



The biggest CND demo in a generation!



In freezing cold weather, tens of thousands of people filled the streets of London on February 27th to protest the renewal of Trident. Eight coaches from across Yorkshire joined the demo, together with our music playing mock missile (see photo). It was the largest demonstration against nuclear weapons for a generation, and it felt inspiring to be part of a growing movement against Trident.

There was strong cross-party support for the event, with inspirational speeches from three party leaders: Labour's Jeremy Corbyn, the Scottish National Party's Nicola Sturgeon, and Plaid

Cymru's Leanne Wood. Caroline Lucas of the Green Party also spoke.

Many speakers mentioned the humanitarian and environmental impacts of nuclear weapons, and the urgent need for Britain to adhere to its international obligations to disarm and support moves towards a new global ban treaty.

Nicola Sturgeon, the First Minister of Scotland, said: "The use of nuclear weapons would bring about suffering on an unimaginable scale ... How can we expect other countries to disarm when we say nuclear weapons are essential for our security?"

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What Next?

The demo is just the beginning - we need to keep building the campaign, and most importantly in the next few months, put pressure on MPs in the run-up to the vote. We'll be launching a section on our website soon on lobbying MPs.

Leanne Wood stated that "it is never acceptable to use nuclear weapons" and they "belong in the dustbin of history". Caroline Lucas called for Britain to "stop hiding behind rhetoric of deterrence – Trident is a weapon of mass destruction in breach of international law".

Citing research from Scientists for Global Responsibility, Lucas also pointed out that Trident has more firepower than all the weapons used in World War II and could kill tens of millions of people: "Right now the UK is boycotting new multilateral disarmament talks in Geneva. This is completely unacceptable.")

Jeremy Corbyn, spoke about the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons and his participation in the Vienna conference on the issue in December 2014.

Saying that no one should forget the "absolute mass destruction on both sides" that would follow a nuclear attack and reiterating his "total horror of nuclear weapons", he went on to state: "I want to see a Labour government that would adhere to all the articles of the non-proliferation treaty."

On the morning of the march, a joint letter from senior health



professionals, coordinated by Medact, was published in the conservative Telegraph newspaper. It pointed out:

"The International Red Cross Red Crescent movement, the World Medical Association and other health organizations have called for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons because they contravene humanitarian law and pose unacceptable risks to humanity."

The demo got a lot of coverage in national and international media, and Yorkshire's missile was much photographed, and appeared on several news channels, including Sky, The Telegraph, Vice Magazine and PressTV. For more photos see Facebook.com/ YorkshireCND

Solidarity demos in Yorkshire

Several of our groups and supporters who couldn't make it to the demo in London held solidarity vigils and demonstrations in their home town. In Harrogate there was an anti-Trident stall at the Green Party conference, and in Hebden Bridge people gathered in St George's Square with placards and leaflets.



Trident - the current political context

We now know that the vote on Trident renewal has been delayed until after the EU referendum on 23rd June – apparently 'in order to build a consensus'. This announcement from David Cameron came around the same time as it was revealed that the replacement programme is actually already underway. The Defence Secretary Michael Fallon is allocating a further £640 million to Trident renewal in advance of any parliamentary decision - bringing the total so far spent on it to almost £4bn. The declaration of this spend on the replacement programme comes just days after Nicola Sturgeon pledged to make Trident a key issue in the forthcoming Scottish election.

Perhaps the Tories are just too confident about winning their case in parliament - in January a SNP-Plaid Cymru motion urging the Government to abandon plans to renew Trident failed by 327 votes. Among the motion supporters were 19 Labour MPs, four Liberal Democrats and one Tory. Jeremy Corbyn has signalled that a 'free vote' will be granted to Labour

MPs for any vote on the 'maingate' decision and an analysis of the possible outcome of a parliamentary vote currently shows that there are likely to be 450+ votes in favour of renewal with 123 against and some 60 or so undecided. However, the official decision has still to be taken democratically and, as CND General Secretary Kate Hudson has said, "what is the point of a parliamentary vote on Trident if the government's going to spend millions on replacement anyway?" So, what are the chances of us making an impact before or after the parliamentary vote?

