

campaign



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Glimmer of hope



Tom Unterrainer,
CND Chair

WHEN faced with such events as the war in Ukraine, the re-militarisation of Europe, the return of US nuclear bombs to the UK, new nuclear warheads, the expansion of NATO and plans for new nuclear power stations, it can be a challenge to locate glimmers of hope. One such glimmer is, without doubt, our Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Together, we have built opposition to nuclear weapons and have consistently explained the risk of their use. We were part of protests around the country in opposition to war in Ukraine and we ensured that dangerous talk about nuclear weapon use

was challenged. We've worked with others across Europe to oppose the billions earmarked for a new wave of militarisation, arguing that far from making anyone safer such spending will drive us closer to danger. When we discovered plans to return US nuclear bombs to RAF Lakenheath, we quickly organised. Hundreds of you travelled from across the country to say 'NO' to US nuclear bombs. Remember this: where there is danger, wherever there is threat and when chaos raises its head, our Campaign is ready to respond.

Speaking of hope, the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons met in Vienna in June. The Treaty represents a defiant rejection of nuclear weapons by an increasing number of states. Representatives of these states were joined by thousands of activists in the Austrian capital, where they discussed, debated and planned the next steps.

Just over 1,400 miles away, in Madrid, a rather different meeting took place at the end of June. At the NATO

summit, leaders of the nuclear-armed alliance discussed how to spend the additional funds each had committed to military spending. They renewed and updated NATO's nuclear and overall 'posture'. NATO was met with a counter-summit, organised by European peace activists. Here, attendees discussed how best to meet the challenges posed by NATO's geographical and political expansion, which now ranges from the North Atlantic to South Asia.

CND pays special attention to opposing Britain's nuclear weapons system and we pay close attention to each development in the Trident replacement programme. As poverty, hunger and insecurity stalk these lands – as they do in others – significant sums of money continue to be wasted on weapons of mass death.

CND's work continues in dangerous times and our collective work is indispensable. Thank you all.

No war in Ukraine

This is a message to CND supporters from Ukrainian campaigner **Yurii Sheliazhenko** from the Ukrainian Pacifist Movement. He has previously spoken at our online rallies against the war in Ukraine.

Dear friends in the UK!

THE Ukrainian Pacifist Movement is grateful to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and other peace groups for your tireless rallying to stop the war in Ukraine and to stop NATO expansion. Ukrainian pacifists are living in cities under Russian bombardment which have already killed thousands of civilians, including children.

We believe this brutal invasion should be stopped, but we strongly oppose reckless demands to close the sky. Eight-years of bloodshed in Europe, the armed conflict between United States and NATO-backed Ukraine, Russia and her client separatists of Donetsk and Luhansk should not escalate into a world war between global West and East risking nuclear apocalypse.

We call on Russia to stop military operations in and around Ukraine and



negotiate in good faith for a sustainable peace. We address the same call to the government of Ukraine and all NATO countries including the UK. We call on Ukrainian officials to respect non-proliferation obligations and to stop speculations about regaining nuclear weapons, and we call on Ukraine and all responsible nations of the world to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

We also call for the solidarity of global civil society in seeking nonviolent solutions

to the current crisis. We hope that with the help of all people in the world speaking truth to power, condemning war profiteering, demanding a stop to shooting and a start to talking, aiding those who need it, especially conscientious objectors to military service and other vulnerable groups, and investing into a culture of peace and education for nonviolent citizenship, we can together build a better world without armies and borders. A world where Truth and Love are great powers, embracing East and West.

Government nuclear plans widely criticised

CND Vice-President and Scientific Advisor **Dr Ian Fairlie** assesses the response to the government's nuclear energy plans.

IN APRIL Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the Government's energy strategy, central to which were its plans to build more nuclear power stations. But its much-trumpeted strategy was a PR disaster, which was almost uniformly panned in the UK and overseas media.

The Guardian called the plan a 'major misjudgement' going on to ask 'Why is the UK government backing nuclear power when onshore wind is so much better? Onshore wind is clean, cheap and extremely popular, with the government's own polling showing support from four out of five people in the UK.' Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey MP described the plans as 'utterly hopeless'.

In the mainstream media, the phrase 'missed opportunity' came up most often. The proposals lacked a major intervention to help households lower their bills, again said *The Guardian*.

