotiations to end the war in Ukraine, before the conflict turns nuclear.

THE DEATH TOLL in the Ukraine war is steadily rising. The office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) verified a total of 5,996 civilian deaths as of late September. Of them, 382 were children. 8,848 people were reported to have been injured. Of course, as OHCHR pointed out, the real numbers could be much higher. There are no verified figures of military casualties but it is likely that many tens of thousands of soldiers have been killed from both sides and many

have suffered terrible injuries. This is the reality of war.

Small wonder that since President Putin announced a partial mobilisation, calling up military reservists, there has been a huge exodus from Russia, together with a fresh wave of anti-war protests. This new development will also make it more difficult for those who volunteered to leave the fighting, amid reports of mass desertions and resignations by Russian soldiers.

In response to Putin's escalation, Vesna –

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



“What we really need is multi-track diplomacy and peaceful solution, ceasefire and comprehensive inclusive peace talks seeking reconciliation not only between Ukraine and Russia but also between the East and West.”

the Youth Democratic Movement – called for fresh demonstrations in towns and cities across Russia. It also called on those serving in Russian units in Ukraine not to “participate in the fighting and to surrender” as soon as possible: “You don’t have to die for Putin... You are needed in Russia by those who love you. For the authorities, you are just cannon fodder, where you will be squandered without any meaning or purpose.”

Meanwhile, a leading Ukrainian peace activist said the influx of weapons into Ukraine by the UK and NATO allies risked prolonging the war. The head of the Ukrainian Pacifist Movement, Yuriy Sheliashenko said promoting dialogue over mass killing was of the utmost importance: “What we really need is multi-track diplomacy and peaceful solution, ceasefire and comprehensive inclusive peace talks seeking reconciliation not only between Ukraine and Russia but also

between the East and West.”

But however terrible the casualties may currently be, if nuclear weapons are used then that will be a catastrophe beyond compare. And that is now looking increasingly likely. During his televised address, Putin stepped up the dangers, accusing NATO members supporting Ukraine of “crossing the line” and making threats to use nuclear weapons. “This is not a bluff. And those who try to blackmail us with nuclear weapons should know that the weathervane can turn and point towards them,” he said.

Escalation of nuclear threats and talk of using ‘battlefield’ nukes – as if they could be contained in a limited area – is the utmost irresponsibility. Any use of nuclear weapons would lead to millions of deaths and quite possibly the end of all life as we know it. Negotiations to end this war must begin. The longer this conflict continues, the closer we come to nuclear confrontation.

Spotlight

This month
Scottish CND



While Britain’s Trident nuclear weapons system is based in Scotland, the Scottish government has agreed an independent Scotland would join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Scottish CND leads the anti-nuclear movement in the country and continues to organise events both in and outside Parliament to keep up the pressure.

If you want to get involved with their fantastic work, please get in touch! You can phone Scottish CND on 0141 357 1529 or email scnd@banthebomb.org.

Shrouded in secrecy

One of the US government's biggest spy bases is located in Yorkshire, as **Dave Webb**, Chair of Yorkshire CND and Convenor of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, explains.

ON FIRST IMPRESSION, 'RAF' Menwith Hill looks like an ordinary RAF station. But there are no runways present, and no aircraft are stationed there. The base – outside Harrogate in North Yorkshire – is in fact run by the United States National Security Agency (NSA) and is their largest overseas electronic spying and surveillance base. The Government Communications Head Quarters (GCHQ), the UK equivalent of the NSA, is also present, with the two organisations working closely together.

The base can be seen from miles away: over 30 very visible giant 'golf balls' stand out clearly on the road from Leeds. Each of these holds a satellite dish that receives data that has been intercepted from other satellites or from ground transmitters. When it arrives at Menwith Hill, huge computer systems sift through this information, searching for anything that may be of interest to the US and/or UK intelligence services.

In 2013 material released by

US whistle-blower Edward Snowden exposed Menwith Hill's role in mass surveillance and extrajudicial killings.

US whistle-blower Edward Snowden exposed Menwith Hill's role in mass surveillance and extrajudicial killings. It has been revealed that eavesdropping technology at Menwith Hill is capable of collecting data from hundreds of millions of emails and phone calls a day and of pinpointing communication devices on the ground. The UK and US intelligence agencies have also been exposed as using these capabilities to spy on leaders of allied nations, aid agencies and vast swathes of the population.

Menwith Hill is also involved in the US space wars programme – three of the base's satellite dishes act as down link stations for space-based components of the US missile defence system.

A report by Yorkshire CND and the Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign reiterates that the UK government has publicly stated that all activities at the base are carried out with the 'full knowledge and consent' of British officials making them complicit partners. As its conclusion states, the Menwith Hill base has been shrouded in secrecy for decades and it has taken the actions of courageous whistle-blowers, dogged campaigners and investigative journalists to bring to light its role in a vast state surveillance apparatus, assassination programme and US missile defence.

Now you have the opportunity to find out more. Yorkshire CND is hosting a trip to Menwith Hill on October 16th as part of CND's annual conference. Why not join us and see this secretive base for yourself?

■ For more information on the visit to Menwith Hill, or to get a copy of the report mentioned, please contact info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Faringdon Peace Group meeting 5 October

7:30pm, online.

■ Contactsteve.jenny@hotmail.com

XR weekend of action

14-16 October, London.

■ For a link to join contact information@cnduk.org

'When the Wind Blows' – CND film screening

25 October 7:45pm

Sands Cinema, 82 St Marychurch Street, Rotherhithe.

■ For ticket contact information@cnduk.org

Day school for climate and peace campaigners

29 October 11am-5pm

West Oxford Community Centre, Botley Road, Oxford.

■ Contact marianemckiggan@gmail.com

'What are 'tactical' nuclear weapons? And will they lead to Armageddon?' – CND webinar, 2 November

7pm Online

■ To register contact information@cnduk.org

Britain is Broken: join CND bloc at People's Assembly demonstration 5 November,

12 noon, assemble Embankment Place, London

■ Contact information@cnduk.org

End the NHS crisis: SOS NHS conference, 12 November,

10am-5pm, London Irish Centre, 50-52 Camden Square, London

■ Contact campaigns@keepournhspublic.com

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/ or phone the CND office (020 7700 2393).

Meet the staff

This month: Julie Saumagne, London CND Coordinator

"London CND positions itself at the forefront of CND's efforts to engage the youth and part of my role consists in coming up with original ideas to do so. During the Covid period, I've organised several online events such as 'Gender, Race and Nukes', 'Climate, Care and Nukes' and 'Music as Direct Action' (featuring an unlikely face-to-face between Bruce Kent and the anarcho-punk band CRASS) which are all available on Youtube.

Moving to in-person events, 'Bombs and Monsters' at the Victoria and Albert Museum proved popular too. It involved presentations of V&A anti-nuclear artefacts and kimono collections, and a documentary screening on the link between Godzilla and nuclear weapons.

From coach trips to Lakenheath, Nuclear Ban Communities and Hiroshima commemorations, I'm also in charge of local group development, admin support and campaigning in the London region. Building on the success of the informative videos we've started creating, I've also been piloting efforts to move CND to TikTok – you should have a look!"



Opinions expressed by authors in *Online Campaign* are their own, and do not necessarily reflect the policies of CND.