



## UN Working Group initiates global ban on nuclear weapons

In a dramatic final day of talks, the Open-Ended Working Group on nuclear disarmament (OEWG) has called for the start of negotiations by the United Nations general assembly for a legally binding ban on nuclear weapons.

The proposal, agreed on August 19, says *"The Working Group recognized...widespread support for the General Assembly to convene a conference in 2017, open to all States, with the participation and contribution of international organizations and civil society, to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination."*



The working group was established in December 2015 by the UN General Assembly to address concrete effective legal measures, legal provisions and norms that would need to be concluded to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons.

The proposal to begin negotiations on a global ban at the UN general assembly in 2017 is a very significant political step. Supported by a majority of states, it is a reminder of the overwhelming and enthusiastic support by the international community to make practical steps towards international disarmament. This breakthrough is a result of the new global discourse on nuclear weapons. Bringing together governments, academia and civil society, a series of three conferences have highlighted evidence about the devastating humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and the risks of their use, whether

accidental or intentional. The momentum generated by the "humanitarian initiative" has now culminated with the international community being on the verge of negotiating a nuclear weapons ban.

However, a global ban is no panacea - there is much political work to be done. The UK refused to take part in the working group and parliament voted to replace Trident at a cost of £205 billion. We can also expect that the nuclear powers will attempt to delay progress on this proposal. But in spite of the resistance of this small group of states, we should not underplay the importance of this step in the journey towards achieving nuclear disarmament.

It is now up to the October meeting of the UN General Assembly First Committee to bring forward this process by issuing a mandate to start the negotiating process.

More information from <http://www.icanw.org>

## However they voted, Trident is still wrong!

Parliament voted on Trident in July, with predictable results considering that the vote was being used as a political football, to shore up unity among the Tories and exploit divisions in the Labour Party.

On a vote of such national, or indeed global importance, it was in our opinion politically irresponsible to go ahead, only days after a new prime minister, cabinet and Defence Secretary had taken the reins, not to mention the major opposition party being in disarray.

Had the vote not been more about domestic party politics than about weapons of mass destruction, we would have been disappointed not to see the results of our hard work bear more fruit, particularly in terms of

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the number of Labour MPs voting against Trident.

But as Paul Rogers says in an interesting article on our website, this is not a done deal, and Trident faces technical, organisational and legal challenges - "Take all three issues together – a potentially obsolete project, already in serious organisational trouble, and one that could face serious legal challenges – and any idea that the Trident replacement debate is over and done with may turn out to be very far from the truth."

In some ways, we feel there are grounds to be cautiously optimistic about the prospects for nuclear disarmament, despite the vote. There are the major steps being taken on the global stage surrounding moves towards a ban (see above). In Scotland only one of the 59 MPs voted for Trident, and with Brexit prompting calls for a new referendum on independence there, Trident replacement may end up with nowhere to go. For the first time in a generation, the main opposition party has a leader who is in favour of nuclear disarmament. Jeremy Corbyn has pledged to make unilateral disarmament a part of his leadership campaign, and if he wins again, he will have an even greater mandate to pursue this.

## With only a few days notice, lots of people protested the vote



*From top:* People gathered in City Square, Leeds, with the mock missile and the Leeds Quakers massive Trident replica making commuters aware of our feelings on the vote; Calder Valley Peace & Justice organised a demo at rush hour in Hebden Bridge Town Centre, which around 50 people attended; banner drop on the morning of the vote in Leeds city centre. People also gathered outside the town hall in Sheffield.



## Why you should protest at Fylingdales on 1st October

Russia and China view the build up of US and NATO missile defence bases in Europe and the Pacific as destabilising and an aggressive threat to their nuclear deterrence strategies. This forward deployment of missiles and radars on their borders is not only preventing any progress in nuclear disarmament talks but actually on the verge of reversing some of the agreements made on the stationing nuclear weapons in Europe. At a time of increasing international tension and distrust it is so important that we protest at the use of US bases in the UK for this purpose and for the global threat posed by the increasing militarisation of space.

The demo is one of the events during 'Keep Space for Peace Week', organised by the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space to highlight the growing use of space by the military for communication, surveillance, targetting and management for power projection and military interventions.

