# campaign

## Lest we forget

CND Acting General Secretary **Sara Medi Jones** writes about why this Remembrance Sunday is an opportunity to reflect on future wars, as well as past ones.

NE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, the world's first global, industrialised war was drawing to a close. The terrible cost of four years of suffering was becoming apparent: nine million combatants were killed in the most appalling conditions as well as millions of civilians.

It was described at the time as 'the war to end all wars'; a belief that humanity would learn its lesson. But of course, this hasn't happened and countless more have been killed, injured or displaced as a result of war since 1918. In many ways, the situation could even said to be more dangerous 100 years on. One of the reasons for this of course is

that nuclear weapons have been invented.

14,000 nuclear weapons now exist in the world, each of these bombs with the power to inflict total devastation. To make matters worse, since Donald Trump's election as US President, we have seen one of the most powerful leaders in the world trash nuclear treaties that reduce the risk of obliteration, make plans for new generations of 'usable' nukes, and speak glibly of 'pressing the nuclear button'. Prime Minister Theresa May has actively supported Trump's policies and thus draws us into his nuclear warmongering.

What CND must do is use the centenary commemoration as an opportunity to

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reflect on the horrors of conflict and on the possibility that a future war could turn nuclear. The emergence of new technology is rapidly transforming warfare with billions of pounds being spent on a new hi-tech arms race.

CND will be examining what is to come with a host of expert speakers at our public conference 'Future Wars: The Impact of New Technologies', taking place this Saturday (November 10th). Join us to explore what the wars of the future could look like and how we can prevent them. Topics covered include the militarisation of space; cyber warfare; hacking; killer robots and drones; new tech ethics; and alternative visions of security.

We will also be looking at what is true security in the 21st

century? CND has long maintained that the challenges we face will not be solved by replacing Trident. Cancelling plans for a new generation of nuclear weapons would be the first step in Britain rethinking its approach to security, with discussions on our membership of NATO and an end to our involvement in foreign wars to follow.

The 21st century may prove to be more lethal than even its predecessor. The combination of modern weapons and an inability to learn from our mistakes is a terrifying one. Seventy years on from the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we need to take stock and change – or we will find ourselves walking mindlessly into ever more destructive wars.

#### **CND** conference in Bristol

CND members gathered in Bristol for a worthwhile weekend of discussion last month. There was real concern from delegates about the deteriorating international situation, with motions adopted on how CND should organise against the 'special relationship' with the US; the increased risk of nuclear confrontation and NATO expansion.

Bristol CND did a fantastic job hosting the event with attendees particularly impressed with the beautiful venue. Thank you to everyone who made the conference weekend possible.

## Groups Sp@tlight

This month:

Tyne and Wear CND



Like many CND groups across the country, Tyne and Wear CND will be giving out white poppies this weekend to commemorate Remembrance Day weekend. Tyne and Wear CND would hugely appreciate new support from local members – if you are available to help, the group will be at Grey's Monument in central Newcastle on Saturday. November 10th from 11am until noon.

Please get in touch if you can help this weekend or would like to be more involved generally – contact 0191 285 1290 or email rhpg@btinternet.com

### Trump set to pull out of INF

CND Parliamentary Officer **Amy Keegan** explains why Trump's intention to withdraw the US from the INF Treaty would be disastrous.

RESIDENT TRUMP recently announced that he would 'terminate' the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force (INF) Treaty which bans ground-launched nuclear missiles with ranges from 500km to 5,500km. For years the US and Russia have both alleged that the other is violating the INF.

The treaty led to nearly 2,700 short and medium-range missiles being eliminated and helped bring an end to the Cold War. Withdrawal from the treaty will mean its unilateral destruction, which could lead to the reintroduction of these missiles into Europe, and start a new arms race.

President Putin responded to Trump stating that 'the main question is what they will do with these missiles that will once again appear. If they will deliver them to Europe, naturally our response will have to mirror this, and European countries that agree to host them, if things go that far, must understand that they are putting their own territory at risk of a possible counter-strike.'

Trump and Putin are expected to meet to discuss the

treaty when both are in Paris this weekend. European leaders have supported the US in calling for the Russian government to be more transparent about its new missile and its capabilities, but have been overwhelmingly opposed to US withdrawal. The UK government and Prime Minister Theresa May have been keen to point out that the US is a key ally and Russia has not been complying with the treaty.

