

# campaign

## What really keeps us safe?

CND Campaigns Director **Sara Medi Jones** highlights the security argument against nuclear weapons.



**C**COVID-19 cases across the country are rising, leaving most people's lives inconvenienced, at best. Over 40,000 people have died in the UK from the disease, one that almost nobody had heard of at the beginning of the year.

But military experts and government officials were well aware that a 'major human health crisis' of some sort was highly likely. How? Because successive National Security Strategies (NSS) had placed this very risk as a Tier One threat to our security. But as the pandemic shut down the economy and claimed lives, we realised

how unprepared the government was for something they themselves had predicted. We all remember the PPE (personal protective equipment) shortages and the lack of ventilators. I've even spoken to an intensive care nurse who told me that she and her colleagues had to avoid going to the bathroom to save PPE during the height of the crisis.

The other tier one threats listed in the 2015 NSS are terrorism, military conflict, cyber, natural hazards (e.g. flooding) and instability overseas. But not a nuclear attack, which is lower down in tier two.

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Why then does the government feel it justified to spend a massive amount of the defence budget on new nuclear weapons, at a cost of at least £205 billion? As former Prime Minister Tony Blair admits in his autobiography, it's all about status. Nuclear weapons are a relic of another time, when the Cold War raged and Britain had an Empire.

But times change, and the very notion of security has evolved in a 21st century where the deadliest threats are often encountered off the traditional battlefield. It was revealed in *The Times* last month, for example, that Britain is defending itself against 60 significant cyber-attacks a day.

Very significant and complex global changes are taking place which require global solutions. There needs to be a transition in Britain's role in the world. In

a world where states are more connected than ever before and where we face common threats, it is imperative we consider how our actions impact upon the wider international community.

This is exactly the message that CND has tried to get across in our submissions to the government's calls for evidence to the much-heralded *Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy*. This landmark review by the government into its policies in these areas should be published soon, having been delayed by Covid-19. CND hopes that the Integrated Review will reflect the reality of what real security means today and that spending priorities will be adapted accordingly.

We don't need nuclear weapons. In fact, they make us a target, put us at risk and should be scrapped.

## Nuclear ban on the way

We are now so close to seeing a new United Nations treaty enter into force, one which will make nuclear weapons illegal in the countries that sign it.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) needs 50 countries to ratify it before it becomes international law. And as of today, 46 countries have done so, with Malaysia ratifying last week.

The countdown is really on! Who will be next?

Go to [cnduk.org/countdown-is-on](http://cnduk.org/countdown-is-on) for the most up to date information.

## Spotlight

### This month Derby CND



One of the highlights of Derby CND's calendar every year is Derby Peace Week. Like most other things, it wasn't quite the same this year, but the city nevertheless marked the event – which started on the UN International Day of Peace on September 21st – with the theme of 'Shaping Peace Together'. Derby CND worked with visual arts charity Artcore to make paper peace cranes for the week.

Derby is twinned with the German city of Osnabruck – the European City of Peace and the Environment.

If you live locally and would like to get more involved with Derby CND, you can contact 07557 271015 or [viv.carnea@gmail.com](mailto:viv.carnea@gmail.com).

# Other Girls Like Me: Greenham memories

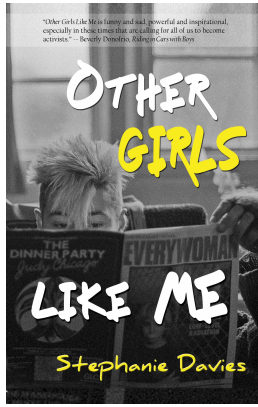
CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** interviews **Stephanie Davies**, author of the new Greenham memoir, 'Other Girls Like Me'.

**KH: Your Greenham memoir is powerful, funny and resonant. How has your experience at Greenham shaped your life in the years since?**

**SD:** My experience at Greenham has infused my life with a sense of the importance of community, activism, finding your voice, honoring your heart, and being playful, even in the midst of suffering. Thanks to Greenham, I discovered you could love women and found liberation in Doc Marten boots, overalls, and a Mohican haircut, a wonderful snub to the patriarchy's expectations of what women were supposed to do. I've carried this irreverence with me throughout my life, even though I look a bit more conventional these days.

