

CAMPAIGN

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Political leaders must step back from the nuclear brink

CND General Secretary Sophie Bolt writes on the dangerous developments which make nuclear war more likely.

US President-elect Donald Trump is already impacting the situation in Ukraine. President Joe Biden's response to Trump's victory has been to recklessly escalate the situation. Despite concerns that giving Ukraine use of its long-range Army Tactical Missile Systems – ATACMS – would draw NATO into an all-

out confrontation with Russia, this is what Biden has done. The British government has followed suit with Storm Shadows, without admitting to it publicly. These missiles can only be targeted using Washington's GPS technology – exposing that the US is decisively participating in the conflict.



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Russia retaliated with an inter-mediate range, hypersonic missile, the Oreshnik. It has also ratified a change to its nuclear use policy, which means it could use its nuclear weapons against a conventional attack, backed by a nuclear state.

This is an incredibly dangerous escalation, which risks Britain being drawn into an all-out confrontation with NATO and Russia.

Yet military experts and diplomats across the political spectrum – including in Ukraine – have said that the use of these weapons will not make a decisive difference to the outcome of the war. In fact, reports show that Ukraine has lost 40% of the territory it had gained in its offensive in Kursk in the summer.

The escalation also goes against public opinion in Ukraine, where people want an urgent end to this war through peace talks.

Horrifyingly, the response of European countries, including Britain, has been to double-down on the warmongering rhetoric. The Group of Five – Germany, France, Italy, Poland and Britain – have issued a statement asserting it will continue to back and arm Ukraine.

NATO's Secretary General Mark Rutte has

stated, 'Our support for Ukraine has kept them in the fight, but we need to go further to change the trajectory of the conflict.'

In response to these developments, make sure you lobby your MP this week (details on CND's website), calling on the British government to withdraw its Storm Shadow Missiles from Ukraine and use its influence to secure immediate peace talks. Also, be sure to join our 'Step back from the nuclear brink' webinar on 18th December (details on page 4).

With plans underway to site new US nuclear bombs across Europe, we're also redoubling our campaigning against B61-12 bombs being stationed at Lakenheath. We know this base will be central to NATO nuclear escalation. Latest satellite imagery shows nuclear shelters for the bombs have now been upgraded. The Ministry of Defence has also announced the completion of the F35a fighter jet maintenance and repair facilities at the base.

Get involved with the protest opposing US nuclear weapons coming to Britain! More information coming soon about the Lakenheath Alliance for Peace's peace camp from 14th-25th April, followed by the big blockade on 26th April.

Spotlight

Christian CND



While many of us are looking forward to Christmas and the opportunity to spend time with our loved ones, it's a particularly special time for Christians. Christian CND believes that praying for peace at this important time of year is part of the Christian calling.

Christian CND is calling on its supporters to sign their 'Praying For Peace' pledge, either as an individual or as a church, to show your support for nuclear disarmament and your commitment to peace. Your support will help them show that peace issues matter to UK Christians, enabling them to call on leaders and decision makers to make peace a priority.

If you're a Christian and would like to get involved with this work, please get in touch. You can email the team at christians@cnduk.org.

Nobel Peace Prize awarded to anti-nuclear campaigners

CND Campaigns Director Sara Medi Jones congratulates this year's Nobel Peace Prize winners, Nihon Hidankyo.

As campaigners working towards a world without nuclear weapons, there is nothing more sobering than hearing from our friends, the Hibakusha (officially known as Nihon Hidankyo), the Japanese atomic bomb survivors' group, about their experiences. Children when the bombs hit Hiroshima and Nagasaki, they have dedicated their lives trying to ensure no one else has to go through the same suffering.

So CND is delighted to send its warmest congratulations to Nihon Hindankyo for winning the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize. These incredible people have created a powerful global movement for nuclear disarmament from the most distressing personal experiences imaginable.

CND was delighted to most recently host members of the Hibakusha in London in April, arranging a meeting with Peace Boat so that Toshiko Tanaka and Ogawa Tadayoshi could share their stories.