This is a crucial treaty for preventing a global nuclear arms race and ensuring nuclear de-escalation.

CND has been working with Parliamentary CND to call on the government to condemn the withdrawal and encourage the US to resolve any disputes on violation of the treaty through diplomatic means. We have provided briefings to MPs, worked with staff on questions in both the

House of Commons and Lords and submitted an Early Day Motion that has been signed by MPs from the Labour party, Conservative party, Liberal Democrats, Green party, SNP, Plaid Cymru and DUP.

The US withdrawal from the INF further accelerates its rejection of essential international treaties including the Paris Agreement and the Iran nuclear deal. This is a concerning pattern of declining US global cooperation on key issues and brings into question whether the US will work with Russia to renew the New START treaty in 2021 when it is due to expire. This is a crucial treaty for preventing a global nuclear arms race and ensuring nuclear de-escalation.

International cooperation is essential to maintain a stable and just world order, and we are continuously working to raise these issues and pressure the government in Parliament.

■ Have a look at CND's website for a more in-depth briefing of the INF Treaty and other international agreements cnduk.org/campaigns/global-abolition/

#### No More War - London remembrance event

November 11th, 12:30pm-5pm, Tavistock Square, London ■ Contact mail@networkforpeace.org.uk

#### **Songs for Peace**

**November 11th**. 1-2:30pm. Alhambra Theatre, Bradford ■ Contact info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

**Oxford CND meeting** November 13th, 6:45pm-8:45pm, Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford OX1 1BX ■ Contact 01865 248357 or

oxfordcnd@phonecoop.coop

#### **Better Without Them? Public meeting with Derby CND**

November 14th, 7pm-9pm The Maypole, 42 Brook Street. Derby DE1 3PH

■ Contact 07557 271015

#### Lessons of WWI in the **Age of Brexit and Trump**

November 14th, 8:15pm-9:45pm, The Sanctuary Church Hall, Moravian Church, Priory Road, Hornsey N8 7HR

■ Contact davidtrpolden@gmail.com

#### **Croydon Peace Council** launch November 15th,

7:30pm-9:30pm. Ruskin House. 23 Coombe Road, Croydon

■ Contact info@londoncnd.org

#### **International conference** against US/NATO military bases

#### **November 16th-18th**

Liberty Hall, Dublin, Ireland ■ Contact

contact@NoUSNATOBases.org



#### **Greater Manchester CND Christmas Peace and Craft Fair**

November 17th,11am-4pm Birch Community Association, Brighton Grove. Manchester ■Contact 0161 273 8283 or amdcnd@an.apc.ora

#### **CND bloc at National Unity** demonstration against fascism and racism

November 17th 12 noon-5pm, Portland Place, Marvlebone, London W1B 1JA ■ Contact enquiries@cnduk.org or 020 7700 2393

#### **Abingdon Peace Group** meeting November 20th,

8pm-10pm, The Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abinadon

■ Contact 01235 526265 or sallyreynolds@btinternet.com

#### Yorkshire CND **Peace and Craft Fair**

**November 24th** Venue TBC

■ Contact info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

#### **WILPF autum seminar: TPNW**

November 24th, 10:30am-4pm, Salvation Army Hall, 70 Mare Street, London E8 4RT

■ See http://www.wilpf.org.uk for more information

#### A New Lucas Plan: an idea whose time has come?

November 24th, 1pm-5pm St Peter's Church, St Peter's St, Derby DE1 1NN

■ Contact info@breakingtheframe.org.uk

#### **Manchester CND open** planning meeting

December 5th, 6:30pm-8pm Manchester Central Library, St Peter's Square, Manchester

■ Contact qmdcnd@gn.apc.org

#### **Peace Camps** Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp

Second weekend of every month. ■Tel: 07946 676761 info@aldermaston.net

www.aldermaston.net @Peace\_women\_AWE

#### **Faslane Peace Camp**

Permanent. A814, Shandon, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire G84 8NT

■Tel 07376 188216 or email faslanepeacecamp@protonmail.com

#### Menwith Hill vigil

The weekly vigil is now switching days – please contact Sarah for details: 01765 600928 or sswift64@gmail.com