

Campaign

People not Trident

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** writes about the Chancellor's autumn statement and how the budget should be allocated.

DESPITE Prime Minister Theresa May claiming that she would make Britain a country that works for everyone, and initial speculation that she was going to end austerity, the autumn budget statement does not bear that out unfortunately.

George Osborne's spending plans, set out in the 2015 Comprehensive Spending Review, remain in place; so although there have been some small amounts of infrastructure investment, essentially the cuts and austerity agenda still prevails. There has, for example, been no reversal of the extremely damaging £30 a week cut to the Employment and Support Allowance for people with disabilities.

During these first few months of Mrs May's premiership we have also seen the start of the Trident replacement programme – the first metal has actually been cut on the first new submarine. As we announced earlier this year, the anticipated cost of the replacement is around £205 billion – a figure not challenged by the government. Indeed, it is likely to have increased since the impact of Brexit on the value of sterling. At a time when government borrowing is set to be £122 billion higher than predicted in the Budget in March, it looks like the government has not only wrong priorities in terms of what it is spending our money

on, but a failing economic policy even in their own terms.

The cost of Trident replacement and what we could spend the money on instead remains a central part of our work to get the programme cancelled. I'm pleased to say we have a great new edition of the very popular People not Trident report, with an expert economist's introduction on what £205 billion could do, invested in housing, jobs or education. We're also delighted to have new contributions from organisations like Keep our NHS Public, Medact, Greenpeace and the NUT.

Particularly poignant is the contribution from Youth Employment UK:

'Youth unemployment has been rising since 2005. The emotional damage caused is staggering, with young people who experience long-term unemployment at a high risk of experiencing long-term mental health problems... We recommend the government invest financial support to systematically reduce youth unemployment. Secondary schools should be provided with a ring-fenced budget of a minimum of £50,000 each to ensure a quality careers and employability education for all students.'

Wise words indeed which our government would do well to heed.

■ Please get in touch for copies of the new report (information@cnduk.org/020 7700 2393)

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Non-proliferation in jeopardy

The election of Donald Trump as United States President last month shocked the world.

THAT a racist, homophobic, misogynist candidate could become arguably the most powerful person in the world heralds exceptionally dangerous times ahead. In a ComRes/The Independent poll, 66% of British people think he will make the world a more dangerous place and only 15% think Donald Trump will be a good President.

For CND and other anti-nuclear campaigners there are very specific dangers for which we need to watch out. It is obviously worrying that a short-tempered man with a track-record of acting impulsively and has little grasp of the implications of nuclear use, has access to the US' nuclear codes. But there are also great dangers to world peace from his views on nuclear proliferation.

Trump wants to rip up the Iran nuclear deal, which will push Iran down the road to building nuclear weapons, potentially opening the door to Egypt and Saudi Arabia following suit. He has said on multiple occasions that more countries should get nuclear



“Somebody hits us within ISIS—you wouldn’t fight back with a nuke?”

weapons to counter the threat from North Korea, implying the US President would be happy to have a nuclear arms race in east Asia. Trump is effectively calling into question what has been a bipartisan policy in the United States for the better part of the last 70 years: making sure more countries do not acquire nuclear weapons. And this is not only a US position but a globally endorsed position.

This raises the question of Trump’s commitment to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which came into force in

1970. Of course there are major flaws with the treaty, most pressing that it hasn’t been able to bring about nuclear disarmament. But it is an indication of what is expected of the international community and a bench mark which is aimed for: a world without nuclear weapons. If the US President sanctions nuclear proliferation then we are heading on a very dangerous path.

The US peace movement has also highlighted other concerns. Activists are concerned about the possibility of an escalation of US militarism in the Middle East, beginning with Syria; increased tensions with China and increased pressure on US allies to pay more for their militaries.

There have been many worrying events on the world stage in 2016, but the election of Donald Trump has to be very high on the list of most alarming. He has even said he is open to nuking Europe because it’s a ‘big place’. It’s therefore never been more important to increase our anti-war and anti-nuclear work and to step up international cooperation.



