



Three New Reports Put Trident in Spotlight

“Time for Public Debate on Trident is now”

At the launch of a report by the Nuclear Education Trust, MPs questioned the role of Trident in today's world. The launch was chaired by Margaret Beckett, and contributors included Nick Browne MP former Chief Whip, Jeremy Corbyn MP, former defence minister Nick Harvey, and CND's Kate Hudson.

James Arbuthnot MP, Chair of the Defence Select Committee, described replacing Trident as “an awful lot of money to spend on something which is of doubtful usefulness”. While he concluded that he was still in favour of keeping UK nuclear weapons, he slated the idea of nuclear weapons as “insurance policy” saying they are more of a “booby trap”.

The report titled ‘*The UK's Defence Needs and International Nuclear Disarmament Responsibilities*’ is based on written submissions and interviews with current and past Defence Secretaries and Ministers, academics, think tanks, campaign groups and other defence policy stakeholders. The report found:

- “For now and foreseeable future no nuclear threat to UK” (in the words of Malcolm Rifkind MP, former Defence and Foreign Secretary).
- The relevance of keeping nuclear weapons vis-à-vis current and foreseeable future UK security threats is either non-existent or negligible.
- There is an urgent need for a wider and more informed public and Parliamentary debate on nuclear weapons – and especially whether they do or do not contribute to UK's security - but the multilateral

versus unilateral nature of debate is anachronistic, inaccurate and unhelpful.

The full report is at www.nucleareducationtrust.org

AWE funds universities

Britain's secretive nuclear weapons research organisation gives over £8m a year in research funding to more than 50 universities according to another new report published by Nuclear Information Service and Medact (an NGO of health professionals)

The Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) puts most of the money into five of the UK's leading universities with which it has formed “strategic alliances”. The money helps fund research into plasma physics, high-performance computing, materials science and hydrodynamics, all of which are important for designing and making nuclear weapons.

The report, launched recently at University College London, exposes the extent of AWE's links with universities and is based on responses to freedom of information requests from the MoD and universities.

More info www.nuclearinfo.org/ or www.medact.org/

UK spends £320 million a year on nukes

A new analysis published recently by Scientists for Global Responsibility (SGR) reveals the total UK government spending on research and development for nuclear weapons to be over £320 million per year.

The estimate includes R&D spending on: nuclear

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Tactics against Trident

There was an excellent turnout at our successful Tactics Against Trident Strategy Day in Leeds in January. Supporters from all over the county and beyond got involved in workshops and talks ranging from how the media can help our campaigns, to discussing ideas for CND's crucial steps over the next two years.

A number of fantastic ideas and questions came about from the group work, including suggestions on how we can build our membership and groups, and what events to prioritise. The buzz and excitement lasted all day and resulted in new groups being formed to tackle issues of interest, including the Wool Against Weapons, Tour de Yorkshire, local festival work and a new 2016 campaign to name a few. Participants also benefited from the campaigns skillshare, discussing how to answer difficult questions when talking to members of the public, how to be effective in small groups or as an individual, and other useful ideas. A comprehensive Campaigner's Handbook covers these things and more, and is available on the Yorkshire CND website on the Resources page.

Notes from the Tactics against Trident day are on the Yorkshire CND website under Resources/member's pages.



Some of the participants holding a Wool against Weapons scarf - see over

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warheads at the Atomic Weapons Establishment; early development work for new 'Successor' submarines; and the nuclear propulsion system for those submarines. The figure covers the years 2008 to 2011. The estimate is based on data obtained using freedom of information requests to the MoD, together with further publicly available information.

The spending on nuclear weapons is much higher than key areas of UK public spending. For example, the spending on nuclear weapons is five times higher than that on renewable energy.

For the full report, www.sgr.org.uk/

Opinions Changing

Meanwhile, an encouraging editorial from The Engineer magazine states "With austerity continuing to bite, and the debate over cuts in funding to vital services such as flood defences at fever pitch, Britain's humongously expensive Trident replacement program has rarely looked like more of an anachronism."

www.theengineer.co.uk

And in the Mirror on Feb 13th, Lib Dem Tessa Munt asks the question "So what on earth are nuclear weapons for?", going on to highlight the costs of Trident.

