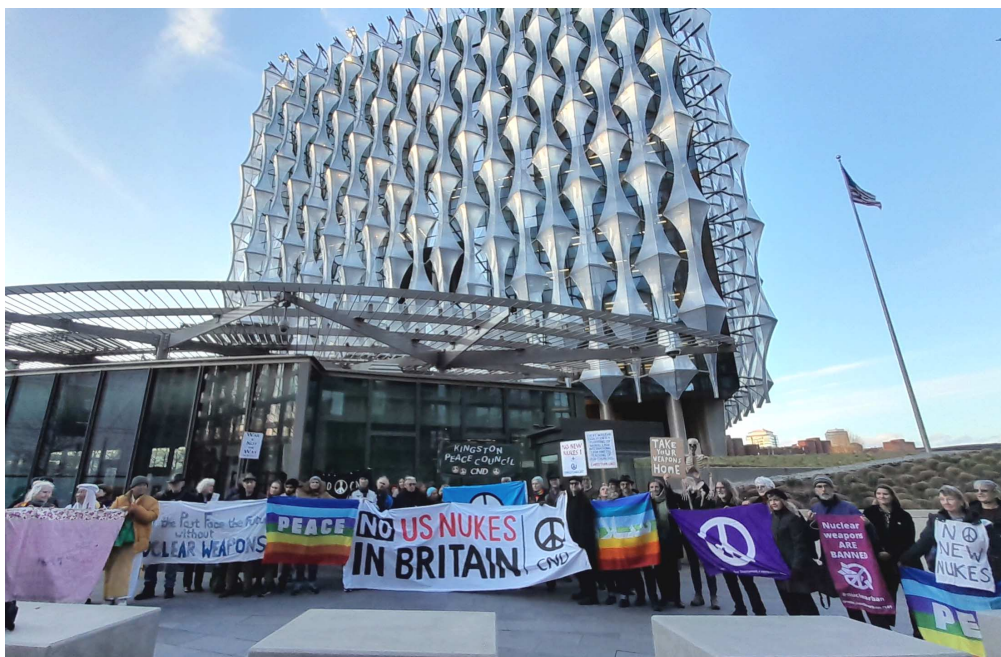


# campaign



## A chance to break the nuclear links

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** alerts us to the once in a decade chance to challenge the US/UK nuclear agreement.

**WHOEVER** is in the White House after the upcoming presidential election, one thing is clear: Britain has to break its 'special nuclear relationship' with the US. We're all familiar with the so-called 'special relationship', basically tying Britain into really bad foreign policy decisions. But not so many people know about the US-UK Mutual Defence Agreement (MDA) – the world's most

extensive nuclear sharing agreement.

Known in full as the 'Agreement between the UK and the USA for cooperation in the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defence Purposes', the treaty initially established an agreement between both countries to exchange classified information to develop their respective nuclear weapon systems.

At the start, the MDA prohibited the

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transfer of nuclear weapons, but an amendment in 1959 allowed for the transfer of nuclear materials and equipment between both countries up to a certain deadline. This amendment is extended through a renewal of the treaty every ten years, most recently in 2014 – without any parliamentary debate or vote. The British public and parliamentarians initially found out about that extension and ratification when President Obama informed the United States Congress.

Renewing such agreements on the nod, without transparency or accountability, is never a good thing. When it ties us so tightly to nuclear cooperation with the White House this is an even greater cause for concern. The time has come to really vigorously oppose this Agreement.

It also puts us at odds with our commitments under the NPT: the MDA confirms an indefinite commitment by the US and UK to collaborate on nuclear weapons technology and violates both countries' obligations as signatories to the NPT. The NPT states that countries should undertake 'to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to... nuclear

disarmament'. Rather than working together to get rid of their nuclear weapons, the UK and US are collaborating on further advancing their nuclear arsenals.

Indeed, a 2004 legal advice paper by Rabinder Singh QC and Professor Christine Chinkin concluded that it is 'strongly arguable that the renewal of the Mutual Defence Agreement is in breach of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty', as it implies 'continuation and indeed enhancement of the nuclear programme, not progress towards its discontinuation'.

On every level the MDA must be challenged. It's just not possible for the UK to have an independent foreign policy, or defence and security policies, if it remains attached at the hip to the US nuclear programme. When the US seems hell-bent on taking us into war after war, unquestioning allegiance from the UK cannot continue.

The MDA is up for renewal again this year. Now is the time to start asking the questions, raising the protest, and making the case for independence. It's time for the special nuclear relationship to end. Watch this space!

## Spotlight

### This month Bromley Borough CND



As the humanitarian situation in Gaza continues to deteriorate, CND supporters and groups across the country continue to make us proud with their protests, despite many politicians demonising those of us calling for a ceasefire. Over a hundred people joined a recent Bromley Borough CND demonstration, which received great support from the local public.

Thank you to everyone who continues to march in support of Palestine, we will continue to show up!

