

# campaign



## Illegal and immoral

20 years on, CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** takes stock of the lessons we can learn from the response of the British anti-war movement to the war in Iraq.

**THE WAR** on Iraq was illegal, immoral and devastating. In the region of half a million people died. Many thousands more suffered from, and often died from, preventable diseases, from the impact of cluster bombs and from cancers caused by radiation poisoning from depleted uranium munitions. That the British government took us into that war on the basis of a tissue of lies demonstrates the extraordinary moral bankruptcy of our political system. President Bush attempted to use the tragedy of 9/11 to further US

interests in the Middle East by imposing regime change on Iraq, and the craven Tony Blair backed him up, first with falsehoods, then with weapons and lives, telling us that Britain had to pay the 'blood price' for our alliance with the US.

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across the globe protested; we spoke for the global majority and we were, for a while, 'the second superpower'.

Three forces came together to organise the demonstration in London: the Stop the War Coalition, the Muslim Association of Britain, and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Between us, and the many organisations that supported our call, we mobilised up to two million people in London that day. It was the biggest demonstration that had ever taken place in Britain.

The establishment did everything it could to prevent the march and rally going ahead, but we refused to be deterred and with political determination and huge backing we were victorious. The weight of support across society meant they had to give way. Eventually even mainstream newspapers were advertising the route of the march – one even produced

their own anti-war placards.

Tony Blair went ahead with his illegal war, but the political impact of that demonstration was felt for many years, eventually bringing him down. There are clear lessons from that time: to understand what it is possible for the movement – for people united, engaged – to achieve; to understand what it really going on in the world – the relationship between neo-liberalism and war; and to grasp the essential role of international coordination and solidarity. Since then we have seen many attacks on our movement as the establishment has sought to destroy what was won. But we are fighting back, now more than ever, as the world faces new wars and there are threats of worse to come. It is our responsibility to be united, to continue to learn the lessons of those days – and to continue the fight against neo-liberalism and war.

## Spotlight

**This month  
Yorkshire CND**



Yorkshire CND recently ran a beer mat campaign – spreading a thousand of them across bars in Leeds. Each had a QR code on them, which linked to the group's website. This is a fantastic way of spreading the CND message! And the group is about to order some more... so if you fancy meeting the wonderful campaigners of Yorkshire CND and campaigning in pubs and pars across the region at the same time, get in touch with [sam@yorkshirecnd.org.uk](mailto:sam@yorkshirecnd.org.uk).

And if you're a member of a CND group in a different part of the country and are interested in ordering some for your area, again get in touch with [sam@yorkshirecnd.org.uk](mailto:sam@yorkshirecnd.org.uk).

# Sounding the alarm for humanity

**Dr Phil Webber**, Chair of Scientists for Global Responsibility, argues that we need to reinvigorate and redouble our efforts to tackle current interlocking crises and challenges following the recent announcement of the time on the Doomsday Clock.

**T**HE Doomsday Clock was created in 1947 for the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* as a powerful symbol of the likelihood of a human-made global catastrophe caused by nuclear weapons. In recent decades the issues covered have broadened to include environmental and technological threats. For many years during the Cold War, it was set several minutes before midnight. But the situation has worsened again in the last few years with 2023 being judged to be the most dangerous in humanity's history with the clock at only 90 seconds from disaster. The reasons for this are: a new heightened risk of nuclear war; a growing climate emergency; political systems riven with dangerous and deliberate misinformation; continued destruction of the natural world with ideal conditions for the emergence of new dangerous viruses and pathogens such as COVID-19, bird flu, and Ebola; and the technical ability to

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deliberately create even more lethal pathogens.

Despite some highly irresponsible media reporting about limited or 'tactical' nuclear use, escalation to nuclear war would impact everyone everywhere across the globe. In addition to the terrible destruction of towns and cities, a huge death toll and appalling injuries, even a 'small' or 'regional' nuclear conflict (e.g. between India and Pakistan) would trigger a devastating nuclear winter and widespread starvation lasting a decade – much worse than first thought back in the 1980s. Even the use of the UK's Trident missiles hitting several city targets could trigger such a catastrophe. A US-Russian nuclear conflict would usher in the end of humanity on this planet.

Our atmosphere continues

to be used as a toxic waste dump for rising levels of CO<sub>2</sub> and methane despite agreements that fossil fuel emissions must be cut to zero within a few years. We are on a path to a hothouse Earth no longer able to support current human civilisation with climate extremes and huge sea level rises drowning cities.

The situation may seem bleak, but I am encouraged that, despite huge levels of misinformation and denial, there are rising levels of public protest over multiple crises in public services, the climate and against nuclear weapons. Security at home and abroad are interlocking and indivisible.

And inspired by leading suffragist Millicent Fawcett: multiple crises call for action everywhere.

### CND Bradford fundraiser gig

**10 February**

1 in 12 club, 21-23 Albion Street, Bradford BD1 2LY

■ Contact  
[info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk](mailto:info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk)

### Yorkshire CND strategy meeting

**18 February**

The Golden Ball, 2 Cromwell Road, York YO1 6DU

■ Contact  
[info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk](mailto:info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk)

### Abingdon Peace Group meeting

**21 February** 8pm, online.

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

### West Midlands CND meeting

**22 February** 7:30pm

Online

■ Contact  
[wmcndall@gmail.com](mailto:wmcndall@gmail.com)

### 365 days of war in Ukraine – international webinar

**24 February** 12 noon

Online

■ Contact [info@ipb-office.berlin](mailto:info@ipb-office.berlin)

### Climate not Trident: CND supports XR action

**21 April onwards**

Houses of Parliament, London

■ Contact  
[information@cnduk.org](mailto:information@cnduk.org)

### Stop US nukes coming to Lakenheath! – demonstration

**20 May** 1pm-3pm

RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk

■ Contact  
[information@cnduk.org](mailto:information@cnduk.org)

## Stop the war in Ukraine



### Stop the War in Ukraine – London demonstration

**Saturday 25 February 2023**

Assemble 12 noon, Portland Place, London W1A 1AA

Marching to Trafalgar Square for rally

To mark a year since Russia invaded Ukraine, CND and Stop the War have called a national demonstration to say no to war, and no to nuclear war. Join us!

## Meet the staff

This month:

**Malek Araj, Finance Officer**

“I am proud to work for an organisation advocating nuclear disarmament.

My work covers the payroll, pensions, dealing with all HMRC enquiries, making bank payments, preparing CND's accounts, budget management, and forecasting cash flow on a monthly and annual basis for CND's treasurer and the other members of our Administration and Finance Group (AFG).

Three years working for the campaign has flown by so fast! During this period I have also been studying in my spare time, and will graduate with an MSc in investment and finance this summer.”