The Independent Catholic News recently reported a new petition by Christian campaigners calling on the UK government to abandon renewal of the Trident nuclear weapons system, and instead use the money to help flooded communities rebuild - and develop flood defences. https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/UK_Government_Cancel_Trident_spending_help_flood_victims/

Opinion pieces such as these contribute to the tide of opinion against Trident. If you subscribe to a journal, make sure you send a letter to the editor on the subject of Trident replacement.

A "Disgrace"!

UK Refuses to Attend Conference on Nuclear Weapons



At the eleventh hour, the UK Government announced that it would not attend the conference in Nayarit, hosted by the Government of Mexico, on 13 & 14 of February 2014. The conference explored the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons as a follow-up to the discussions started in Oslo in March 2013.

MPs attending the launch of a new Nuclear Education Trust report on nuclear disarmament (see front page) criticised the decision. Sir Nick Harvey, the Liberal Democrat MP and former armed forces minister, said the British refusal to attend the conference was a "disgrace". 146 other states attended, alongside the UN, The Red Cross and Red Crescent and other civil society organisations, although other nuclear weapons states also declined to attend.

The meeting concluded with a call for new international standards on nuclear weapons, including a legally-binding instrument. The Chair of the meeting said "It is time to take action. The 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki attacks is the appropriate milestone to achieve our goal. Nayarit is a point of no return."

Austria has announced that it will host the next conference on this issue - let's make sure that next time, the UK is there!

Full report from www.reachingcriticalwill.org/news/latest-news/

New People's Budget street stall available



Yorkshire CND has invested in a new People's Budget street stall. It is a brilliant way of engaging with people on the street or at events about the costs of nuclear weapons. Passers-by are invited to spend £100 billion any way they like within the various categories. It opens up debate about the cost and ethics of Trident in an engaging way. The street stall fits onto a standard pasting table and can be sent through the post (or picked up from the office) to any group or member that wishes to borrow it. Kent Area CND, Nottingham CND and Norwich CND have all decided to replicate the idea.

So please consider doing a street stall in your town - we can also provide leaflets etc. Get in touch with the office to book the People's Budget.

The Big Scottish Trident Question?

One of the big questions of the moment is will Scotland vote for independence in September this year? And what would it mean for Anglo-Scottish relations and UK nuclear weapons?

Angus Robertson of the Scottish National Party has said "neither the people nor Parliament of Scotland want nuclear weapons dumped here, and we are clear that Trident would have to be removed as quickly as possible".

There being no other location to base Trident nuclear submarines, this would leave the UK in a difficult position with regard to its nuclear capabilities. One response to this is that England may retain Faslane as sovereign English territory.

In a recent BBC debate panellists clashed about the role of nuclear weapons. Speaking during the programme, Ms Hyslop, Scotland's culture secretary stated that: "in terms of jobs, in terms of the replacement of jobs, diversification, there are plans in place that can make sure that Faslane is retained for some matters and that their employment is provided" She added that an independent Scotland would be in the same position as the 25 Nato member states which did not have nuclear programmes. Whereas, Anas Sarwar, of the Scottish Labour Party argued that "nuclear weapons are bad, they're wrong - it doesn't make independence right". Shockingly, panel member journalist Alex Massie, described the Trident debate as a "non-issue", adding: "That idea that anyone would base your vote upon independence in the referendum on it strikes me as being banal, trivial and tedious."

So what will be the fate of Trident in Scotland? Robertson summarises the whole issue on his policy page "only a Yes vote next September will empower Scotland to get rid of Trident, and the money saved will help build a fairer society and stronger economy".

'Historic step' in Iran nuclear negotiations

Yorkshire CND was pleased to learn that Iran recently agreed to curtail its uranium enrichment activities, hailed as 'an historic step on the path to peace and security in the Middle East'. On 20th January, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed Iran had ceased enriching uranium above the threshold of 5% purity.

Following extensive negotiations by the international participants, a deal was reached in November when Iran also agreed to dilute its stockpile of 20% uranium in exchange for the gradual easing of sanctions. CND's General Secretary, Kate Hudson said: 'Negotiations over such sensitive issues as a nuclear programme are fraught with political and logistical issues: they take time. But what we are seeing today is the fruit of dogged diplomacy and a willingness to pursue peaceful solutions to complex regional problems.'