And if you live in Bromley, why not get in touch with the group to get involved with their next action? Contact 020 8460 1295 or email [anncgarratt@yahoo.com](mailto:anncgarratt@yahoo.com).

# Ceasefire now!

The Palestine Solidarity Campaign has been at the forefront of the massive protests calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. Its Director, **Ben Jamal**, explains why it's so important we continue to protest.

**P**ALESTINIANS right now are facing the darkest moment in their enduring struggle for liberation. Israel's war on Gaza has killed over 30,000 people – 70% of them women and children – with thousands more missing, presumed dead under the rubble. Denied access to food, water, and essential supplies, at least 400,000 Palestinians face starvation.

On Christmas Day, in an astonishing sermon from his pulpit in Bethlehem, the Palestinian priest Munther Isaac, said this. "Gaza as we know it no longer exists. This is an annihilation. A genocide. We will rise and stand up again from the midst of destruction, as we have always done as Palestinians. I want you to look at the mirror... and ask: where was I?"

Where was I? This is the moral test our leaders are failing as they continue to lend political, diplomatic, financial, and military support (including the ongoing sale of arms) to Israel, even as it stands trial for

**Israel's war on Gaza has killed over 30,000 people – 70% of them women and children.**  
**At least 400,000 Palestinians face starvation.**

the crime of genocide.

By contrast, hundreds of thousands of British citizens from all corners of society have been responding with extraordinary waves of solidarity. The marches PSC has been leading in London, with partners including CND, have seen crowds of up to a million people gathering. Interspersed with these huge mobilisations, we have been leading protests, vigils, marches, and boycotts, in towns and cities across the UK. PSC has seen our number of branches grow from 75 in October to now almost a 100, and our subscriber base go from 75,000 to over 300,000.

The Government has responded with a wave of repression. Ministers, including the Prime Minister, have demonised those protesting as hate mongers, with pressure exerted on the police to be even heavier handed in their policing

of marches. Now Lord Walney – a previous Chair of Labour Friends of Israel and a government advisor on political violence – has called on party leaders to ban their MPs and councillors from engagement with PSC.

These actions are an assault on our democratic rights and should be resisted. They are also an attempt to turn the conversation away from Israel's genocide and the Government's responsibility to take action to halt it.

But we will not allow this to distract us nor silence the voices of Palestinians. The best response we can give is to continue to protest until a ceasefire is called, the occupation is ended, apartheid is dismantled, and the Palestinian people from the river to the sea are finally able to live in freedom with their rights respected.

**Ceasefire now: stop the genocide in Gaza – national demonstration**

**9 March**, assemble 12 noon  
Central London.

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

**Yorkshire CND strategy day**

**10 March** 1pm-5pm  
The Rutland Arms, 86 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS

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

**The human and environmental cost of Britain's nuclear weapons testing** – Parliamentary CND webinar

**14 March** 1pm, online

■ To register, contact  
[parliamentary@cnduk.org](mailto:parliamentary@cnduk.org)

**Military influences on UK nuclear power decisions** –

Abingdon Peace Group and Salisbury CND webinar

**19 March** 8pm, online.

■ To register, contact  
[c.lanyon@btinternet.com](mailto:c.lanyon@btinternet.com)

**A Celebration of Pat Arrowsmith**

**18 April** 6pm  
LSE Library, 10 Portugal Street  
London WC2A 2HD

■ Contact  
[information@cnduk.org](mailto:information@cnduk.org) to register for ticket

**A day in Parliament with Youth and Student CND**

**30 April** 10:30am-4pm  
Houses of Parliament, London  
■ For more information contact  
[information@cnduk.org](mailto:information@cnduk.org)

**Don't put Britain on the nuclear front line: Day of Action**

Join the Day of Action against US nuclear weapons coming to Britain – events will be taking place across the country – get organising now!

**Saturday May 11th!**

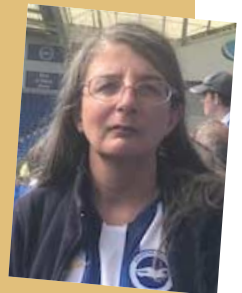
Contact [information@cnduk.org](mailto:information@cnduk.org) for more information and/or resources to help you plan your action.



**Meet the staff**

**This month: Kirsty Stewart, Supporter Database Manager**

I have now been at CND for nine years in my role as Supporter Database Manager. My main responsibilities are to oversee the management of CND's database, process and update all CND membership and supporter records, process payments, update contact details, register members for Annual Conference and produce membership lists for CND groups. I am also the CND contact for all Data Protection matters.



As part of the membership and fundraising team, I also provide assistance in processing and banking fundraising donations, prepare budgets, and occasionally you will find me working on the merchandise stalls at events. None of this would be possible without you, CND's members, so thank you!

Away from the office, my time is frequently spent travelling up and down the country, and even sometimes overseas, watching my beloved Brighton & Hove Albion football team.

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