

campaign



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NURSES NOT NUKES

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Many challenges ahead



Dave Webb, CND Chair

THIS IS A TIME of many challenges. The Tory government has been busy providing us with reasons to get out on the streets as we slowly emerge from the pandemic. Many of us have joined demonstrations against the proposed 'Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill' that gives police more powers to shut down protest.

And protest has never been more vital. The Integrated Review published by the government included a 40% increase in the number of the UK's nuclear warheads. A significant departure from

earlier policy, it reverses thirty years of reductions and will cost billions more. And to cap it all, the government offers a derisory 1% raise to the nurses who have worked so hard to wrench us out of the chaos of Covid-19. Nurses Not Nukes is now a CND campaign, showing support to our NHS.

CND members joined the protests against the recent Israeli attacks on Gaza, which has resulted in an outpouring of solidarity with the Palestinian people. Israel, of course, neither admits nor denies possessing a nuclear weapons arsenal that we all know exists.

Meanwhile, plans are underway for Glasgow to host the 26th UN climate change conference, COP26. This is a chance for us to point to the huge contribution to CO2 production made by the military and to highlight our Climate not Trident message.

On the theme of climate change, CND continues to highlight that nuclear power is

not the answer. The government is now looking for sites for small-scale nuclear fusion reactors. Local councils have been promised jobs and cheap, clean energy with no plutonium by-products for nuclear weapons.

Unfortunately, these are false claims, as a new CND briefing explains.

Finally, the G7 countries met in Cornwall in June. They are responsible for the vast majority of arms sales that take place globally and include a third of the world's nuclear-armed powers. CND joined the Resist G7 coalition and sent a 'Stop militarism and war' message to the leaders of these countries.

It is so important that we connect with all these campaigns. We all share a vision of a peaceful and nuclear-free world that puts human security and human rights at the top of the agenda.

Please join in when and where you can.

Opinions expressed by authors in Campaign are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies of CND.

Milestone in the abolition of nukes

Daniel Högsta and **Seth Shelden**, of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), report on growing support for a nuclear ban treaty, and examine what's next following its historic entry into force.

THE 75-YEAR struggle for a world free of nuclear weapons marked an historic milestone this year, when the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force. As we prepare for next year's first Meeting of States Parties (MSP), support for the TPNW continues to grow.

The TPNW is the first global treaty to prohibit its States Parties from, essentially, any act relating to nuclear weapons. Comprehensive prohibition treaties had been accomplished already for other weapons of mass destruction; finally, we now have one for the most destructive weapons of all. The TPNW further provides a framework for nuclear-armed states to verifiably eliminate nuclear weapons, and it breaks new ground by requiring States Parties to assist those affected by nuclear weapons use and testing.

Today, more than two-thirds of the world's states support the TPNW. 54 of

those states have joined the treaty, and many of the others are in the midst of domestic processes to do so. It is the only disarmament treaty making such progress.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres characterized entry into force as "a major step toward a world free of nuclear weapons". Support and guidance from the UN will continue to be crucial in organising the first MSP, to be held next year in Austria. There, key decisions will be taken regarding deadlines for the destruction of arsenals and provisions related to victim assistance and environmental remediation. ICAN will be the civil society coordinator and is working to ensure that NGOs and affected communities continue to have a strong voice.

The immediate priority for TPNW supporters must be encouraging further countries to join, while continuing to use entry into force to further stigmatise nuclear weapons worldwide. Although states not party are

not legally bound by the TPNW, the anti-nuclear-weapon norm strengthened by the treaty's entry into force can nevertheless shape behaviour of non-parties, as has been seen with other weapons prohibition treaties, including on landmines and cluster munitions.

Even in states with governments that currently endorse nuclear weapons, we are seeing meaningful shifts. Last September, 56 former leaders from NATO and other nuclear alliance states, including two former NATO secretaries-general, called upon their governments to join the TPNW. 400 cities in NATO states have adopted the ICAN Cities Appeal, calling upon their governments to join the TPNW. Opinion surveys in ten NATO states demonstrate overwhelming support from citizens, and there is evidence in countries like Germany, Belgium, and Norway that policy changes are coming.

