

# campaign



## Stop US nuclear weapons coming to Britain

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** explains why reckless behaviour by nuclear states is leading to the increased threat of nuclear war.

**R**USSIA'S RECENT announcement that it will station nuclear weapons in Belarus has been roundly condemned, not least by CND – we said that it would increase ‘nightmare nuclear risk’, and we called on both Russia and NATO to stop escalating nuclear risk in Europe. We pointed out that deployment of so-called tactical nuclear weapons by NATO and now Russia, significantly increases the risk of nuclear war on the European continent.

When Russian President Vladimir Putin

said that an agreement had been reached with Belarus to station tactical nuclear weapons on Belarusian soil, he claimed that the agreement was similar to US nuclear-sharing agreements within NATO – and therefore not in violation of nuclear non-proliferation agreements. But the reality is that neither Russian nor NATO deployments in non-nuclear weapons states are legitimate under international law.

NATO frequently talks about ‘nuclear sharing’, as if it’s a nice friendly thing to do.

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But official sources never recognise that nuclear ‘sharing’ is actually illegal. Having US nuclear bombs in Europe conflicts with the legal obligations of the signatories to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Article I of the NPT forbids the transfer of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear weapon states: ‘Each nuclear-weapon state party to the Treaty undertakes not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices directly, or indirectly.’

The majority of NPT signatories, including more than 100 states in the Non-Aligned Movement, have called on NATO members to bring their policies into line with their NPT obligations. But in spite of this, the US persists in stationing nuclear weapons across a number of its bases in Europe under the auspices of NATO. Its new nuclear bomb, the B61-12, is reportedly scheduled for deployment this spring. Airbases recently

upgraded to store the B61-12 include Lakenheath in Suffolk. Other US airbases where nuclear bombs can be stored and deployed from are in Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, and Turkey.

Russia’s announcement that it will deploy nuclear weapons to Belarus is irresponsible in the extreme. It adds to a string of irresponsible moves by nuclear weapons states including the US sending so-called ‘tactical’ nuclear weapons to its bases across Europe. The fact that includes the Lakenheath airbase in Suffolk is something that we should all be very concerned about. We are steadily approaching the situation where a nuclear war will be fought in Europe. Once again we urge those in possession of nuclear weapons to come to their senses and get rid of these nukes before it’s too late.

Our next national protest at Lakenheath is on Saturday 20th May. Please join us to get our message out urgently – both locally and nationally: no US nukes to Lakenheath!

## Spotlight

**This month  
St Albans CND**



CND groups across the country campaign in their local communities every weekend, holding street stalls and arranging events. One of these groups is St Albans CND, who managed to get local media coverage of their action to raise awareness of the cost of nuclear weapons by holding a giant banner in the local city centre.

Are you in touch with your local papers? Sometimes they are grateful for interesting content!

And if you live in St Albans, why not get in touch with St Albans CND? You can phone 01727 569574 or email [stalbands.cnd@gmail.com](mailto:stalbands.cnd@gmail.com), and be a part of their next great campaign!

# Ban depleted uranium

**Linda Pentz Gunter**, international specialist at Beyond Nuclear, writes about the dangers of depleted uranium, following the recent announcement that Britain is supplying Ukraine with weapons containing the substance.

**B**RITAIN has now delivered Challenger-2 tanks to Ukraine according to news sources, but the question remains whether these tanks are already armed with depleted uranium (DU) artillery shells. The UK government announced in March that it would send DU rounds to Ukraine, generating an immediate backlash.

DU weapons are sought after because their extreme density allows them to penetrate armour including enemy tanks. They have been used in battle zones before, most notably in the Gulf War and in the Balkans. Depleted uranium, with a half-life of 4.5 billion years, is a by-product of the uranium enrichment process needed to produce fuel for the nuclear power and nuclear weapons sectors.