The Labour Party has a defence policy review underway with results due in June (see page 4). This review could establish Labour's stance on Trident at the next general election and we are campaigning strongly in the Party to encourage support for Jeremy Corbyn and to establish a policy of nuclear disarmament. We need many Local Constituency Parties to enter resolutions on this issue to the annual conference in September to get the issue debated and policy

changed. Despite the level of popular support for Jeremy and for scrapping Trident, what remains of the Blairite establishment together with a general desire not to let the Tories back in and the current position of Unison and GMB (sceptical of abandoning Trident due to possible job losses) all present problems for us but a good vote against Trident in parliament will present the government with a problem of legitimacy – especially as Scotland has shown such strong opposition.

It is also important to help the growing anti-Trident campaign by working at grassroots level – street campaigning, discussing the issues with people, outlining the obvious links with the current government's austerity policies, the spending cuts on important services, the NHS, education and welfare.

From an international perspective the Corbyn phenomena seems to be part of a wider Euro/US trend in terms of international popular support for disarmament. We can develop stronger links with existing campaigns and initiatives such as the Marshall Islands Legal Case in the Hague and ICAN's "Don't Bank on the Bomb". In addition academic studies have developed ideas for diversification and shown the capital intensive nature of the arms industry, meaning fewer jobs are generated per £ of investment, compared with other state sector projects. We can increase pressure on our government to participate in meetings such as those on humanitarian effects and the discussions of the ongoing UN Open Ended Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament (see page 5).

If the vote goes Cameron's way, the replacement submarines would come into service in the early 2030s, continuing the UK at-sea nuclear patrols for another generation. We must do all we can to prevent that and create a situation that will break the log jam on serious international moves toward nuclear disarmament. We cannot do this without masses of help from you – please get in touch and ask how you can play your part in helping to create a truly safe and secure UK that puts the welfare of its people first.

Mock missile touring Yorkshire - Can YOU help with storage

To build for the Feb 27th demo, Yorkshire CND has been touring around a mock Trident missile. The missile was recommissioned from an arts company, and has been a permanent advert for the demo in the yard of the Yorkshire CND office for some weeks. With help from our friends in Bradford, who provided not only a sound system to accompany it, but also on one occasion a car with a speaker on the roof, we've visited Leeds, Bradford, Todmorden, Huddersfield and Hebden Bridge. We've got good media coverage in local papers and in Leeds, the missile led a Rage Against War demonstration, providing the speakers with amplification.

We have the missile at least until Easter, and quite possibly beyond if we can find a supporter with a large enough drive to store it. So if you'd like to organise a visit to your town, get in touch, and if you're someone with a large drive we'd REALLY love to hear from you! We're keen to visit York, as our banner "Yorkshire needs flood defences not nuclear offences" is particularly



Yorkshire CND's missile visits Huddersfield

New Bradford CND launched

Back at the beginning of February, a new Bradford CND was launched at Culture Fusion. The inaugural meeting was really successful, attended by a genuine diversity of people from all walks of life. The group have been really active since, leafleting with the mock missile in Bradford, helping build for the demo, and meeting once a week in the run up. If you would like to get involved, you can link with them on facebook.



Inaugural meeting of Bradford CND

PICAT – A Public Interest Case Against Trident

Late in 2015, anti-Trident activists began a new and ambitious project to institute a citizen's prosecution of the Government and specifically the Secretary of State for Defence for breaching international law by its active deployment of the Trident nuclear weapon system.

PICAT is co-ordinated by Trident Ploughshares and involves groups across England and Wales in a series of steps which will hopefully lead to the Attorney General's consent for the case to go before the courts.

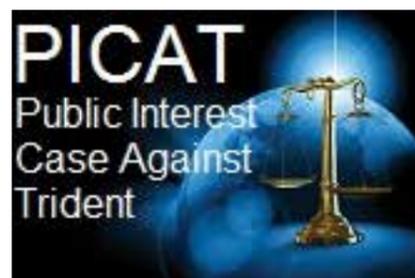
Groups, including CND groups in Leeds and Bradford, began by seeking an assurance from the Secretary of State for Defence that the UK's nuclear weapons will not be used, or their use threatened, in such a way as to cause wholesale loss of civilian life and damage to the environment. In the case of no response or an unsatisfactory one groups then approach their local magistrates to lay a Criminal Information. If consent for the case is not forthcoming from the Attorney General the campaign will then consider approaching the International Criminal Court.