As we approach the MSP, progress will continue.

NURSES NOT NUKES

CND Campaigns Director **Sara Medi Jones** writes about CND's Nurses not Nukes campaign.

WHEN the government spends money, it's always a political choice that exposes its priorities. So what to make of a government that decides to announce a 40% increase in its nuclear warhead stockpile during a health pandemic, while at the same time not giving the very nurses who cared for the country an adequate pay-rise?

CND is highlighting the government's continuing twisted priorities – billions more for more nuclear weapons while essential care workers face a pay cut in real terms is unacceptable.

Dr John Puntis, co-chair of Keep our NHS Public, spoke to CND about the government's spending decisions. "It is staggering that there are billions of pounds available for weapons of mass destruction but not for training, recruiting and paying health and care staff to look after us all," he said.

As Dr Puntis explains, even before the pandemic, the NHS was struggling with chronic underfunding: "A virtual wage

freeze was imposed leading to a 15% reduction in spending power for staff, (meaning there were around 100,000 unfilled posts before the pandemic began."

The government has continued to insist it needs nuclear weapons despite not designating a nuclear attack a tier one risk to the country's security in successive assessments. However, a health emergency such as a pandemic, was placed in the top tier, but the necessary spending did not follow. "The NHS was not prepared for the pandemic because the government was not prepared for the pandemic," continues Dr Puntis. "The NHS was short of essential Personal Protective Equipment, staff, beds and intensive care facilities. There was no planning ahead, including the ability to continue to manage normal demand such as cancer patients."

Despite the government's own experts recognising the real risks we face today (as well as pandemics, the top tier threats

identified includes cyber-attacks and terrorism), the political decisions did not follow. It's vital that the government now recognises their previous mistakes.

CND will be highlighting this message with our Nurses not Nukes bloc at the People's Assembly national demonstration on June 26th. We hope many of our supporters can join us in London for the protest, but if not, we have Nurses not Nukes material (including t-shirts, posters, leaflets and badges) available for you to order to arrange your own actions or stalls.

Puntis concludes saying "we know there will continue to be more pandemics" and there should be a shift to thinking of "defence" of the population in a new way by providing comprehensive top-quality health and social care services."

Money is available, we know that as we've seen a £24bn increase in this year's military budget. But we must campaign for it to be spent on the right priorities.

Fight the threat to protest

Vice-Chair of Parliamentary CND **Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP** explains the importance of resisting the government's attempts to limit protest.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH showed the Tories are more interested in cracking down than levelling up. Rather than addressing the major issues facing us: from rising poverty to structural racism, insecure work, and the climate emergency, they brought forward a raft of legislation designed to make it harder for people to express dissent and seek redress for injustice.

The Police Crackdown Bill (Policing, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill) is part of a wider authoritarian agenda that includes: campus free speech enforcers, mandatory voter ID, attempts to curb the power of judicial review, and a ban on boycotting goods and services from abroad.

The Police Crackdown Bill is a reaction against recent mass mobilisations, particularly the Black Lives Matter protests of last summer and the Extinction Rebellion uprising that helped pressure Parliament into declaring a climate emergency. The mass mobilisations of the past couple of years have shown

how protest and direct action have become important levers in a political system where progressive social movements have been increasingly cut off from meaningful policy influence.

The Police Crackdown Bill is part of an effort to try and push back against this as the Tories push through a policy agenda to which they anticipate serious opposition. Key provisions include new and harsher sentences for protest offences, criminalising Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities' way of life, creating a Prevent-style duty on knife crime and bringing in new stop and search powers for protesters.

If you want a clue as to how this legislation will be used, look no further than the way the police handled the Sarah Everard vigil in Clapham Common. It's not just about the formal powers the Bill outlines, it's also about the message it sends to the police: that the protesters are legitimate targets for heavy-handed tactics.