**The Fylingdales demo is shaping up to be a great mix of music, poetry and excellent speakers. Fabulous York band 'Bull the Band' will be playing us in (check them out at [www.facebook.com/BullTheBand/](http://www.facebook.com/BullTheBand/)). Speakers include Kate Hudson (General Secretary of CND), John Bourton (Chair of Veterans for Peace), Denise Craghill (York Green Councillor) and all the way from Germany, Konni Schmidt who will talk about missile defence and the protests against the Ramstein base in Germany, NATO's Air Command HQ.**

There will also be food, hot drinks and a toilet by the marquee. The politics and entertainment will be followed by a march to the main gate at Fylingdales (about 1 mile), where we will hand in a letter to the Base Commander.

**Transport available from Bradford and Leeds, and contact us for possible liftshares from elsewhere.**

**KEEP SPACE FOR PEACE WEEK**

Demonstrate against US Missile Defence and space based warfare

**Saturday 1st October 2016**

Up North - 'RAF' Fylingdales, N York Moors  
or  
Down South - 'RAF' Croughton, Northants

Join our Joined-Up Demo at either of these two important bases in the UK at the centre of war planning and war fighting for the US and NATO

SPEAKERS, FOOD, MUSIC



# Report from No Nato Summit in Warsaw

by Dave Webb

It is rare that anything positive comes from a NATO summit and this one in Warsaw on 8-9 July was no exception. Beforehand, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg had declared that this would be NATO's biggest reinforcement since the Cold War. Despite a 1990 agreement not to push NATO further east after the reunification of Germany and a 1997 pledge not to install 'permanent and significant' military forces in former Warsaw Pact countries, NATO troops are to be deployed to Romania, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Poland, with the UK sending troops to the two latter countries. Russia has repeatedly expressed concern about the destabilising build up of NATO troops and exercises on its doorstep.

NATO restated its commitment to being a nuclear alliance. Around 180 tactical B-61 nuclear bombs are deployed in Europe under the NATO nuclear sharing arrangement, currently stored in Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Italy and Turkey. They will receive a US upgrade by 2019-20 that will turn them into guided missiles to be carried by stealth F35 bombers which the host nations will have to purchase. Delivered in this way they need to be lower yield bombs, making them more usable.

The summit also declared NATO's Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system in Europe as having an 'Initial Operational Capability'. Current parts of this system include the command and control centre at NATO's Air Command HQ in Ramstein Germany; four US missile defence destroyers based at Rota in southern Spain; a forward-based early-warning radar at Kürecik in Turkey and an 'Aegis Ashore' missile site in Deveselu, Romania. Further 'Aegis Ashore' missiles are due to be stationed in Poland at the Redzikowo military base in 2018. NATO claims this system is needed to counter threats to Europe by Iran and North Korea, but neither has threatened Europe and the real target is more likely to be Russia which has repeatedly expressed concern about this undermining of its deterrent capabilities and consequently has withdrawn from arms control talks.

The possibility of NATO taking collective military action is now greatly increased through its recognition of cyberspace as 'an operational domain'. Thus cyber attacks can potentially

trigger an Article 5 military response (an attack on one is an attack on all). This is very worrying because of the difficulty in determining the source of cyber attacks and technical evidence of them is rarely shared or clarified.

It was decided that Afghanistan will remain NATO's largest operation, extended until at least 2020, and it will also help Iraq tackle Daesh with 'training' and 'capacity building'. Although NATO has stated it will not be increasing its membership soon, it has agreed an assistance package for Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova "to resist outside pressure and to advance reforms." Also to further provoke Russia.



Joseph Gerson, Ann Wright and Dave Webb

To resource all this, Stoltenberg has said that he expects a real increase of 3% in defence spending by European members and Canada - an additional \$8 billion. SIPRI reports that U.S. military spending is 34% of the world's total defence spending and NATO countries together add up to more than half. Russia spends 4% of the world's total. Who then is the most dangerous? But the demonisation of Russia is good business for the western military industrial complex and so it goes on.

In another worrying development by NATO, it is to continue to help further the militarisation of the EU begun by the Lisbon Treaty of 2009. A Joint Declaration was signed with the Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission to take the partnership between NATO and the EU 'to a higher level'.