Veteran peace campaigner Angie Zelter, who has developed the project along with international lawyer Robbie Manson, said:

"The government has consistently refused to give evidence to prove how Trident or any replacement could ever be used lawfully. This campaign is an attempt to find a court willing to examine objectively if the threat to use Trident is in fact criminal as so many of us think it is. It is a matter of vital public interest. The UK, along with the other nuclear weapon states, is becoming increasingly isolated from the growing global momentum to outlaw nuclear weapons, as expressed in the Humanitarian Pledge, which has already attracted the signatures of 117 nations."

The project is supported by an impressive list of expert witnesses, including Phil Webber, Chair of Scientists for Global Responsibility, Professor Paul Rogers, Department of Peace Studies at the University of Bradford, and John Ainslie of Scottish CND.

If your group would like to get involved in PICAT, then go to www.tridentploughshares.org for further information, or contact Yorkshire CND



com/BradfordCND, or contact Chris on christopherbutler1@mac.com or 07913 636036

Trident and the Labour movement

Yorkshire CND has been particularly busy these last few months speaking against Trident at trade unions, constituency Labour parties and Momentum meetings (the grassroots network set up to support Jeremy Corbyn). This is particularly important work, as the Labour party and the Trade Unions will be key to how the vote on Trident in parliament in July plays out. Although the Tory majority means the likelihood is that the vote will be in favour, if the Labour Party changes its policy to oppose Trident, that will be a major victory for the anti-nuclear weapons movement, and brings hope for the future.

Emily Thornberry, Shadow Defence Secretary, who is herself expressly anti-Trident, has been tasked by Jeremy Corbyn to undertake a review of the defence policy. Ms Thornberry has pointed to the changed nature of security threats facing Britain today, and asks what role should Britain play in building a world that is more peaceful, more just and safer?.

Her key question on Trident is: Will renewal of Britain's nuclear capability aid us in protecting Britain's security and pursuing the values that guide our foreign and defence policy?

She is asking individual members and local parties to send submissions defencereview@labour.org.uk before 30 April 2016. If you are a Labour Party member we would urge you to make your opposition to Trident known, and to encourage your branch and constituency to do likewise.

June 2016 – DISARM TRIDENT

Direct action against Trident.

The UK Government is intent on replacing its nuclear weapon system and will do so unless the public resists. Much of the work on the new system will be carried out at AWE Burghfield near Reading in Berkshire. This military base is responsible for the final assembly and maintenance of nuclear warheads.

Yorkshire CND will be joining people from across the country and indeed the world by going down to AWE Burghfield to disrupt the illegal and immoral 'business as usual'. The date for our action will be 9th June - if you would like to help us organise this, or come along, or you would like training, please get in touch with Yorkshire CND.

Fundraiser's Column

Since the last Action for Peace, we have all been working flat out to raise money to get as many people as possible down to the Stop Trident demo. Thanks to all the people who couldn't make the demo but contributed to coach costs. Thanks also to Phil who made £40 selling badges on the coaches.

We were successful in raising over £500 at the John Hegley gig in Hebden Bridge and over £450 at the Burns Night Supper in January. We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped out at these gigs, we couldn't host them without you, but also everyone who came and supported us and made the evenings fun. Thank you also to Amir who donated Neeps and Tatties - I have never peeled so many potatoes, neeps were particularly challenging, but I was told it was all very tasty.

The next fundraising event is the amazing Day of Dance on 14th May, the programme is almost finished and will be out soon. In the meantime please put it in your diaries, some classes are



shorter and will be cheaper, with deals that will make the whole day of dancing more affordable, with something for everyone. There are also performance workshops where tutors get to showcase their dancing. We will also have facials, massage, Dru yoga, singing, thought provoking storytelling and humour for stress and creativity workshop. Mmm I wish I could attend them all. In the evening we have a Ceilidh, Dancing from the 30s, 40s and 50s, and Honeydrum with Afro-Cuban Rumba, Afro-Brazilian Samba Carnival and West African Dance. Please support this event, it has been going for over 20 years, and many, many amazing tutors have given their time for free to raise money for children affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, Oxfam and of course Yorkshire CND. **Tickets will be on sale soon, please keep checking our website <http://saltairedayofdance.blogspot.co.uk/> or facebook page www.facebook.com/saltairedayofdance/**

Michelle Atkinson

The UN and Nukes

The United Nations General Assembly recently convened an Open-ended Working Group on nuclear weapons which aims to: (i) substantively address concrete effective legal measures, legal provisions and norms that would need to be concluded to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons; and

(ii) also substantively address recommendations on other measures that could contribute to taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.