The UK announcement prompted an ominous response from Russian President, Vladimir Putin, who accused the UK of supplying Ukraine with 'weapons with a nuclear component'. Russia's Defence Minister, Sergei Shoigu, went further, saying that Ukraine's use

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of DU weapons would move the world closer to a 'nuclear collision'.

The International Campaign to Ban Uranium Weapons quickly responded, citing Putin's threats as disproportionate given that, 'DU projectiles are not nuclear weapons at all, but conventional weapons of high chemical-radiological toxicity and harmfulness'.

Despite a paucity of reliable studies, strong evidence on the ground in Iraq, Kuwait and the former Yugoslavia, suggests that DU weapons are responsible for serious health consequences among civilians as well as troops.

Cancer rates rose dramatically among veterans from those wars and citizens exposed to the toxic legacy of DU weapons use have suffered abnormally high rates of birth defects and other negative

health outcomes. 'When uranium is inhaled or ingested with foods and beverages, its full pathogenic and lethal effects unfold,' says an International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War pamphlet, *Uranium Weapons. Radioactive Penetrators*. 'On entering the body, it is taken up by the blood, which transports it to the organs. It can reach an unborn child via the placenta.'

International Humanitarian Law prohibits weapons that cause unnecessary suffering, have indiscriminate effects, or cause long-term damage to the natural environment. This makes a strong case for outlawing the use of DU weapons, but despite several attempts at the UN level and in the European Parliament, no such global ban currently exists.

**Free Palestine – London demonstration**

**13 May** 12 noon  
BBC Portland Place, London.  
■ Contact  
[information@cnduk.org](mailto:information@cnduk.org)

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

**20 May** 1pm-4pm,  
RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk.  
■ Contact  
[information@cnduk.org](mailto:information@cnduk.org)

**Musicians for Peace and Disarmament concert**

**25 May** 7:30pm-9:30pm  
St James's Piccadilly,  
197 Piccadilly, London.  
■ [info.mpdconcerts@gmail.com](mailto:info.mpdconcerts@gmail.com)  
to buy your ticket

**40th anniversary of the Four Day Peace Blockade at USAF Upper Heyford 2-3 June**  
RAF Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire  
■ Contact  
[stevebarwickpc@outlook.com](mailto:stevebarwickpc@outlook.com)

**Memorial for April Carter 3 June** 2:30pm  
Friends Meeting House,  
52 St Martin's Lane, London.  
■ Contact [enquiries@cnduk.org](mailto:enquiries@cnduk.org)

**International summit for peace in Ukraine 10-11 June** Hybrid conference  
■ Contact [info@ipb-office.berlin](mailto:info@ipb-office.berlin)  
to join online.

**Peace! – A memorial concert for Bruce Kent 11 June**  
6:30pm, St Mellitus Church,  
Tollington Park, London  
■ Contact  
[tollingtonpark@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:tollingtonpark@rcdow.org.uk)



**Stop US nukes coming to Lakenheath!**



**20 May 2023**

Join us for rally and entertainment  
1pm-3pm, RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk

Visit [www.cnduk.org](http://www.cnduk.org) for more information, including travel options to the base.

Scan here



**Meet the staff**

This month:

**Pádraig McCarrick, Press and Communications Officer**

My first 15 months as CND's Press and Comms Officer have been busy, but I've found the experience to be extremely rewarding with fantastic colleagues and a wonderfully supportive membership base!

Russia's invasion of Ukraine, AUKUS, US and Russian nuclear deployments in Europe, and the UK government's increasing nuclear arsenal, have all put CND's campaigning objectives at the forefront of the news agenda. My role is to insert our arguments into these conversations by using traditional media outlets as well as on the growing number of social and new media platforms available.

I'm currently working on building for the next demonstration at Lakenheath on 20 May, and for CND's participation in the online 24-Hour Peace Wave which coincides with July's NATO summit.

I'm regularly joined in the office by my Canine for Nuclear Disarmament, Lady. At nine years old, she still makes it out to the occasional action.