NUKES OF HAZARD

THE NUCLEAR BOMB CONVOYS ON OUR ROADS

MPs lobbied on nuclear convoys

Parliamentary Officer **Russell Whiting** updates us on the weekend of nuclear convoy lobbying.

CND with partners Nukewatch has been raising this issue with politicians for some time and a parliamentary motion calling for the convoys to be stopped has attracted support from across the House of Commons. One thing that MPs really respond well to, however, is hearing directly from the people who vote for them. That's why every chance to speak to your MP is vital.

A number of supporters visited MPs who represent constituencies on the route of the warhead convoys, which frequently travel from Faslane to Aldermaston. Many MPs will be completely oblivious that this is happening in their communities and visits like this from constituents represent a great chance to raise awareness.

One CND supporter to take part in the event was John



Stewart McDonald MP

McFadden, who visited his MP Stewart McDonald. John found Stewart to be very supportive of the campaign and after sending him some further information Stewart is now following up on the discussions by raising the issue with the government in parliament.

Other MPs have been active on the nuclear convoys issue, asking various questions to the Ministry of Defence, including on the safety provisions in place in case of accidents or unexpected incidents. The government refused to answer

about the cost of transporting defence nuclear material across UK road and rail. CND will expand its work on this topic in 2017, working with local authorities along the convoy route to raise awareness.

CND will be following up with the MPs who were met by constituents during the weekend.

■ The meetings are continuing into the New Year. You can make an appointment via www.cnduk.org/convoylobby

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14th January

New Approaches to Foreign Policy

12 noon – 5pm. SOAS University of London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London. Progress towards a global nuclear ban, the impact of Donald Trump as American president and the new security challenges and opportunities the world is facing will be discussed at this conference, arranged by SOAS CND in association with London Region CND. Please note that London Region CND's AGM will take place before the start of the conference. Registration from 9.30am.

■ Contact London Region CND 020 7607 2302/ david.lrcnd@cnduk.org

15th January

Kent Area CND meeting

11am-1pm, 34 St Michaels Place, Canterbury. Are you a CND member in Kent, or would like to join? Come along to this local meeting.

■ Contact 07772 471905/ pambrivio@ntlworld.com with any enquiries.

21st January

Yorkshire CND AGM and Strategy Day

11am-3pm, Swarthmore Centre, 2-7 Woodhouse Square, Leeds. Yorkshire CND's Annual General Meeting will be followed by a session looking at the

Join Youth & Student CND, Food & drink included
Enter Shikari's
Rou Reynolds
Only Sun & Benjamin Yellowitz
Let's Make This Precious Djs & more for a night of Beats not Bombs
Hive Dalston
8pm til late
Thursday 15 December
2016
CND

group's campaigning strategy. The political context has changed dramatically during 2016, and this is an opportunity to discuss these changes and how they affect campaigning activities. The meeting will explore tactics and ways of moving forward in the struggle against Trident, US missile defence and other areas of interest.

■ For more information contact Yorkshire CND: info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk/01 274 730795

28th January

Nukes of Hazard Workshop on nuclear weapons convoys. 2pm-4pm, Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick St, Manchester. The workshop will discuss the transport of nuclear warheads on UK roads (including the M6). Speakers will include anti-convoy protesters, council officers concerned about the risks and campaigners from GMCND and ICAN UK.

■ For more information contact Greater Manchester CND: 0161 273 8283/gmdcnd@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

■ Tel 01436 820901/faslane peacecamp@hotmail.com

Menwith Hill

Women's Peace Camp

■ Contact Yorkshire CND for details: 01274 730795 or info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Faslane Peace Camp

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

Menwith Hill vigil

Every Tuesday 6-7.30pm.

■ For more info contact Sarah – 01765 600928 or sswift64@gmail

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of our supporters! Thank you for being a part of our campaign in 2016.