Disarmament commentators Wildfire were very positive about the first session, saying:

* For the first time, government representatives engaged in a serious, substantive exchange on what effective legal measures (including a ban treaty) would involve, how they could work without the nuclear-armed states, and what their effects might be.

* There was refreshing focus on what can actually be done, in practical terms, given the decades of impasse and failure - in contrast to just calling for things that will never happen.

* None of the nuclear-armed states attended. It didn't matter. This in itself was a powerful boost to the notion that non-nuclear-weapon states can go ahead on their own.

* The idea that progress on nuclear disarmament requires finding a "middle ground" between nuclear-armed and non-nuclear-armed states, was thoroughly disputed.

Important new material was brought by Malaysia and Costa Rica who jointly presented two working papers: the first an empirical analysis of possible disarmament measures, showing that all are blocked apart from a ban treaty and variants; the second showing the potential of a ban treaty for building and strengthening a global norm against nuclear weapons. For more info see <http://wildfire-v.org/news.html>

Upcoming Events

Every Tuesday - demonstration at the main gate of Menwith Hill, from 6pm - 7.30pm

10th March - How will peace be built in Syria?
Brian Jackson House, (next railway station),
HUDDERSFIELD 6:30 - 8.30pm

12th March - Non-Violent Direct Action Training in Leeds in preparation for the month of direct action against Trident at Burghfield. Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House, 188 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9DX. To book contact training@tridentploughshares.org or go to <http://s.coop/nvda>

19th March - leafleting against Trident with mock missile, Hebden Bridge St George Square 11am and HALIFAX, 12.30PM, location tbc

18th April - Global Day of Action against Military Spending. Yorkshire CND will be marking this day with an event or an action locally, with details to be confirmed, please get in touch

22nd April, afternoon (tbc) at Bradford University, debate on Trident with Prof Paul Rogers, MP Philip Davies, CND and others. Chaired by Prof Neil Cooper, organised by Bradford Uni Peace Society

14th May - the next Day of Dance - put it in your diaries now, with more details to follow - see inside

9th June - Yorkshire CND direct action at AWE Burghfield. Please get in touch if you'd like to be involved, we need lots of people

4th July - date for your diaries - Annual Independence from America Day

Nukes of Hazard

ICAN and the SNP have been raising issues of safety around nuclear convoys recently, and Yorkshire CND will be working with ICAN on a new campaign to raise awareness in areas where the convoy passes through. Ask your MP to sign EDM 987 on Nuclear Convoys which calls for the Government to clarify the safety measures which have been put into place in the areas which the convoy travels through as well as putting a stop to the convoys.

The EDM follows the introduction of a Bill in Parliament which seeks to regulate the convoys. Please email your MP and ask them to add their name in support.

No Star Wars

The Global Network against Nuclear Weapons and Power in Space has recently launched two new videos made by our own Dave Webb.

Done in a Star Wars style, the videos are a really great accessible introduction to missile defence, how it works and what we can do about it.

Go to www.space4peace.org to view the videos, and they will soon appear on the Yorkshire CND website under Missile Defence.

Local CND & Peace Groups/

NEW! York University CND group - contact joshfoskett@gmail.com

Rotherham CND - jon.smith@blueyonder.co.uk or phone 07952 044824

NEW! Bradford & District - or Chris Butler
christopherbutler1@mac.com or 07913 636036

Calder Valley - next meeting 16th March contact kathypitt725@hotmail.com or 07980 291478

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

Leeds CND - contact Anna on 07503 749944
[facebook.com/LeedsCND](https://www.facebook.com/LeedsCND)

Middlesbrough / Teesside CND - hussainsam03@gmail.com

Hull CND - Angela Needham, 07737 249461, angela_needham@homeopathy-soh.org

Keighley Peace Justice & Environment Network - contact Sylvia on 01535 596808
robinandsylvia@aol.com

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

Sheffield CND - jonathanpaul.wallis@virginmedia.com <http://www.sheffieldcnd.org.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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