However - wherever there is militarism, there is always opposition and in Warsaw at the same time as NATO, 6 Polish organisations joined with the international Network 'No to War/No to NATO' to organise an alternative conference 'No to War - No to Militarism - Yes to Refugees'. I was one of



the 150 or so people from 18 countries who gathered to discuss ideas for developing peace, social justice and a common security in Europe.

The conference was opened by Reiner Braun and I was one of several speakers at the first session, which discussed "Why we are against Militarism". It was only 2 days after the release of the Chilcot Report on the Iraq War and it was mentioned a number of times. Later sessions in the conference underlined concerns about increasing militarization of Eastern Europe, NATO's BMD, the NATO-EU military collaboration, and the NATO response to the refugee crisis. At a workshop I spoke about nuclear weapons, missile defence and space weapons. Other speakers were Jan Majicek from the Czech Republic who spoke on the development of missile defence in Eastern Europe and Lucas Wirl from Germany, who spoke about the recent 5000 strong demo at the huge US military base at Ramstein in Germany. Ann Wright, former US Army Colonel and diplomat who resigned in protest at the Iraq War also attended.

A public meeting was held later with international speakers including a welcome from Barbara Lee (recorded on video) who was the only member of US Congress to vote against the war in Afghanistan. Addressing the conference she focused on the urgent need to prevent nuclear war and bring about the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The next day over 300 people joined the march through the city. The Polish people did not like the Russian occupation and the slogan on the banner declared "Money for the hungry not for tanks - No to War and NATO Bases - Moscow Has Already Been, We Do Not Want Washington - Yes to Refugees and international solidarity".

The 2017 NATO summit will be in Brussels, to coincide with the opening of the new NATO HQ there. A strong peace movement exists there and preparations have begun for protest actions - [www.no-to-nato.org](http://www.no-to-nato.org)

A longer version of this article is on our website [www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk](http://www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk)

## Hiroshima & Nagasaki Commemorations



In August campaigners around the region remembered the victims of the nuclear bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki 21 years ago.

It was an early start in Keighley (pictured above) on a sunny day on 6th August with an 8am vigil. Later in the day, campaigners gathered at the Hiroshima plaque in Norfolk Gardens in Bradford. A reception after the commemoration service was held at the Peace Museum, and the Quaker meeting house displayed a powerful Hiroshima Exhibition. There was also an afternoon memorial event in Hebden Bridge organised by Calder Valley CND for Peace & Justice, where the local choir Calder Valley Voices and the Taize harmony group added much to the service. Music and singing also complemented the annual Peace Picnic held by Sheffield CND (pictured above left), which was well attended on another lovely sunny day. Leeds commemorated Nagasaki Day on 9th August, and again, a local choir added to the moving occasion (pictured below).



## Nukes of Hazard Project

The new project being run by ICANUK on nuclear weapons convoys has begun in earnest. Public meetings have already been held in Newcastle, Preston and Birmingham, and we're hoping to organise one in Wetherby and also in Pontefract soon (keep an eye on our website for details).

The project will be launching a new report on nuclear convoys at the Birmingham and Midland Institute (in Birmingham) at 10am on Wednesday 21st September.

The report, written by researcher, writer, and journalist Rob Edwards will present new research into local authority and rescue services' knowledge and forward planning for an accident involving a nuclear convoy and our own scenario modelling for the potential fallout from an accident both at a national level and locally in five case study areas: Birmingham, Preston, Newcastle, Glasgow, and Wetherby. At the launch we will also unveil the results of a national poll into the public's knowledge and opinion of the convoys.

## Fancy That!

Newly released files reveal that Thatcher's senior aides used photos of a baby Prince William to try to distract attention from a 1983 CND march.

Ministers feared protests might be so "widespread and powerful" that they could stop US cruise missiles from being based at RAF Greenham Common.

Files also show they were prepared for clashes between armed troops and objectors outside the base.

But they feared a public backlash if a protester was shot by US military.

