

# Campaign

## On the brink of nuclear war?

Campaigns Officer **Sara Medi Jones** writes about the escalating tensions with North Korea and what we need to do to avert nuclear war.



**I**T'S getting to be a familiar story with no satisfactory ending in sight. The United Nations Security Council called an emergency meeting earlier this week to once again discuss the international community's response to North Korea's continued development of its nuclear weapons system. Pyongyang tested what it claimed was a hydrogen nuclear bomb underground on Sunday. The United States government responded by threatening a 'massive military response'. South Korea carried out live-fire exercises on Monday, simulating an attack on the North's nuclear test site.

This is North Korea's sixth nuclear test; UN Security Council resolution 1718, passed in October 2006 after its first one, bans the country from undertaking any such activity. A new resolution is now expected to be

adopted next week. While Prime Minister Theresa May has so far insisted that Britain's focus is on finding a 'diplomatic solution' to the crisis, the potential for war is a worrying possibility, especially with President Donald Trump and his notoriously erratic and often petulant behaviour in the mix.

CND unequivocally condemns North Korea's nuclear test. It is against international law, the wishes of the international community and all peace-loving people. Such tests are highly provocative and threaten a race towards nuclear proliferation. Pyongyang has previously asserted that its nuclear weapons programme is an act of 'self-defence', a stark reminder that nuclear weapons do not uphold international security and stability, but actually intensify political conflicts with

As the US-NK nuclear crisis intensifies, sign our letter calling on the PM to take three steps to prevent nuclear war – <http://act.cnduk.org/petition/StopNuclearWar>

potentially disastrous consequences.

For the sake of global security, the response of the international community must be a redoubling of diplomatic efforts towards disarmament. CND has written to Prime Minister May with advice on the actions she could take to prevent a nuclear war.

The government should resolutely commit to not sending British armed forces to the Korean Peninsula. Military exercises only add to North Korea's sense of being under threat and could push tensions over the edge. Britain should support the offer from Switzerland to mediate talks with North Korea. Between 2003 and 2009, Six-Party Talks brought South Korea, North Korea, the US, China, Japan and

Russia around the table. Diplomatic talks, rather than nuclear brinkmanship, are the only route to peace. Let's not forget the historic nuclear agreement with Iran. Despite being threatened by Trump, this is still a concrete success story of how diplomacy can stop a nuclear weapons programme.

And the final action Theresa May should take to avert nuclear war is to support the UN's global nuclear weapons ban treaty, which opens for signature on September 20th. Nuclear weapons will never be safe, in anyone's hands. And while they're still in existence, there is the very real threat of escalation, miscalculation or even an accident.

CND will deliver our demands to Downing Street later this month. The Chair of Parliamentary CND, Caroline Lucas, is also pressing the government to resolve the conflict using peaceful means through parliament. Refusing to work for peace is not an option now: any steps towards war could lead to our annihilation.

## Groups Spotlight

### This month: Derby CND

Are you a CND member in Derby or interested in getting more involved? Derby CND would be glad to welcome you.

Derby CND re-launched in 2016 and has been very active ever since. Most recently, the group set up a Magic Money Tree at the Northern Green Gathering festival in Derbyshire. The purpose was to ask festival-goers how they would spend the £205 billion cost of Trident. The answers ranged from an eight-year-old calling for camper vans with solar panels to be built, to calls for more homes. The group have plenty more clever ideas up their sleeve. Please get involved if you live locally!

Contact Viv Ring: email: [vivcarnea@gmail.com](mailto:vivcarnea@gmail.com) or phone 07557 271015

Switch to **Fairphone**, the first ethical smartphone and we'll donate 8% of your monthly spend to **CND**.

Call **01608 434000** or visit **[www.thephone.coop/cnd](http://www.thephone.coop/cnd)**

The Phone Co-op. **Your voice counts.**



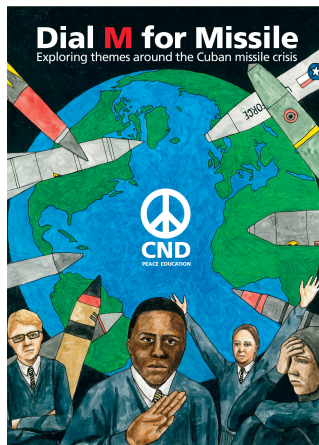
# Peace Education in action

CND Peace Education Officer **Owen Everett** describes the difficult questions CND poses to students and what they learn from the answers.

**F** you had nuclear missiles, would you fire them? CND's Peace Education programme asks students just that. We put them in the shoes of leaders of key countries during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, as part of our War Game lesson. The students have to determine what they would have done in the rapidly-changing situation.