The scenes of officers manhandling masked female demonstrators to the ground show what happens when the government gives the police licence to shut down protests.

In the short-term, the attempt to roll back the right to protest backfired big-time. The opposition, led by Sisters Uncut and Reclaim These Streets, not only managed to force the Labour leadership to ramp up its opposition, it also scared the government into pushing the Bill back. This was an important victory for the movement but there's a real need to maintain the pressure when it returns later this year.

This Police Crackdown Bill is a real threat to the ability of progressive campaigns to recruit, mobilise and organise to hold the kind of demonstrations that leave the state with no option but to respond. I'd urge CND members to join the growing movement to put this Bill in the dustbin of history, where it belongs.

UK's illegal nuclear arms race

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** reports on the announcement that the UK will increase its nuclear arsenal – and that it is illegal!

WHEN the government recently unveiled its Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, much of what we read was expected: a post-Brexit 'Global Britain' that is on the offensive, 'projecting force' globally; a 'tilt' to the Indo-Pacific region, mirroring the positions of the US and NATO on China. Much of its rhetoric is reminiscent of the strategies of the Trump administration, and it situates Britain firmly as the US's junior partner.

What had not been expected was an increase of over 40% in Britain's nuclear arsenal. Currently in the region of 195 warheads, the arsenal was on course to reduce from 225 in 2010, to 180 by the mid-2020s – a decision of the Cameron-led coalition government. This is now reversed and will rise to 260, ending three decades of gradual reductions in the UK's nuclear arsenal. It is at odds with the renewal of the New START Treaty by Presidents

Biden and Putin earlier this year which continues bilateral nuclear weapons reductions between the two countries. It has led to observations that the UK is starting a new nuclear arms race.

The Review also includes a change in nuclear use posture. The UK now reserves the right to use nuclear weapons not only against nuclear threats but against supposedly comparable threats, such as chemical and biological weapons or 'emerging technologies', and against non-nuclear weapons states that may be heading in the direction of nuclear weapons.

An additional change is an end to the UK's much-vaunted transparency on nuclear weapons – an extension of the policy of deliberate ambiguity and an end to giving public figures for the 'operational stockpile, deployed warhead or deployed missile numbers.'

The legality of this changed policy was rapidly called into question. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that the UK

decision was contrary to the country's obligations under Article VI of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) – in other words illegal under international law, and this triggered CND to seek a legal opinion.

In a detailed document, two top legal experts, Professor Christine Chinkin and Dr Louise Arimatsu from the LSE found that the UK is indeed in breach of the NPT. Article VI specifies that signatories undertake to 'pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures' towards disarmament. The legal opinion finds that an increase in nuclear warheads does not constitute a good faith intention to negotiate and they are careful to point out that 'good faith' is not just mood music – it has legal status and requires concrete outcomes. It also finds that the changes in use posture are in breach of international law.

This legal opinion is a valuable tool in our work to overturn the warhead increase – and to abolish Trident altogether!

COP26: an opportunity to superfund a peaceful world

Sam Mason, policy officer at the PCS union, writes about how upcoming climate talks should be an opportunity for a just transition in jobs.

A YEAR DELAYED, due to Covid-19, the UN climate talks known as COP26, will take place in Glasgow in November. This is the first time since Paris in 2015 where governments will reassess progress on their (non-binding) CO2 commitments made as part of the Paris Climate Agreement.

While governments start to compete on setting more ambitious targets – the UK government has pledged a 78% reduction by 2035 – the ramped-up rhetoric is in reality a veil for the lack of meaningful action to date. According to the International Energy Agency, this year is set to see the biggest annual increase in CO2 emissions since the financial crash in 2010.

The government's ten-point plan for a so called 'green industrial revolution' is predicated on the 'net zero' hopes of decarbonising the economy by 2050 based on unproven negative emissions technology such as carbon capture and storage, and,

nuclear power. Both of these detract from the need to invest in renewable energy, and conservation measures to reduce energy demand such as a serious 'Green Homes' programme.