Many newspapers pointed to the absence of new measures to accelerate efficiency efforts and the renewables. Ed Miliband MP, shadow energy spokesman, said Johnson had been 'held to ransom' by Tory backbench opposition to windfarms.

The Financial Times said there was urgent need for a shift to cleaner, cheaper, domestic sources of renewable energy. Yet it had took months of government wrangling to produce its insipid effort.

Many newspapers derided Johnson's nuclear plans as being yet another pie-in-the-sky notion, to join his other hare-brained ideas such as the Thames Gateway Airport, the bendy bus, the Flower Bridge, the bridge to Northern Ireland etc.

The Guardian's finance editor, Nils Pratley, summed up the situation. He said: 'The big bet on nuclear is, to put it mildly, hopeful. The government is trying... to double nuclear's share of

electricity supply... The plan strains credibility. Up to eight new reactors... is an enormous undertaking.' Talk of 'leading the world' in nuclear construction should therefore be filed under 'believe it when you see it'.

CND's response was that 'the government's apparent obsession with nuclear power is ill-considered. It should instead be concerned about fuel poverty and the recent 60% hike in energy costs. The government is supporting the most expensive, by far, of all the energy options available to it. How is that going to help fuel poor people? Why is the Government sidelining the renewables which are the fastest and most effective means of alleviating high energy costs and gas dependence and pressing for the most expensive option that can do nothing for over a decade?'

Perhaps the most damning verdict came in *The Times* editorial which concluded 'is this the best the Government could do?'

What next for the TPNW?

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force in 2021 and recently had its first meeting of state parties. CND Campaigns Director **Sara Medi Jones** looks at what the treaty means for the UK and what the next steps for it are.

EIGHTEEN MONTHS after entering into force, the TPNW has already gained international support. At the time of writing, 86 countries had signed this new United Nations treaty which makes nuclear weapons illegal in the countries that sign it. Following delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the state parties finally met for the first time in Vienna in June (an event known as 1MSP), with plans for a second conference already underway.

But despite other NATO countries Norway and Germany attending 1MSP as observers, the UK government has refused to engage with the entire process, ignoring the campaign led by CND's supporters to get them there. CND handed in a letter to the Foreign Office and supportive Parliamentarians asked questions in the House of Commons, but to no avail. And this inaction despite the fact that 59% of the public want the UK government to sign the TPNW, according to a poll



commissioned by CND.

So what needs to change for the UK to start engaging? A new report published by CND Vice-President Rebecca Johnson has looked into the possible circumstances (copies available from the CND office). It outlines how a major nuclear accident or use or a referendum that delivers an independent Scotland could be external factors that push the UK towards the treaty. But it also explores how pressure to improve security and economic priorities in light of the climate emergency and Covid-19 could also make an impact. We have to clearly make the links between current security concerns and the treaty.

And this includes the ongoing war in Ukraine which has brought to sharp attention the fact that having nuclear weapons in the mix always makes any situation more dangerous. If the whole world had signed up to the TPNW and got rid of their nuclear weapons, we wouldn't be worried about nuclear catastrophe. And Britain must take the lead and dare to disarm first.

While we rightly marked the entry into force of this treaty as a victory for grassroots campaigning and our anti-nuclear movement, the hard work needed to get the UK to engage must start now.

US nukes return to Britain

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** writes about the disturbing news that US nuclear weapons are returning to Britain.

A S WAR RAGES in Ukraine, talk of world war three increases and Russia and NATO move closer to direct confrontation. This terrifying prospect increases the likelihood of nuclear war. It's now routine to talk about the use of nuclear weapons, not just with belligerent bluster, but with calculation about so-called battlefield use. Stopping this war, urging a ceasefire and negotiation has to be top of the agenda; we have to prevent escalation to nuclear use, yet none of the 'leaders' involved seem to care about the risks and consequences.

Britain's own role in exacerbating the nuclear problem is significant – and growing. Last year the government announced an increase in the UK's nuclear arsenal of over 40%, together with an increase in the

scenarios in which they would be used – including against non-nuclear weapons states. This increase reverses decades of gradual reductions, goes against our international treaty obligations and contributes to a new nuclear arms race.

'unable to comment on US spending decisions and capabilities, which are a matter for the US government. It remains longstanding UK and NATO policy to neither confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons at a given

In the 1980s we got rid of all those weapons, and we have to have the energy, the commitment and the confidence to do that again.