This news demonstrates the direction which attempts to curb nuclear activities should take but also begs the more immediate question of the global transparency of *all* nuclear programmes. Indeed, CND's statement emphasises that this transparency 'should not just be limited to Iran. While Israel is widely recognised as a nuclear state, it refuses to confirm or deny its arsenal: the only state in the world to maintain a policy of nuclear ambiguity.' These negotiations are a big step but only the first. Iran's agreements demonstrate the effects that campaigning can have, nationally and internationally, and this needs to be built on further to ensure lasting progress in the future.

Mobeen Hussain

Mandela & Nuclear Weapons

The end of 2013 saw the sad death of Nelson Mandela. Much has been said about his roles as anti-apartheid activist and South Africa's leader. Less was reported on Mandela's opinions about war and nuclear proliferation.

In 1991, South Africa agreed to dismantle its secret nuclear weapon programme thus becoming the first country to voluntarily dismantle its nuclear arsenal. There has been much controversy over the motives of the still apartheid state's decision to take such a step. Some argue that the government knew that its days were numbered and thought it politically unbalancing and threatening to leave an ANC-led South Africa with nuclear weapons.

However, regardless of motive, the scrapping of nuclear weapons can only be viewed as a positive step. Mandela continued to criticise the development of nuclear weapons and encourage world leaders to abandon such capabilities to focus on poverty and education. Mandela's inspiring speech at the UN General Assembly in September 1998 called on the US and other nations to make a definitive commitment to the eradication of nuclear weapons. He stated that "*the challenge of poverty across the globe has been brought into sharp focus by the fact of the destructive 'fast movements of currents' of wealth from one part of the world to the other. Put starkly, we have a situation in which the further accumulation of wealth, rather than contributing to the improvement of the quality of life of all humanity, is generating poverty at a frighteningly accelerated pace.*" Although this statement was made over 15 years ago it rings true today, as the UK government gears up to spend billions on nuclear weapons while cuts are being made in education, welfare, the NHS and elsewhere.

Mobeen Hussain

Book Review: Preserving the Record: Gaza: When the Sky Rained with Fire, by Mushier El-Ferrar

I saw Mushier El-Ferrar speak about his book at a York Palestine Solidarity Campaign event. He asserted that it was important to write about the events of "Operation Cast Lead" to ensure that the world does not forget about this human tragedy and that historical narratives are not distorted to feed the propaganda machines of Israel or its supporters. On a personal level, it was difficult to watch his presentation which included shocking photographs of the victims. Sometimes referred to as the "Gaza War", wrongly implying that it was undertaken by both sides equally, this Israeli operation inflicted terrible horrors upon the people of Gaza, with drones, chemical weapons, tanks and artillery.

El-Ferrar, originally from Gaza and now a refugee in Sheffield, interviews 17 families who describe the horrors they faced, the ongoing trauma and the continuing siege they live with. His book also includes photographic evidence of the atrocities.

In addition, the book brings to mind the hypocrisy of global powers in relation to Syria. International powers were quick to condemn the possibility that the Syrian government used chemical weapons. Yet they refuse to comment on the use of similar weapons on a civilian population by Israel. The global community must display transparency and moral integrity when dealing with military brutality, whether it be Syria or Israel. Only then can peace and progress be made in the Middle East. Human suffering and justice must take precedence of nation power building and political motivations.

To quote the Sheffield PSC, this book is not "*just a cry of the victims of Israeli aggression but a call to the reader to campaign for that justice that all Palestinians urgently need and deserve. It is our responsibility to end this running sore that has haunted the world for the last seven decades.*" The book can be bought from www.sheffieldpsc.org.uk.

Mobeen Hussain

Yorkshire CND Action at AWE Burghfield

Peace activists from the area, including those from Yorkshire CND are planning to take direct action to blockade the Atomic Weapons Establishment base at Burghfield.

This is part of Action AWE (Atomic Weapons Eradication), a grassroots campaign of nonviolent actions dedicated to halting nuclear weapons production at the Atomic Weapons Establishment factories at Aldermaston and Burghfield.

If anyone would like to be involved, please contact Cath at the office.

US Bases Update

There have been several reports in the press recently about the presence of US bases in the UK, including those



in Yorkshire at Menwith Hill and Fylingdales. The Independent reported that the Ministry of Defence is set to introduce "draconian" new powers to tighten security and limit access to US airbases in Britain implicated in mass surveillance and drone strikes.