This does not add up to a plan let alone a Just Transition for workers and communities, with the social protections, reskilling and retraining for jobs this will require.

The language of Just Transition has long been fought for by the trade union movement in climate talks, and to have recognition of those words in the pre-amble of the Paris agreement was a major success. However, to have any real meaning, we have to fight for a transition based on justice, peace, and socially useful work.

For this it's worth remembering the origins of the term rooted in the ideas of Tony Mazzocchi of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union, and visionary of the US labour movement. Mazzocchi advocated for occupational health and safety, peace, and

environmental issues. In the 1970s he worked with Karen Silkwood to expose nuclear health and safety violations, and built coalitions across the labour, environmental, and peace movements.

But Mazzocchi understood workers needed protections if we were going to shut down polluting or hazardous work. He argued that just as there was a Super Fund for corporations to clean up hazards, there should be the same for workers.

We know the government has superfunds, including the billions committed to Trident replacement and increased defence spending. These should be used to develop renewable energy capacity and conservation programmes, along with investment in our public services, critical in responding to the climate emergency, and a real just transition for workers.

Nuclear is the biggest occupational health and safety threat to workers and communities. It's time to use these superfunds for a peaceful, and safe world, for real human security.

Stand with Palestine

CND backed the protests in May against the most recent Israeli assault on the Palestinian people. Around 250 people were killed, including more than 70 children. A truce has now been agreed but the occupation of Palestine and the blockade of Gaza remain. The violence came after weeks of spiralling tension in occupied East Jerusalem where Palestinians were being forced out of their homes, culminating in clashes at a holy site important to both Muslims and Jews.



CND calls for true peace and justice for Palestinians, which is the only way to prevent future conflict and killings. We also campaign for the establishment of a Weapons of Mass Destruction-free zone in the Middle East, as an increasingly important step in the struggle to achieve the

peaceful settlement of disputes in the region. Israel is the only country in the region to possess nuclear weapons, while Turkey hosts US nuclear weapons on its territory.

■ An upcoming CND conference on the Middle East will discuss these crucial issues.

NPT Review Conference: CND reports the UK for breaching the treaty

When an important event in the global nuclear disarmament calendar does take place, CND will be reporting the government for breaching the terms of the crucial nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

At the time of this magazine going to press, it looked like the NPT Review Conference (RevCon) had been postponed yet again. Originally intended to take place in April 2020, the

pandemic initially forced a delay to this August. Now it looks like the conference may take place in January 2022.

The NPT RevCon takes place every five years, and is an opportunity for the treaty's signatories to come together to discuss 'progress' towards a world without nuclear weapons. The NPT itself came into force in 1970, with the goal of general and complete nuclear weapons disarmament.

As one of five states that had already acquired nuclear weapons before the treaty was signed, the UK agreed to disarm. But fifty years later, Britain still has nuclear weapons and recently announced it would be increasing its arsenal by over 40%. So CND will be reporting the UK government to the United Nations for breaching international law by breaching the Treaty.

See our website to get involved: cnduk.org

Nuclear fusion not the answer

CND Vice-President and expert consultant on radioactivity in the environment **Dr Ian Fairlie** explains why the latest nuclear idea from the government cannot be supported.

THE GOVERNMENT'S new panacea for our energy needs – nuclear fusion – has almost nothing to do with our needs and everything to do with Prime Minister Boris Johnson's ill-considered techno-dreams. It will most likely join the line of Boris' flops after the Thames Gateway airport, the Emirates air-line cable car, the Thames Garden bridge etc. But this time the taxpayer will have to pay billions rather than millions.

What is nuclear fusion? It's a dangerous process whereby radioactive hydrogen (tritium) is smashed into another form of hydrogen (deuterium) at massive temperatures and pressures inside a plasma to release much radiation and some heat. The same process occurs in our Sun, but safely located 93 million miles away.

Formidable technical problems exist.