But that's not all. In recent weeks we have heard that US nuclear weapons are coming back to Britain – or may already be here – at RAF/USAF Lakenheath in East Anglia. The news was revealed by expert Hans Kristensen after scrutinising a recent US Department of Defense document.

Parliamentary CND immediately asked questions of the Ministry of Defence, but the response was that it was

location.' As if another country's nuclear weapons coming to Britain isn't a matter for our government and parliament!

CND's position was immediately clear and strong: we oppose any return of US nukes to Lakenheath. They will put Britain on the front line in any US war and we will do everything we can to stop them. 110 US/NATO free-fall B61 nuclear bombs were located at Lakenheath until 2008, when



they were removed following sustained protest at the base by CND and the Lakenheath Action Group, and we will do it again. B61s have continued to be sited in five other countries in across Europe – Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy and Turkey – in spite of strong opposition to them in some of the ‘host’ countries. All these weapons will be upgraded.

On 21st May, we organised a national demonstration at Lakenheath, together with Norwich CND. Hundreds attended and a big thank you to everyone who came or who donated to the Crowdfunder to support the event. It’s the first stage in the ongoing campaign.

Meanwhile, further questioning from MPs has resulted in a response from the MoD, two days after our

protest: ‘The Ministry of Defence has agreed to deliver a number of infrastructure programmes and projects on behalf of the United States Visiting Forces at RAF Lakenheath.’ Sustained questioning will continue from our side, until we get to the truth about the nuclear weapons.

Putting this into the wider global picture shows us how dangerous this is. The return of US nuclear weapons to Britain and the upgrading of its nuclear weapons across Europe is a further undermining of prospects for peace in the region. The US is the only country to locate its nuclear weapons outside its own borders and this major increase in NATO’s capacity to wage nuclear war in Europe is dangerously destabilising.

A big question is whether they have already been returned to Britain, or is their delivery still in preparation. Either way this is a huge challenge for the peace movement and we will do everything we can to prevent these weapons being sited here. Speaking recently about the risks of the Ukraine war turning nuclear, I said that it was precisely these weapons, at bases across Europe, that would be likely to be used first in a nuclear war over Ukraine – that the US/Russia war will be fought in Europe. This was our worst fear in the 1980s when millions mobilised across Europe against cruise and Pershing missiles being sited here. In the 1980s we got rid of all those weapons, and we have to have the energy, the commitment and the confidence to do that again.

Keep speaking out

Parliamentary CND Chair **Kirsten Oswald MP** writes about why it's vital elected representatives keep speaking out against nuclear weapons.

THERE IS certainly no shortage of big issues of concern to the public at present. Lives have been lost and disrupted by the pandemic, then came the invasion of Ukraine and a crushing cost-of-living crisis. Meanwhile Brexit and Partygate continue to make headlines. In different ways, these issues all occupy minds and demonstrate a need for clear thinking to deal with the range of serious challenges we face.

They also demonstrate how quickly we can move from a steady state to something that threatens to run out of control. For me, the read across to the nuclear debate is clear. We must confront the complacency that grips the leaders of the nuclear powers. We must confront their acceptance that an arsenal of nuclear weapons that could obliterate human society is something we have to live with.

In January this year, five of the nuclear powers reaffirmed that 'a nuclear war cannot be won and must

never be fought'. Yet, weeks later, the threatened use of nuclear weapons was back on the front pages. The reality these leaders must confront is that so long as this arsenal exists, the world teeters on the brink of nuclear catastrophe. That is why we must double-down on the disarmament message at what may be thought a difficult time for this message to cut through.

The UK Government is, of course, not helping; its worldview relies heavily on a nuclear obsession. Who would have thought that 30 years after American nuclear weapons left Greenham Common and the Holy Loch we would face their return, this time at RAF Lakenheath and perhaps elsewhere across the UK?

Far from pulling us back from the brink, in addition to offering the UK as a base for US nuclear weapons the UK Government are investing over £200 billion in newer, and more, nuclear weaponry to keep us on the brink well into this century.

Par for the course for this Government, their Trident replacement programme is a clear violation of the UK's obligations under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), as confirmed for CND by Simon (now Lord) McDonald, former permanent secretary at the Foreign Office.

