

campaign



Remember Hiroshima

Yorkshire CND's **Sam Legg** travelled to Hiroshima earlier this year. In this article he writes about how the trip impacted his campaigning for a world without nuclear weapons.

IN APRIL, I visited Hiroshima for the G7 Youth Summit. I was very grateful to have been chosen as a representative for the UK peace movement at this meeting, alongside other representatives from Christian CND and SCRAP Weapons. Whilst the anti-nuclear movement in the UK is not as strong among young activists as it once was, meeting over 50 other young peace activists filled me with enthusiasm for what is possible.

The summit aimed to present a youth

voice to the G7 leaders, by using the summit's presence in Hiroshima as an opportunity to highlight the dangers of nuclear weapons. Over the course of three days' worth of workshops, talks, and museum trips, all the participants gathered knowledge to strengthen our understanding to collectively write a youth statement for the G7 leaders.

Learning about the bomb through presentations was one thing, however, seeing and hearing its impact was

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another. Seeing with my own eyes how it changed the landscape of Hiroshima was an emotional, heavy experience. But it was the voice of the Hibakusha – those directly affected by the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki – that really stood out to me as the most powerful part of the trip. The voices of those that lived a life pre, during, and post-bomb won't be around forever. These stories are heartfelt and first hand. Whilst it is indeed important to recognise the statistics, being told stories from Hibakusha definitely deepens the realness of the bomb and, perhaps most importantly, its impact on the individual daily lives of people. Having reflected on and heard of the abuse that survivors such as Ms. Keiko Ogura would endure for years afterwards – the constant prejudice, and constant worry about whether the radiation would affect her children, what needs to be spoken of

more is the post-bomb impact.

Whilst the G7 summit did not bring the progress we wanted, we must not give up! Moving forward, we must think of ways to utilise the powerful stories of Hibakusha, so that we create no further victims of nuclear weapons. There is no action without inclusion, so we must consider intersectionality and seek ways to engage in more discussions internationally. This should be with other peace activists and those affected communities of nuclear weapons (including those outside of Japan e.g., the Marshall Islands). I strongly believe that a more peaceful world is possible. It will take time, but it is worthwhile pursuing that goal.

■ Please mark the anniversary of the bombings (6th & 9th August). Use this time to reflect, strategise, and enthuse new audiences (and old ones!). Find out more at cnduk.org and via our social media channels.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki events

CND groups and supporters across the country will be organising events to commemorate those who died in the nuclear attacks on the Japanese cities.

See cnduk.org to see what's taking place or phone the CND office to ask about your nearest one (020 7700 2393).

If your event is not listed, please let us know the details by emailing information@cnduk.org.

Spotlight

This month

Sheffield Creative Action for Peace



CND groups across the country will be marking Hiroshima and Nagasaki days with vigils, stalls, events, and ceremonies. For example, Sheffield Creative Action for Peace is organising a short event outside Sheffield Town Hall on 6th August 2pm to remember the devastation caused by the bombs and to recommit to working to rid the world of nuclear weapons. If you're in the area, why not join them?

And if you would generally like to get more involved with the group, get in touch! You can phone or send a message to 07818 040982 or email hilarysmith23@hotmail.com.

Opposition builds to NATO expansion

CND Vice-Chair **Sophie Bolt** reports back on the opposition to NATO's nuclear policy around the latest Heads of State summit.

THE SPLITS in NATO's alliance revealed themselves at this year's summit in Vilnius, Lithuania. They show there is no agreement over NATO's supposed 'war aims'. And the nuclear threat is a key factor.

In June, following the Wagner 'insurrection' – where forces funded by the Russian government appeared to advance on Moscow before a diplomatic intervention by Belarus – the *Financial Times* reported western leaders were discussing the negative impact of a coup in Russia, which included 'the threat to nuclear stockpiles from an unstable regime in Moscow'. The idea of Russia's nuclear weapons being seized in a coup has clearly focused minds. The FT stated '[d]iplomats said alarm over possible negative outcomes from the rebellion against Putin's regime laid bare the lack of consensus in the west on the ultimate goal of backing Ukraine's fight against Russian aggression'.