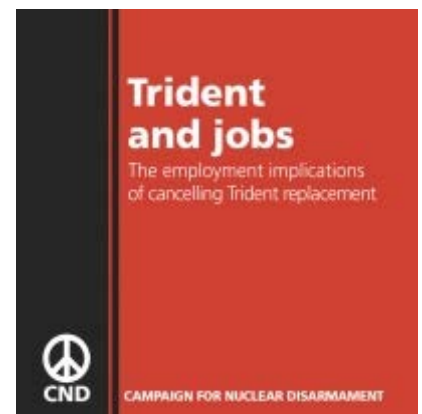
To prevent that, Mrs Thatcher's ministers ordered British troops to be ready to tackle protesters as the American nuclear warheads were delivered in November 1983, documents released to the National Archives in Kew, west London, show.

## New CND report on Trident & Jobs

This new report is subtitled: the employment implications of cancelling Trident replacement

It outlines how the extent of the job creation by Trident replacement is tiny relative to the sums involved. In effect, they are among the most costly jobs in history. This report looks at how the money saved by not replacing Trident could be used for a massive level of investment that would create many more jobs than the current or future nuclear weapons systems can provide.

Go to [www.cnduk.org](http://www.cnduk.org) for the full report online, or contact the Yorkshire office for a free copy.





## Lecture: War and Peace in the Modern World

### Caroline Lucas M.P.



The 2016 Leeds Annual Olof Palme Memorial Peace Lecture, presented by Politics and Applied Global Ethics, Leeds Beckett University and Leeds City Council Peace Links Group.

Today we are faced with two huge problems that we have created and that threaten our existence on Earth – climate change and nuclear war. We now have the power to destroy so much but do we have the intelligence and the initiative to save ourselves and the planet?

Caroline will focus on current and future global threats, alongside solutions that will help build a more secure stable world for all.

She will talk about the threat posed by the ecological crisis in particular and set out what she thinks Britain's foreign policy ought to look like, including, of course, the issue of Brexit.

Caroline Lucas was elected as leader of the Green Party in 2008 and as an MP representing Brighton Pavilion in 2010 and again in 2015. She was also named 'Politician of the Year' in 2007, 2009 and 2010 by readers of The Observer Newspaper and in 2008 she was listed by The Guardian as one of "50 people who could save the planet".

**27th October, 6.30pm. To book a free ticket see <http://s.coop/lafalme>**

## Fundraiser's Column

### Day of Dance - Saturday 22nd October

Once again the beautiful Victoria Hall in Saltaire plays host to the Day of Dance.

A fantastic day of workshops in dance, song, music and holistic therapies; the Day of Dance is a wonderful way to try something new in a friendly environment, all whilst fundraising for Yorkshire CND!

For the full line up of workshops and booking information go to [www.dayofdance.co.uk](http://www.dayofdance.co.uk) or [facebook/saltairdayofdance](https://www.facebook.com/saltairdayofdance)

**CALLING ALL BAKERS AND SWEET-MAKERS** - if you can help us raise money at these events by baking a cake, flapjacks, biscuits, buns, sweets, please get in touch. We can pay expenses and pick up from you.



### Peace and Craft Fair - Saturday 26th November 10am - 4pm

Perfectly timed for Christmas shopping, the Peace and Craft fair returns with a huge variety of local makers, craft and gifts.

Located in the opulent surroundings of Victoria Hall, Saltaire, the Fair is a wonderful day out for shopping and socialising.

Profiles of the makers, crafters and campaigning organisations attending the Fair will be showcased at [facebook.com/saltairepeaceandcraftfair](https://www.facebook.com/saltairepeaceandcraftfair) so check them out as the day approaches!

## CND Conference

CND Conference 2016 will take place on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd October at The Mechanics Centre in Manchester (not too far for us this year!).

You can register online at <http://cnduk.org/about/cnd-conference> Saturday is the AGM and Policy Conference including elections for Officers council members, a review of campaigning activities and finances and policy and strategy debates centred on motions submitted by groups and members. This conference provides members with the important opportunity to decide our overall direction for the coming year so please encourage as many of your members as possible to come along! Afterwards there will be an evening reception, and a variety of social events to choose from. Deadlines to register are 26th September (with accommodation) or 14th October without. You can submit emergency resolutions up until 17th October 12 noon.