We need parliamentarians to keep speaking out, whether that is through debates and motions or asking ministers to act, as we did recently when we asked for UK Government representation at the first Meeting of States Parties to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

With 86 signatories and 61 states parties already, the TPNW offers an opportunity to move on to planning for a real end to nuclear weapons. It is important that we push the UK Government to take that opportunity. It is only when the weapons no longer exist that we will truly have stepped back from the brink.

Peace will not be achieved in a divided world

By Ludo De Brabander, Paula Polanco, Reiner Braun, Nora Garcia, Kristine Karch, Franziska Kleiner, Isabelle Vanbrabant and Maurizio Coppola (The Peace Summit Group).

THE WITHDRAWAL of US and NATO troops from Afghanistan marked the end of an era: the Global War on Terror. Back in 2018, the Trump administration announced that the entire US effort would be directed at preventing Russia and China from consolidating as world powers. That idea of Multipolarity – of a world with several poles developing and cooperating in peace – had to be destroyed to secure US global domination.

And now, at the most recent NATO Summit in Madrid, NATO countries adopted a new strategic concept following US aspirations on further confronting China and Russia. This will irresponsibly escalate international tensions. Instead, we need the strengthening of a multilateral framework based on common and human security, disarmament, and a quick ban on nuclear weapons.

Why should the peace movement demand the dissolution of NATO?

Since its creation in 1949, NATO integrated authoritarian, fascist, and colonial regimes into its military alliance to fight the Cold War. After the fall of the USSR, instead of disappearing, it expanded in five consecutive waves into Eastern Europe and created bilateral alliances with more than 30 countries all over the world. Now we have a so-called Global NATO, an international network that uses military agreements, bases, manoeuvres, arms deliveries, and troop deployments to ensure its geopolitical dominance. We cannot forget that NATO-led military interventions have destabilised and destroyed Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, and Libya. The trail of destruction and militarisation of the world is undeniable and in the midst of this global crisis, we must demand a path of lasting peace for the world, not a path of confrontation and division.

The New Cold War prevents us from addressing the

challenges we face as humanity

All wars are terrible. In all wars, people suffer. Their consequences and sequels last for generations. The future of countries is destroyed as we see in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Palestine, Yemen, Libya, Syria, Iraq, or the Sahel.

But there is an alternative agenda, the United Nations 2030 agenda, which defines that the priorities of humanity are the fight against inequality and poverty, tackling the climate crisis or the access to health and vaccines. These global challenges that threaten the daily security of people cannot be addressed in the middle of a war that divides the world in two and plunges us into a new economic and global crisis that causes inflation to rise, puts our food and energy security at risk and focuses the efforts of states on military investment and destruction. Military alliances do not solve our problems, but dialogue, demilitarisation, and international cooperation do.

News from the Trade Union Advisory Group

Research published by the TUC showed that while 86% of workers support climate action and a greener economy, only 25% believe current government plans for climate action will create many new jobs in their area. 71% believe their employers should consult them on changing to a greener economy but only 13% have been given the opportunity to share their ideas. Frances O'Grady, TUC General Secretary, said: 'Every job should be a good job, with a decent wage. Changing our economy and society to deal with climate change gives us the chance to create millions of good green jobs. Workers are ready. They know this has to happen. But ministers are doing nowhere near enough to create good new jobs

and future proof the industries delivering good new jobs now. Across the country workers and unions are coming together to innovate and create worker-led decarbonisation plans. Ministers and employers need to get with the programme – and deliver the just transition we all need.'

At the Scottish TUC, the GMB union withdrew their motion supporting nuclear power as they were aware of the lack of support it would attract.

NEU's annual conference voted to oppose nuclear power and emphasised the link to nuclear weapons, with the adopted motion stating: 'Conference further believes that nuclear power should be opposed because it creates nuclear waste which remains active for tens to hundreds of

thousands of years, that there is no safe way to store nuclear waste and most is currently stored above ground in facilities that are running out of space, the use of nuclear power increases the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Conference instructs the Executive: Oppose the growth of nuclear power and to call for a just transition based on the use of renewable energy.'

CND's Trade Union Advisory Group recently arranged a series of webinars on nuclear power. See CND's website or contact information @cnduk.org for a link to watch these back.

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

Trident update

The government's most recent Defence Equipment Plan has revealed a £48 billion increase in how much it intends to spend on defence equipment in the next decade, much of this expected to be spent on new nuclear warheads.