It is no surprise then that 79% of Finland's population – NATO's latest member – are



implacably opposed to US nuclear weapons being sited in their country, which borders Russia.

Protests in that country were aired on mainstream television news, the latest indication of popular opposition and some shifts in the media to reflect it.

This opposition was a driving force for the events organised in Brussels, home to NATO HQ, in the run up to the Summit. Global Women United for Peace Against NATO, a new network formed in April this year, brought together women from countries across the world for three days of debate and protest. Its declaration for peace sets out opposition to global NATO; to increasingly militarised blocs; to war as a way of settling international disputes; and against the militarisation of

scientific research. Instead, it calls for respecting UN resolution 1325 on the participation of women in peace negotiations and processes.

Events included a meeting in the European Parliament with MEPs Clare Daly and Özlem Demirel of Die Linke, a two-day hybrid conference, and a protest against increased military spending with Belgian peace activists.

A repeated call from these events was the need for dialogue and peace talks over Ukraine. Certainly, with the likes of Defence Select Committee Chair, Tobias Ellwood MP, arguing that Britain should be on a 'war-footing' with Russia, this remains a most urgent task for CND and the international peace movement.

CND Cymru march against nuclear 2-6 August

Trawsfynydd-Boduan

Contact heddwch@cndcymru.org

CND side meeting at NPT PrepComm 2023

3 August 3pm-4:30pm

Online. To register contact information@cnduk.org

Haringey CND public meeting

4 August 7pm-8:30pm, Friends House, 594 High Road, Tottenham, contact davidtrpolden1@gmail.com

CND Youth Summer Gathering 11-14 August

YHA Ironbridge Coalbrookdale, 1 Paradise, Coalbrookdale
Contact gmdcnd@gn.apc.org to register – deadline August 3rd

Stop the Arms Fair Days of Action 4 -15 September

ExCel centre, London's Royal Docks, E16, contact resistDSEI@protonmail.com

'The Mistake' by Michael Mears – see the play on tour 8 September-30 October

Contact information@cnduk.org

Christian CND AGM 2023

9 September 10:30am-3:30pm
C3 Liverpool, 79-81 Kempston Street, Liverpool, contact CCNDdevelopment@cnduk.org

Why we must resist the DSEI arms fair – CND webinar

13 September 7pm-8pm
Online, to register contact information@cnduk.org

Christian CND Peace Pilgrimage 2023

15-18 September

Starting in Barrow-in-Furness
Contact christians@cnduk.org

Yorkshire CND benefit gig 15 September

The Trades Club, Holme Street, Hebden Bridge HX7 8EE
Contact info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Stop US nukes coming to Britain: day of action

23 September

Contact information@cnduk.org

Demonstration at Tory Party conference 1 October

Assemble Oxford Rd, Manchester at 12 noon
Contact information@cnduk.org

CND AGM 7 October, 10:30am-1:30pm, online
Contact officemanager@cnduk.org

CND Policy Conference 28 October

Online and in-person at Methodist Central Hall, Manchester, contact officemanager@cnduk.org

Meet the staff

This month:

Kat Knak-Watt, Scottish CND Digital & Communications Officer

My work as Digital and Communications Officer at Scottish CND involves writing newsletters, posting to social media, and keeping our website (scottishcnd.org) up to date. While my work is primarily online, I also assist with planning in-person events and producing print resources for our local groups to distribute.

It has been a privilege to work alongside lifelong peace campaigners, and to communicate their expertise in a fresh way through creative online media.

I have also enjoyed attending events by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, and seeing the progress being made for nuclear disarmament around the world.

My present focus is organising and promoting our 'Festival for Survival', to be held on November 4th this year. Our aim is to highlight the links between the twin threats of nuclear weapons and the climate crisis. Through uniting the peace and climate justice movements, we hope this festival will promote a positive, solutions-based approach to saving our planet.