Since it commenced in 1983, the UK's JET fusion torus at Culham in Oxfordshire has not produced a single watt of usable

electricity. Many critics have stated that JET's success is always 30 years in the future: it is the same today as it was 30 years ago.

Nuclear fusion would be far from cheap, clean, safe or healthy.

In October 2019, the UK government announced funding for a smaller fusion reactor called STEP (Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production) based on the unsuccessful JET prototype at Culham. Quite why the STEP project is expected to work when its prototype has failed is unexplained in official documents.

In December 2020, the government asked local authorities to come forward with potential sites. Many LAs are so strapped for cash and close to bankruptcy that several have responded, regardless of the myriad problems. The plan is for the government to choose a site by 2024.

The government promises fusion will deliver cheap and clean energy to help move to a zero-carbon economy with little radioactive waste. But these claims are simply untrue – like many government statements in recent years. The reality is that fusion reactors, if ever operated, would produce many radioactive by-products that are far from harmless. Most (around 80%) of the energy would be high-energy neutrons causing structural damage, much radioactive waste and the need for biological shielding to protect operators and the public nearby.

In short, nuclear fusion would be far from cheap, clean, safe or healthy. Dr Daniel Jassby is a former research physicist at the Princeton Plasma Physics Lab, US and has worked for 25 years on neutron production from fusion. He says: "When you consider we get solar and wind energy for free, to rely on fusion reaction would be foolish". Quite.

CND's trade union volunteer **Annie Tunnicliffe** gives an update on the conversion of defence jobs.

THE LAST TIME I wrote about trade unions in this magazine was when BAE Systems and other weapons manufacturers had done a rapid turnaround, with government support, to produce vitally needed PPE to combat the Covid-19 virus. Union involvement was key to their success and demonstrated how the defence sector can transition to socially useful production, with worker involvement and the political will behind it.

Nuclear weapons and climate change are identified as the two urgent existential threats facing humanity. Work at CND with trade unions is therefore becoming increasingly focussed on and connected to two issues – firstly defence job diversification and secondly resistance to climate change. This is even more urgent with the announcement of a 40% increase in warheads.

CND works with many trade union groups to achieve our shared goal of scrapping nuclear weapons – unions are an important part of the fight against Trident replacement and in supporting defence job diversification. Many trade unions with members

“Defence diversification is about working with workers in the defence industry to identify how the skills they have and technology they work on can be put to more socially productive use.” Jeremy Corbyn in 2015, proposing a Defence Diversification Agency

working in the defence sector oppose Trident replacement – including Unite, PCS and FDA. We will be sending a draft motion to all CND groups to use with their local union branches and trades councils.

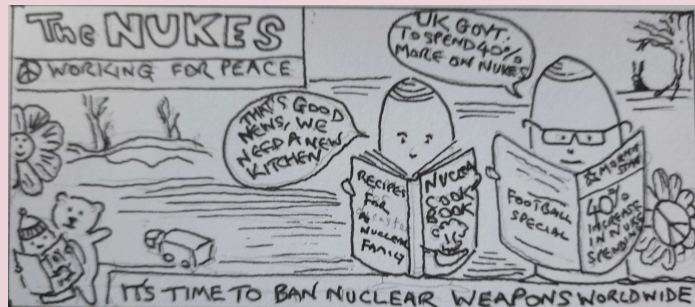
We know that with the political will and with the skills of workers and unions involved, defence job diversification is both possible and desirable. Just Transition is a framework initiated by the unions to achieve

diversification without substantially losing jobs. Most workers and union members know nothing about it so it is vital that training around it is taken on by the unions to get the process moving.

■ Any further suggestions or information from individuals or branches on how we can work together would be very welcome. Please email me at tradeunions@cnduk.org.

“Given the choice, I'm sure most workers would rather be doing healthy and socially productive jobs.” Sam Mason, PCS

Richard Alcock



I T HAS BEEN fantastic to see groups out campaigning on the streets again in the past few weeks, with requests for stall materials coming in thick and fast.