The teaching pack that War Game comes from – *Dial M For Missile* – seeks to give students an understanding of the experience of citizens and world leaders during this pivotal moment in human history, and compare and contrast this learning with the situation today. Until the recent tension between North Korea and the United States, the threat of nuclear war was not something that today's students worried about. This is in stark contrast to older generations, who grew up during the Cold War.

We recently ran War Game with a Year 11 class at Southfields Academy, in London. It started with a quick



introduction to nuclear weapons and the Cold War. As tends to be the case, some students knew quite a lot already; others little to nothing.

In small groups, the students then took on the roles of leaders of the USA, Cuba, Soviet Union and UK. War Game works in rounds, with each exploring a significant development in the crisis, for example the US discovery of the nuclear missiles in Cuba. The groups then have a minute to decide on their country's course of action. One group opted to fire their missiles, to the shock of some of their

peers. This prompted a discussion on Mutually Assured Destruction!

Some excellent points were made in the closing plenary discussion, including the value of negotiation. It certainly felt that CND Peace Education's central aim – to facilitate young people's critical thinking around nuclear weapons issues – had been met.

The students gave great feedback on the session, including: *'Super educational'*; *'gave me greater understanding of what nuclear wars could do to the world'*; and *'please come to Southfields again'*.

This is in keeping with the feedback on the pack that we've had from teachers, including this from a review in *Teach Secondary* magazine: *'really engage[s] students in the political psychology and moral decision making of the Cold War era... This is a resource with a high I.Q., offering detail, challenge and real engagement, and in which students aren't taught what, but how, to think.'*

CND's Peace Education team delivers free, cross-curricular workshops and talks in schools across England: you can help us expand our work by spreading the word to any teachers you know! To browse/download our free teaching packs, and to learn more about what we do, go to [www.cnduk.org/education](http://www.cnduk.org/education)

**Pontefract public meeting on nuclear convoys**

**September 14th**, 7pm-9pm  
St Joseph's School, Pontefract  
WF8 4AA. Contact  
rachel@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

**Oxford CND Jazz Concert**

**September 16th**, 7:30pm-10pm, Friends' Meeting House, 43 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LW  
Tickets £12/£10. For tickets or any other enquiries, phone 01865 248357 or email oxfordcnd@phoncoop.coop.

**Peace One Evening: Leicester CND event**

**September 22nd**, 6pm-9:30pm, Leicester Secular Hall, 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB. Contact Penny 07414 465694 or email pennywalker@riseup.net

**West London Peace Market**

**September 23rd**, 10:30am-4pm, St Michael & All Angels Church Hall, The Avenue, Bedford Park, London W4 1TX. Contact: westlondonpeacemarket@yahoo.co.uk or 07774 936556.

**Haringey CND meeting**

**September 25th**, 7pm  
46 Ravensdale Mansions, Haringey Park N8.  
Contact davidtrpolden@gmail.com

**The Business Plan for Peace: A lecture by Scilla Elworthy**

**October 2nd**, Doors and bar open 7pm, Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R  
Tickets £12/£7. Wheelchair accessible. More info: facebook.com/MartinRyleTrust/

**Faringdon Peace Group meeting**

**October 4th**, 7:30pm  
Friends Meeting House, Faringdon SN7 8AQ  
Contact: 01367 710308.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**Confrontation or cooperation?**

Nuclear abolition in dangerous times

**Saturday 14th October 2017**

10am – 5pm. Admission free.  
220 Arlington Road, London NW1 7HE  
Register here: cnduk/register

**CND AGM & Policy Conference**

**Sunday 15th October 2017**

10am – 5pm, 220 Arlington Road, Camden, London NW1 7HE  
Register here: cnduk/register



**Keep Space for Peace march and rally**

**October 7th**, 12 noon – 4pm  
RAF Croughton main gate, Brackley, Northamptonshire NN13 5XP. As part of Keep Space for Peace Week, join the national march and rally. Contact 01865 248357 or oxonpeace@yahoo.co.uk.

**Discussion with Fabian Hamilton MP**

– London CND meeting, 6:30pm-8pm  
**October 11th**, Portcullis House, Westminster, SW1A 2JR. Contact 020 7607 2302 or info@londoncnd.org.

**Oxford CND meeting**

**October 12th**, 6:45pm  
Oxford Town Hall, Oxford  
For more information contact 01865 242919 or oxfordcnd@phoncoop.coop

**Scrapping Trident: A New Generation of Anti-Nuclear Activists**

**October 21st**, 10am-4pm  
Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, London SE1 7AA  
Hosted by Youth and Student

CND – workshops, creativity and discussion to unite the youth and student movement in campaigning against nuclear weapons.  
Contact yscnd@riseup.net or 020 7700 2393

**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 01436 820901  
faslanepeacecamp@hotmail.com

**Menwith Hill vigil**

Every Tuesday 6-7.30pm.  
■ For more info contact Sarah – 01765 600928 or sswift64@gmail