Toshiko-san was walking to elementary school when a nuclear bomb hit Hiroshima, causing severe burns across her body. She still has the scars today. Ogawa-san's family had moved house a week before a nuclear bomb hit Nagasaki. His previous home was destroyed – when the family visited the site they found a relative's body lying in the spot where they had once lived. The visit also caused the family to suffer radiation poisoning. This was common as the dangers of lingering radiation were never explained. In fact, Toshiko-san told us that many people died from eating contaminated food after the bombing.



Toshiko Tanaka and Ogawa Tadayoshi with CND Chair Tom Unterrainer

At the meeting in London, both spoke of the health issues and stigma faced by the survivors of the bomb. Toshiko-san spoke very movingly of her concerns about whether she would be able to have children.

The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to anti-nuclear campaigners comes at a time when the risk of nuclear conflict is perhaps greater than ever before. Speaking ahead of the ceremony, Nihon Hindankyo co-chair, Terumi Tanaka, warned of these risks and expressed hope that young people will continue the organisation's efforts to educate the world on the horrific impacts of nuclear weapons and call for nuclear weapons to be never used again.

CND campaigns so that there are no more Hiroshimas or Nagasakis. As Toshiko-san said when she was in London in April, "If we ever use the nuclear bomb again, I believe the whole world will be destroyed." 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of these Japanese cities. It will be a year for redoubling our efforts to promote nuclear disarmament in Britain and across the world.

What's on: For a full, updated list of events, see cnduk.org/events/

'NATO, Russia, Ukraine and the threat of nuclear war' public meeting 12 December
7pm, Friends Meeting House, Ship Street, Brighton BN1 1AF
■ Contact 020 7700 2393

Day of action for Palestine 14 December
Nationwide
■ See www.cnduk.org

Rally for Palestine 14 December 2:45pm
Parliament Square, London
■ Contact 020 7700 2393

'Step back from the nuclear brink' vigil 14 December, 11:30am
outside Bath Abbey, Bath
■ nick.francis67@gmail.com

'Step back from the nuclear brink' webinar 18 December
7pm, online.
■ To register, contact information@cnduk.org

Hereford Peace Council meeting 13 January
10am, Friends Meeting House, 21 King Street, Hereford
■ carolanson@yahoo.co.uk

'US spy drones out of Fairfield' webinar 15 January 7pm, online.
■ To register, contact information@cnduk.org

'End the genocide in Gaza' national demonstration 18 January 12 noon
Assemble outside BBC, Portland Place, London
■ information@cnduk.org

Yorkshire CND AGM 18 January 1pm-4pm
Brian Jackson House, 2 New North Parade, Huddersfield
■ info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

'Peace not War' public meeting 22 January 6:30pm

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our supporters

At this tumultuous time in world affairs, CND wants to thank all our members and supporters who continue to campaign for peace. This is not always easy work but, as we know, it is absolutely essential.



The work to call on the world to step back from the nuclear brink will continue in 2025. But for now, we hope you all enjoy a safe and happy festive season!

Meet the staff

This month: Malek Araj, Finance Officer

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

My work covers the payroll, pensions, dealing with all HMRC enquiries, making bank payments, deals with audit inquiries and 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).



Almost five years working for the campaign has flown by so fast! During this period, I have also been studying in my spare time, graduating with an MSc in investment and finance last year."

Friends Meeting House,
12 Jesus Lane, Cambridge
■ cndcambridge@gmail.com

Lakenheath Alliance for Peace vigil 25 January
12 noon, Main Gate, RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk
■ vigils@lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk

'US spy drones out of Fairfield' demonstration 25 January, 1pm RAF Fairford,

Fairford, Gloucestershire
■ Contact 020 7700 2393

GMDCND AGM 25 January 2pm
Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester
■ gmdcnd@gn.apc.org

Burns Peace Poetry fundraiser 25 January 3pm
Quaker Meeting House, 38 Elmbank Crescent, Glasgow
■ scnd@banthebomb.org

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