Yorkshire CND was one of the first out and about again, commemorating the International Day of Action Against Foreign Military Bases with a protest outside the notorious Menwith Hill spy-base. Many groups were also out in force supporting the Kill the Bill protests. **Derby CND** and **Chesterfield and District CND** had a particularly good showing at their local May Day rally.

Scottish CND and **CND Cymru** were particularly busy in April and May in the run-up to elections in Scotland and Wales. Both organised hustings events and encouraged candidates to support the parliamentary pledge to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Nuclear ban communities

Groups have also been extremely busy working on our nuclear ban communities campaign, where communities try and get their local councils to support the TPNW. We've had many successes this year,



including Oxford, Glasgow and Brighton signing up. If your group isn't working on this yet, take a look at cnduk.org/-/nuclear-ban-communities/ for more information.

Workshops

The silver lining of the lockdown restrictions is that it's made us more digitally active. This means we no longer have to travel to meetings and offers us more opportunities to keep in touch. To this end, CND has launched regular online workshops for groups to keep in touch and share ideas and

concerns. So far, we've covered topics including the press and fundraising – let us know if your group has an issue you would like us to take up: email information@cnduk.org.

Materials

For those of you arranging stalls, we have plenty of new materials!. We have fully updated TPNW leaflets, briefings and petitions; a new 'nuclear weapons don't keep us safe' leaflet; and a full range of Nurses not Nukes material, including tshirts, leaflets, badges and posters. Contact enquiries@cnduk.org to order.

Not already involved with your local group?

There are CND groups located across the country, and they would love to hear from you so that you can join the next action. Why not get in touch?

For a full list of CND groups, see <https://cnduk.org/local-groups/>. Or contact information@cnduk.org.

As life starts to recover

from the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been fantastic to get back on the streets and to in-person events. Webinars have been an important way of keeping us all connected and informed during the lockdowns over the past year – and we're sure they're here to stay – but I'm sure most of us are enjoying campaigning alongside others again.

Everyone at CND is particularly excited about our Nurses not Nukes bloc on the People's Assembly demonstration in central London on June 26th. The event has been called to protest the government's failings during the pandemic, and CND will be highlighting in particular the government's disastrous priorities – how can it justify funds for more nuclear weapons, but not to pay nurses the wages they deserve? We hope many of you can join us, more information on our website.

We'll be continuing the Nurses not Nukes theme throughout the year. Another ongoing campaign is our work to get the UK government to engage with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The states parties of the TPNW will meet in Vienna in 2022 and we'll be launching a campaign in the autumn to get the UK to attend, even if it's as an observer. Switzerland

CND Conference 2021 No new nuclear arms race

Join us online for CND's second remote Conference, which will be held on Saturday 16th October and Sunday 24th October (separate weekends). CND's AGM and policy conference will take place on Saturday 16th October, so members can take vital decisions and carry out crucial discussions while keeping everyone safe, and because at the time of writing it is too uncertain to plan a physical gathering of this size. Our public conference for discussion and debate will take place on Sunday 24th October. Please join us!

2nd August: Deadline for nominations for directly elected members of national council and national officers.

2nd August: Deadline for ordinary resolutions.

10th September: Deadline for amendments and special (constitutional) resolutions.



has already announced they will be attending in this capacity, so there's no reason at all for the UK to refuse to engage with this important treaty. We hope you'll keep an eye out for our upcoming actions and get involved as we lobby the Foreign Secretary.

And of course, the future of our planet remains one of the most vital issues facing us. CND will continue our Climate not Trident campaigning,

highlighting the links between nuclear weapons and climate change as members of Extinction Rebellion Peace. We'll also be supporting protest actions at the upcoming climate change conference COP26 in Glasgow.

So plenty coming up for the rest of the year and beyond, check our website and social media accounts if you can for the latest information.

Were you at Greenham?

It'll be the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp this summer, with many activities planned to mark the occasion.

Were you at Greenham at any point over the years? If so, and you would be willing to speak to the press, please contact pressoffice@cnduk.org.