The measures, which include powers to arrest for offences ranging from taking photos to failing to clean up dog mess, would be put in place through a little-known project to overhaul the by-laws surrounding military facilities across the country.

Exemptions which have applied previously have also been reviewed. The last set of laws drawn up for Fylingdales in 1986 states that no offence is committed if it is "proved that an act or omission was unavoidable by the exercise of reasonable care". The proposed new rules contained no such exemption.

Lindis Percy, of the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases (CAAB), said: "Byelaws have not been used around other bases for years and yet they are now being brought in for these locations. Why? Does this mean an expansion of both bases? As usual there is a cloak of secrecy thrown around these US occupied and controlled bases as to what they are planning."

Seamus Milne, in a recent Guardian article deploring the 70 years of US troops stationed in the UK, argued "there is no case for maintaining foreign military bases to defend the country against a non-existent enemy. They should be closed."

Meanwhile, it has been announced that Serco, the multinational services company that has been the target of protests around the world because of its handling of prisoner transport, asylum seeker detention and other profiteering, has been re-awarded a contract to provide operation and maintenance support to one of the UK's most sensitive military sites, the Solid State Phased Array Radar (SSPAR), part of the UK/US Ballistic Missile Early Warning System at RAF Fylingdales.

Diary Date - On 4th July CAAB will be holding their annual Independence from America Day at Menwith Hill, and then on 5th 6th July it is Le Grand Depart, Tour de France in Yorkshire, which passes close to Menwith Hill. Yorkshire CND and CAAB will be busy publicising the role of Menwith and saying 'Recycle the Bases'. More info soon.



wool against
weapons

Wool Against Weapons is the new campaign that CND is supporting, that aims to raise awareness of nuclear weapons by encouraging people to knit/crochet a meter square of pink

scarf. We need about 2,000 pieces of knitting in order to create a seven-mile scarf that will connect AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield on 9th August this year.

We already have knitting groups in Yorkshire, in Skipton, Keighley, Huddersfield and other areas, and are looking for more. So whether you can knit a section, or you would like to help coordinate more knitters and knit-ins in your area, get in touch. Yorkshire CND will also be organising transport to the event on 9th August.

Regional contact in Yorkshire is Bryony Pye bryonypye@ymail.com or look at www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk for more local contacts

Fundraiser's column

The next Day of Dance will be our 40th!

Please do come and help us celebrate on **Saturday 26th April** at the Victoria Hall Saltaire. As well as 40 different workshops through the day we have a fantastic Evening Event with three live bands on one ticket (ceilidh, klezmer and swing/jive). This is a major fundraiser for CND, as well as a unique community event and a jolly good day out so please do encourage friends and acquaintances to come too. You can print off a booking form or book online at www.dayofdance.co.uk If you would like some flyers and posters to distribute please contact me. **It would also help a great deal to have lots of lovely home-made cakes to sell on the day**, so please do get baking and let me know you are bringing something.



Many thanks to all those who so generously contributed to our recent annual appeal. It has raised a total of £1,028 so far, which is a great contribution towards our campaigning. If you haven't contributed so far you are of course still very welcome to do so – just send a cheque to 'Yorkshire CND' at the address overleaf.

Would you like to organise a benefit gig for us? One of the things that came up at the Strategy Day was that it would be great to have a party – if this could be combined with fundraising that would be even better. A gig could involve various kinds of music, a comedy night, or food with music to follow. If you have the time, skills and/or inclination to help organise something like this please do get in touch to discuss.

Denise Craghill denise@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Running for Peace

Yorkshire CND is going to have a little team running in the Bradford 10K run on Sunday 16th March. If you would like to sponsor them, please get in touch with the office, or even better, if you would like to join them, you can register up to 13th March, we can provide sponsorship forms and CND T-shirts. There'll be a few of us supporting them on the day, so again, get in touch if you want to join us to cheer them on.

**Scrap Trident
Save Our
Public Services!**



Lib Dem Conference Demo - York 8th March

Yorkshire CND is hoping to have a stall, and will definitely have a presence on the 'Better Way' demo organised by northern TUC. We will have our banner pictured above, and lots of 'Cut Trident not Jobs, Health' placards.

