

campaign



Ceasefire now

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** writes on the events taking place in Gaza.

THE MOUNTING DEATH TOLL in Gaza and the West Bank is a stain on the conscience of humanity. Our hearts go out to all those who have lost loved ones – amongst them, thousands of children. We deplore all killings, of Israelis and Palestinians. A ceasefire is essential to stop the continuing slaughter, as Antonio Guterres of the United Nations, and so many other leaders around the world, have said.

Watching this catastrophe unfold on the

television screens, in real time, is incredibly distressing – to see people driven from their homes and deprived of the essentials to survive. This is truly a second Nakba. For decades, the United Nations has passed resolutions, to ensure a just settlement for Palestine, but the occupation of Palestinian lands has continued, with violent incursions and illegal settlements making Palestinian communities more vulnerable.

A political settlement is vital and the

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



international community must make that happen. Our own government bears considerable responsibility here. British ministers have provided strong diplomatic support for Israel's military operations. They vetoed a ceasefire resolution at the UN Security Council. They should have supported that ceasefire resolution; we must work urgently to ensure they change policy.

Last week Karim Khan, the prosecutor at the International Criminal Court stood at the Rafah Crossing and said that impeding the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza is a crime under the court's jurisdiction.

Yet Rishi Sunak addressed Parliament and defended the collective punishment of Gaza. He supported driving over a million people from their homes in North Gaza.

These are war crimes in which Britain, through its support, is complicit.

Other ministers have also played a role – Foreign Secretary James Cleverly, and Defence Secretary Grant Shapps. There is much secrecy around Britain's participation with the Israeli

military, talk of a secret military agreement between the two countries, and rumours about activity in Gaza.

Great concern is also expressed about UK arms sales to Israel, which the government refuses to stop. It is terrible to think that weapons – or parts of weapons – made here in Britain, are used to commit war crimes and our government does nothing to stop it.

Small wonder that many are responding to the appeal from the Palestinian trade unions, to stop the production and transport of weapons to Israel. The reports of dockers and transport workers around the world, showing practical solidarity and blocking the weapons, is indeed inspiring. So too are the immense demonstrations around the world – and the protests here in Britain too. These are certainly not 'hate' marches – just ordinary people marching for peace, diverse communities seeking justice and humanity.

Securing a just peace for Palestine will bring a historic injustice to an end and ensure real security for the region – without the gun and the missile.

Spotlight

This month London CND



It's been a busy year for CND supporters across the country, with many of you now mobilising to protest the attacks on Gaza. Thank you for all your work!

London CND has had a particularly busy 2023, organising conferences and protests across the city, and developing new partnerships. One of these partnerships is with Queen Mary University, and enables them to access professional film equipment. They're also working with campaign group Together Against Sizewell C, amongst many others.

If you live in London and want to get involved with this exciting work, please get in touch. Email info@londoncnd.org to say hello!

Join the march for Palestine
Saturday 11th November
12 noon in Park Lane

Labour CND challenges party position on nuclear

Labour CND member **Daniel Blaney** assesses the Labour Party's position on nuclear.

AT ITS 2023 Conference, the Labour Party approved a new policy which says 'Labour's support for nuclear deterrence is absolute.' In advance of conference, Shadow Foreign and Defence Secretaries, David Lammy and John Healey, used an article in *The Telegraph* to argue that nuclear weapons are Labour's 'heritage' and describe the commitment to Trident and NATO as 'unshakeable'.

This is a clear attempt to rewrite history and gloss over the huge opposition to Trident amongst Labour Party members and in the trade unions, and the substantial periods where full and comprehensive nuclear disarmament has been adopted as the official policy.

There has also been an emphatic tradition of advocating nuclear disarmament from all wings of the Labour Party. In recent years, large numbers of constituency Labour Parties have made submissions to party conferences and the National

Policy Forum in favour of scrapping Trident, and the Labour Party Conference in 2021 passed a resolution opposing AUKUS.

Often the disagreement within the Labour Party is said to be concerning the means to an end of a nuclear-free world – an aspiration regrettably missing from the *Telegraph* article, and the new policy only contains a vague reference to 'efforts to secure strategic arms limitation and multilateral disarmament and reduce nuclear risk'. Labour CND supporters are calling on the next Labour Government to commit to a meaningful programme of nuclear disarmament and to signing the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which is supported by more than 120 countries as well as 68% of Labour Party members.

We continue to believe that the billions of pounds being wasted on a new generation of nuclear weapons would be

better spent addressing real security and priorities like climate justice, health, education and building a fairer and more equal society. With that in mind Labour CND launched an online lobbying tool calling for a change in spending priorities to fund wages for the many, not weapons, which is still available at www.labourcnd.org.uk. Now is the time to invest in the people who deliver services we all rely on, rather than more spending on weapons.

In other activity, Labour CND has launched a new pamphlet which explains why the idea that nuclear power can come to the rescue of the climate crisis is a false and dangerous mistake.

In the face of the two biggest threats to humanity – climate change and nuclear war – we must make the case against nuclear and explain why the Labour Party must oppose it.

■ Order a pamphlet from labourcnd@gmail.com.

The legacy of British nuclear weapons colonisation

Online webinar

10 November 2pm

■ To register contact office@nuclearinfo.org

Nuclear weapons and the climate crisis

10 November 7pm-8:30pm

Online webinar

■ To register contact info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

National march for Palestine: Ceasefire now

11 November 12 noon

Assemble in Park Lane

■ Contact information@cnduk.org

Remembering the dead – Oxford event

12 November 11am

Bonn Square, Oxford OX1 1LQ

■ Contact nualayoung@hotmail.com

Yorkshire CND regional campaigner meeting

15 November 6pm

Online

■ To register contact sam@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Yorkshire CND Peace & Craft fair 25 November

10am-4pm

Victoria Hall, Saltaire BD18 3JS

■ Contact sam@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Leicester CND AGM and public meeting

27 November 4:15pm

Friends Meeting House,

Queen's Road, Leicester

■ Contact rachelpapa@hotmail.com

The return of US nuclear weapons to the UK – Crawley CND public meeting 29 November

7:30pm, Crawley Museum, The Tree, 103 High Street, Crawley

■ Contact johnkeller68@outlook.com

Peace Action Wales / Heddwch ar Waith working group launch

30 November 7:30pm, online.

■ Contact heddwcharwaith@gmail.com

West Midlands CND meeting 5 December

7:30pm, online.

■ Contact wmcndall@gmail.com

Meet the staff

This month:

Sam Legg (he/him), Yorkshire CND Events and Campaigns Co-Ordinator

“My role involves coordinating events and campaigns throughout Yorkshire. This has included things such as: helping local groups with stalls/fundraisers, networking with activist groups throughout the region, the day-to-day upkeep of Yorkshire CND, and occasionally distributing beer mats with local activists in Yorkshire’s finest watering holes! Having come from a background in education, I’m particularly keen on seeking fun and accessible ways to engage people with the peace movement. It’s a pleasure to campaign for a more just and peaceful world, which is helped by the wonderful characters in the peace movement that make every day special. On my first day in the office, I saw the wonderful slogans on vintage CND badges, made by Yorkshire CND’s very own Alasdair Beal, which made me realise how special and friendly CND is.”

