

# campaign



## Climate not Trident

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** looks at the government's latest breach of international law.

**A**S TENS OF THOUSANDS gather in Glasgow for COP26, never has there been a more powerful and more urgent demand for action to deal with the climate catastrophe. While some politicians are still just rearranging the deckchairs outside the coalmine, protesters from diverse communities across the globe are telling it like it really is. Lives and livelihoods washed away, homes and crops destroyed by fire; mass migration, resource shortages, environmental degradation, species' extinction. There can be no bigger challenge.

For us there is no clearer response than

that every penny of the £205 billion that the UK government is spending on replacing Trident is money that should be spent on combating this climate emergency. Going forward, the costs of the climate emergency will be monumental. Extreme weather will become a more regular occurrence with the government having to spend vast amounts on rebuilding. There are already up to 40 million people worldwide who have been forced to leave their homes and seek refuge elsewhere as a result of climate change and further inaction will see this number, and

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the resulting pressure on those states still habitable, increase.

As climate change leads to increased competition between states over dwindling resources, such as land, clean water and food, the threat of conflict and even nuclear war is increased. And studies indicate that a regionalised nuclear conflict could devastate our eco-system causing mass starvation affecting millions of people.

Trident uses massive energy and resources in research, production, operation, dismantling and eventual waste storage, never mind the environmental catastrophe that would be created if it was ever deployed. This is in addition to the environmental devastation wreaked by decades of uranium mining, nuclear testing and nuclear waste dumping.

The £205 billion saved by cancelling Trident replacement could help fund Britain's transition to carbon neutrality by 2050, or sooner. The

government could use the money to embark on an ambitious Green New Deal plan, enabling a state-led rapid response to the threat of climate change and creating a generation of jobs in renewable industries, insulating our homes, upgrading public transport and restoring green spaces.

Part of that money would allow the government to help re-train the highly skilled engineers and technicians currently working on Britain's nuclear weapons system, ensuring their skills can be used to guarantee the future of our planet.

It would also allow Britain to set an example to nuclear-armed states across the world, demonstrating how the vast resources freed up by divestment from nuclear weapons can be used in the fight against climate change, helping ensure a future free from the dual existential threats of climate catastrophe and nuclear extinction.

**Join us on  
Saturday 6th November 2021  
to share the  
Climate not Trident message.**

[www.cnduk.org/cop26/](http://www.cnduk.org/cop26/)

## Spotlight

**This month  
CND North East  
Scotland /  
Campaigning for  
Peace**



2021 has been busy for many CND groups and supporters. But one group (previously Aberdeen and District CND) was particularly hectic, deciding to rebrand and create a new logo before launching into a full calendar of activities.

If you live in the region, please get in touch with the newly-named CND North East Scotland/ Campaigning for Peace, and say hello!

You can phone 01224 586435 or email [jhamiltonrussell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jhamiltonrussell@hotmail.co.uk)

# A digital future

Campaigning methods have had to evolve since the start of the pandemic. CND Campaigns Director **Sara Medi Jones** writes about CND's experience over the past 18 months.

**W**HEN the Covid-19 pandemic hit last year, for many people it felt like normal life just stopped. We were cut off from friends and family, our offices and our gyms, our social hubs and day to day reality. Of course, most of us had a mobile phone and some of us had made Skype calls to contacts across the world, but not many of us had set up a Zoom meeting or attended an online rally!

Similarly, CND was used to campaigning online. We sent emails updating our supporters on our campaigns, posted on social media and encouraged actions via our website. But our focus was always on being on the streets, marching and protesting or at events, in the UK and across the world, advocating in person for disarmament. Last March we asked ourselves, what now?

Our first step was to start organising online events and we were thrilled when 8000 people joined us for one of them. When the UK announced it was increasing its number of nuclear warheads, we arranged

When the UK announced it was increasing its number of nuclear warheads, we arranged an online rally which 40,000 people viewed.

an online rally which 40,000 people viewed. We've also organised a classical music concert to mark Hiroshima Day, a film screening and many informative discussions, all online. And all opening up our campaign to new audiences, regardless of where they were in the world.

And it's not just by organising online events that our digital campaigning has expanded. CND created an online exhibition to share what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, using artefacts from Japan. We collected and shared old photos and memories from previous Glastonbury festivals, and we're now working on digital campaign packs with new ideas for the future.

Being more creative online offers us so many possibilities as campaigners, and it's

important we learn more and share ideas together. Of course there are challenges. We have to consider the danger of excluding those without access to the internet, and the issue of online security, to name but two examples. And no one is trying to replace street campaigning, which is still the bedrock of our movement.

But this new model of activism, where in person and online campaigning are better integrated, will hopefully take our cause to more people and start new conversations about how we achieve a world without nuclear weapons. It also means that we're more connected with fellow campaigners internationally, and can learn directly about others' experiences and situations. This can only be a good thing.

### West Midlands CND meeting

**15 November** 7:30pm

Online.

■ For link to join contact:  
[wmcndall@gmail.com](mailto:wmcndall@gmail.com)

### Yorkshire CND Peace and Craft Fair 2021

**27 November** 10am-4pm

Victoria Hall, Saltaire, Shipley.

■ Contact:  
[info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk](mailto:info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk)

### Working for Peace in the Middle East – CND conference

**20 February** 1pm-4:15pm

Online.

■ To register contact:  
[information@cnduk.org](mailto:information@cnduk.org)

## Climate not Trident Take action for COP26

CND is proud to be part of the movement calling for urgent action to deal with the climate threat. As COP26 gets underway in Glasgow this week, CND is joining the protests. The main day of action is this Saturday, November 6th with numerous events taking place, including in London – join the CND banner at noon at Bank, marching to Trafalgar Square for a rally.

■ Protests and actions are taking place across the country, find out more at [www.cnduk.org/cop26/](http://www.cnduk.org/cop26/)



## CND Conference 2021

Thank you to all of you who joined us last month for CND Conference 2021. There was an excellent debate at our Policy Conference, followed by two panels of experts for the public day of our Conference, examining the effect of Britain's decision to increase its nuclear arsenal, its potential future under the nuclear ban, and the legacy of nuclear testing.

If you missed any of the public conference or would like to catch up on the adopted resolutions, see [www.cnduk.org/about/cnd-conference/cnd-conference-2021/](http://www.cnduk.org/about/cnd-conference/cnd-conference-2021/)

## Meet the staff

This month:

### Kirsty Stewart, Supporter Database Manager

I have now been at CND for nearly seven years in my role as Supporter Database Manager. My main responsibilities are to oversee the management of CND's database, process and update all CND membership and supporter records, process payments, update contact details, and produce membership lists for CND groups. I am also the CND contact for all Data Protection matters.

As part of the membership and fundraising team, I also provide assistance in processing and banking fundraising donations, prepare budgets, and occasionally work on merchandise stalls at events. None of this would be possible without you, CND's members, so thank you!



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