Please meet us there at 11am at the 'Eye of York', by Clifford's Tower, or phone 07980 291478 to find the CND bloc.

abetterwaydemo.org/

Nukewatch

As reported in the last issue, nuclear bombs are taken by road from Burghfield, Berkshire to Coulport, Scotland where they are stored and put onto Trident nuclear submarines.

A warhead convoy left Burghfield on 28th Jan and headed to Scotland on the M40 /M6 route. Although, hearteningly, two separate lorry drivers informed Nukewatch of the convoy, there were no spotters out until it was over the Scottish border. Nukewatchers tracked the convoy as it returned. Of late the convoy has travelled the western route to Scotland but in the past has used A1/A1M

URGENTLY NEEDED – nukewatchers along the M6 between Stafford and Preston and people who could reach the A1 from York, Leeds and Doncaster. There are some of us able to go out at short notice but we need a driver and vehicle (petrol money reimbursed). The more people we have to contact the more likely it is that at very short notice we can cover the motorway in Yorkshire.

Please contact YCND office if you think you can help.

www.nukewatch.org.uk

Upcoming Events

Saturday 8th March - Cut Trident not Public Services - Yorkshire CND bloc on the TUC demo at the Lib Dem Conference in York. Meeting point at 11am at the historic 'Eye of York', by Clifford's Tower. abetterwaydemo.org/

Saturday 8th March - Action AWE NVDA training 10am-5pm, at Quaker Meeting House, 188 Woodhouse Ln, Leeds LS2 9DX
Training for nonviolent, direct action. All welcome. The training will be of use to those interested in taking action with other campaigns. Bring some money or food to share for lunch!
E-mail mobilise@actionawe.org to book or for info. Action AWE (Atomic Weapons Eradication) is dedicated to halting nuclear weapons production at Aldermaston and Burghfield. www.actionawe.org

Thursday 13th March – Commonweal Lecture – Michael Randle: Civil Resistance, the rise and rise of nonviolent action. 6pm, Small Hall, Richmond Building, Bradford University. Free admission, advance booking at <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk>

Sunday 16th March - Bradford 10K Run. See inside for details on how to support/join our CND team.

Friday 11th April - CND Event in Centenary Square, Bradford, noon, for the Global Day of Action against Military Spending. More details to follow from office.

Monday 14th April - CND event in **Leeds** for Global Day of Action against Military Spending. Contact office or Leeds groups (opp) for more info.

Huddersfield - unfurling wool against weapons scarf. More info from cara@cooptel.net

Saturday 26th April – Day of Dance Yorkshire CND's big FUNdraising event (see inside)

4th July - Independence from America Demo at Menwith Hill

5 & 6th July - Tour de Yorkshire - Cycle against Trident actions and events, more info to follow.

Other Events

Saturday 5th April – CND stall at OTLEY Green Fair, Otley Courthouse, 10am to 4pm. Free entry. Stalls, local and national campaigns, crafts, therapies, organic veg. Entertainment. Children's art workshop! Café. Fully accessible venue. www.otleycourthouse.org.uk

SARAJEVO PEACE 2014 International peace conference in Sarajevo from June 6-9 to mark the 100th anniversary of World War I. From a world of war and violence to a culture of peace and non-violence, including a youth camp. <http://www.peaceeventsarajevo2014.eu/>

Ongoing

Menwith Hill Vigil - Every Tuesday 6-8pm outside the main gate of Menwith Hill. Organised by Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases mail@caab.corner.org.uk or 01423 884076

Local CND & Peace Groups Contacts

Huddersfield Peace Group c/o Charlie Fairbank, fairbankcharles@gmail.com, Tel: 01484-846183

Leeds Met Uni CND/People & Planet - contact g.gwynne7562@student.leedsmet.ac.uk

Bradford and Bradford Student CND - s.baginska@student.bradford.ac.uk

Middlesbrough / Teeside CND - hussainsam03@gmail.com

Keighley area - contact Sylvia on 01535 596808

Leeds - no active CND group but contact Dave on 0113 274 1011

Grassington & District Peace Group - Richard Hargreaves, strand@hawkswick.net

Sheffield CND - Kath Cripps crippskath@gmail.com 0114 2680726 <http://www.sheffieldcnd.org.uk>

Fund Education Not War, Sheffield Uni Group - contact Elva e.lynchbathgate@hotmail.co.uk

Are you subscribed to our email announcements list? A fortnightly email keeping you up to date between newsletters - cath@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

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