While work is already ongoing on a new class of

submarines to deliver the UK's nuclear weapons system, it was only recently revealed – via the Pentagon – that the UK had decided to go ahead with a new warhead programme. A Warhead Delivery Team has now been set up, with a budget of up to £14 billion believed to be set aside.

The Defence Equipment Plan highlights the huge and

increasing cost of the nuclear weapons system as a whole, and warns that the 'new programmes will be challenging to deliver'. Perhaps most serious is the fact that the project to develop the nuclear submarines' core production capability at Rolls Royce in Raynesway was £58 million over budget in the 20/21 financial year.

CND groups have responded admirably to the dramatic and worrying developments of the past few months.

Stop US nukes coming to Lakenheath!

In response to the news that US nuclear weapons could be coming to RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk, CND worked with **Norwich CND** to organise a protest at the UK base that's run by the US. Groups from across the country organised coaches to attend, including **London CND**, **Yorkshire CND** and **Greater Manchester & District CND**. Many reported a surge in interest locally and we're sure this will only increase as the campaign continues.

No War in Ukraine

Since February, groups have been mobilising in response to the war in Ukraine, organising emergency street stalls and meetings. CND groups across the country are collecting signatures for our petition to stop the war, as well as drawing attention to the risks if the war turns nuclear.

Nuclear ban communities

Groups have also been active on our nuclear ban communities campaign, where campaigners work to get their local councils to support the



Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The most recent success came thanks to **Faringdon Peace Group**, who lobbied Faringdon town council to adopt a supportive motion.

Scottish CND took the campaign to an international stage – with the Scottish Parliament officially supporting the TPNW, it sent delegates to the first conference of the state parties to the TPNW. If your group isn't working on this yet, take a look at [cnduk.org/nuclear-](https://cnduk.org/nuclear-ban-communities/)

[ban-communities/](https://cnduk.org/nuclear-ban-communities/) for more information.

Coming up

Groups are now getting ready for the Hiroshima and Nagasaki anniversaries. **Salisbury CND** is in touch with campaigners in Japan, while many other groups are organising ceremonies, candle floats and vigils. This year, CND hopes to make a video of all the activities taking place across the country – please contact pressooffice@cnduk.org to find out how your group can contribute.

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.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine and the ongoing war has had devastating international repercussions, with our own government's response also contributing to the world becoming a more dangerous place. The decision to host US nuclear weapons on UK soil for the first time since 2008 makes us a target and the campaign to stop this will be a main priority for CND in the coming weeks and months.

As well as showing solidarity with those protesting the war in both Ukraine and Russia, CND will continue to highlight the danger of the conflict turning nuclear. NATO and Russia have around 12,000 nuclear weapons between them—some 100 times the power of the Hiroshima bomb. The risk of nuclear war is the greatest for many decades, and we will continue to campaign on the streets and in Parliament against this possibility.

Of course, CND's supporters know that the best way to prevent nuclear war is to get rid of the weapons completely. Over 60 countries have just met in Vienna for the first meeting of the state parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which makes nuclear weapons illegal in the countries that sign it.

CND Conference 2022 Nuclear Disarmament not Nuclear War!

Join us online for CND's annual conference, which will be held remotely on **Saturday 8th October and Sunday 16th October** (separate weekends). CND's AGM and policy conference will take place on **Saturday 8th October**. Members can take vital decisions and carry out crucial discussions while staying safe, due to ongoing caution required around the pandemic. Our public conference for discussion and debate will take place on **Sunday October 16th**. Please join us!

1st August: Deadline for nominations for directly elected members of national council and national officers.

1st August: Deadline for ordinary resolutions.

9th September: Deadline for amendments and special (constitutional) resolutions.



CND and our supporters urged the UK government to attend, but there's more local action we can take as well. Towns and cities across the country are becoming Nuclear Ban Communities as councils sign up to support the TPNW. We hope that all our groups can be active on this campaign, and invite you to a workshop on July 19th to find out more.

Another international conference taking place imminently at the United Nations in New York is the re-scheduled Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. CND will be hosting a fringe meeting on August 3rd with the UK's Disarmament

Ambassador, to challenge him on why the UK is not sticking to its commitments.

Another strand of work we'll be continuing is our campaign to get banks and pension companies to divest from nuclear weapons. We targeted many of these countries in days of action earlier this year and there is more to come.

All this work is as urgent as ever, with the deteriorating international situation and Britain's plans to start building new nuclear warheads spurring us on to take even more action. See you at the next protest!