**What is your strongest single memory of camp life?**

My memory of camp life involves the sound of women's voices singing, laughing raucously, keening in sorrow, and sharing stories around the campfire late into the night;



crisp moonlit nights, pricked with stars; the low voices of soldiers and police as we drifted off to sleep; the smell of woodsmoke permeating our clothes and hair. It includes gratitude toward visitors who brought us firewood and meals and offered us showers; the rush of adrenalin when I broke into the base; the full-body terror when I was held at gunpoint by soldiers and the time I was possibly exposed to radiation at Aldermaston. Mostly, a sense of being part of something big, grand, and essential.

**Did Greenham have a political impact?**

Absolutely. Would anyone have known about the cruise missiles

if a bunch of women hadn't marched to the base, chained themselves to the fence, and refused to budge? Tens of thousands of women joined them in the years that followed. We generated an enormous amount of press coverage, with images of women dancing on the silos, being dragged under the armpits by police, lying in big piles in front of military convoys. This coverage not only encouraged more of us to join, but let the world know that we weren't going to go away until the missiles went away.

**Do you have a message for the new generation of activists today?**

I am deeply impressed by the young generation of activists who are leading Black Lives Matter, Extinction Rebellion, the Women's Marches, and more. I am glad that CND is a member of XR Peace – the more 'good trouble' we can make on the streets, the better.

■ 'Other Girls Like Me' is available online and at bookshops.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus situation, CND nationally and at a local level continues to arrange mainly virtual events. Keep checking our website and social media accounts.

## Keep space for peace

The militarisation of space has become an increasing concern for peace activists over the past couple of years. Billions of pounds are being spent by multiple countries on militarising space with warfare becoming almost totally dependent on space technology. This year's Keep Space for Peace week of actions include:

**Campaigning on Space Domination webinar 8 October**, 3pm-4pm

■ To register: [dave@space4peace.org](mailto:dave@space4peace.org)

**Fylingdales and Menwith Hill webinar 10 October**, 2pm-3pm

■ To register: [info@themhac.uk](mailto:info@themhac.uk)

**Campaigning to Keep Space for Peace webinar 15 October**, 6:20pm-7:30pm

■ To register: [dave@space4peace.org](mailto:dave@space4peace.org)

## CND Conference: Campaigning in the post-virus world

Our annual conference, 'Campaigning in the post-virus world', will take place on Saturday, 10th October, and the following Sunday, 18th October.

We're looking forward to seeing you at the AGM and Policy Conference on Saturday for the discussions and decisions that will guide our work for the year ahead.

On Sunday 18th October we'll discuss 'Real security, lessons from the pandemic', hosted by London Region CND. Jeremy Corbyn MP, Professor Paul Rogers and Mayor of Newham Rokhsana Fiaz will be joining us.

We'll kick off with a discussion on lessons from the pandemic, followed by parallel sessions on: visions of a green world, security for the many, and creative campaigning. You can also learn how to make a paper crane, and tour our online exhibition 'Time, Memory and Nuclear Weapons'.

The Sunday is open to everyone, please register at: [Eventbrite by visiting \[cnduk.org/sunday-conf\]\(https://www.eventbrite.com/v/visiting/cnduk.org/sunday-conf\)](https://www.eventbrite.com/v/visiting/cnduk.org/sunday-conf)

### Nuclear Weapons and Disarmament: What does the future hold? NIS webinar, 14 October,

2pm-3:30pm

■ To register: [office@nuclearinfo.org](mailto:office@nuclearinfo.org)

### The People's Assembly National Day of Action 17 October

■ Find out more at [thepeoplesassembly.org.uk/nationwide-day-of-action/](https://thepeoplesassembly.org.uk/nationwide-day-of-action/)

### Stop Trump, Stop the Trade Deal demonstration 24 October, 12 noon

Parliament Square, London  
■ [information@cnduk.org](mailto:information@cnduk.org)

## Meet the staff

**This month:**  
**Andrew Moffatt,**  
Trusts & Major Donor  
Fundraiser

My work focuses on funding bodies such as trusts and foundations, which involves a lot of research and application writing. As CND is a campaigning organisation, it can't be a registered charity. This makes things a bit more complicated, but it just means I have to ensure the applications are well-targeted and very focused. We've had some modest success so far and I'm currently working on applications for our work on the entry into force of the TPNW which is very exciting.