The Sunday 23rd is CND Open Conference - New political times, new campaigning methods? A day of discussions, meetings and workshops about tactics and techniques for peace and anti-nuclear campaigners. This event will be open to the public and be an opportunity to share ideas, learn about other campaigns and plan for the year ahead. Speakers include Ben Sellers, who ran the Jeremy for Leader social media campaign: digital organising; Kat Hobbs, from Campaign Against the Arms Trade: using direct action; Rebecca Long-Bailey, MP for Salford and Eccles: working with Parliamentarians and political parties; Aaron Bastani, founder of Novara Media: 21st century media landscape and Sean Morris, from Nuclear Free Local Authorities: working with local councils and Mayors for Peace. Free event, register at <http://s.coop/24gf0>

# Diary

**22nd September** - SAHAR VARDI – ISRAELI PEACE ACTIVIST speaking in Huddersfield, 7-9pm, Yorkshire Children's Centre, Brian Jackson House New North Parade Huddersfield, HD1 5JP - see [www.facebook.com/events/1763459310598560/](http://www.facebook.com/events/1763459310598560/) for info

**26th September** - CND fringe meeting at Labour Conference Speakers: John McDonnell MP, Diane Abbott MP, Steve Pound MP, Matt Wrack – General Secretary, FBU Tosh McDonald – General Secretary, ASLEF, Chaired by Kate Hudson 6-8pm, The Performance Space, The Bluecoat, School Lane, L1 3BX

**1st October** - demo at Fylingdales (see inside and leaflet enclosed)

**3rd-4th October** - Hibakusha (Japanese A-Bomb survivors) in Yorkshire. Details from website or the office.

**4th October** - Keep Space for Peace week demo at Menwith Hill, 6-8pm

**From 6th October** - Quaker Peace Talks (see below)

**14-15th October** - Peace History Conference (see enclosed leaflet) at Holy Trinity Church and Leeds City Museum. <http://www.abolishwar.org.uk> with on-line booking here: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2585702>

**22nd October** - Day of Dance (see inside)

**27th October** - Olof Palme Lecture, Leeds (see inside)

**26th November** - Peace & Craft Fair (see inside)

## Quaker Peace Talks.

This year's programme for the Quaker peace talks is fantastic. Everyone is welcome so put these dates in your diary now.

Thursdays, 7.30 pm at Friargate Quaker Meeting House, York:

**\*Thursday 6th October\*** : "Veterans for Peace: a unique voice" with Ben Griffin from Veterans For Peace UK

**\*Thursday 13th October\***: "Over the Top" with JourneyMan Theatre exploring militarisation in schools

**\*Thursday 3rd November\***: "The Prevent Strategy" with Yasmine Ahmed

**\*Thursday 17th November\***: "Revisiting Trident" with Nick Ritchie

**6th October** - Caught in the War Machine - Women in Germany 1914-1918, with Dr. Ingrid Sharp of Leeds University. 7.30pm Friends Meeting House, Skipton Grassington and District Peace Group in association with Skipton Quaker Meeting.

**6th October** - Huddersfield Quaker Annual Peace Lecture 2016 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm, Huddersfield Quaker Meeting House. We are very pleased that this year's speaker will be Dr Jane Clements, Director of The Council of Christians and Jews. All welcome

## Local CND & Peace Groups/

**York University CND group** - contact [joshfoskett@gmail.com](mailto:joshfoskett@gmail.com)

**Rotherham CND** - [jon.smith@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jon.smith@blueyonder.co.uk) or phone 07952 044824

**NEW! Bradford & District - or Chris Butler** [christopherbutler1@mac.com](mailto:christopherbutler1@mac.com) or 07913 636036

**Calder Valley** - next meeting 14 Sept contact [kathypitt725@hotmail.com](mailto:kathypitt725@hotmail.com) or 07980 291478

**Huddersfield Peace Group** c/o Charlie Fairbank, [fairbankcharles@gmail.com](mailto:fairbankcharles@gmail.com), Tel: 01484-846183

**Leeds CND** - contact Anna on 07503 749944 [facebook.com/LeedsCND](http://facebook.com/LeedsCND) or [leedscond@gmail.com](mailto:leedscond@gmail.com)

**Middlesbrough / Teesside CND** - [hussainsam03@gmail.com](mailto:hussainsam03@gmail.com)

**Hull CND** - Angela Needham, 07737 249461, [angela\\_needham@homeopathy-soh.org](mailto:angela_needham@homeopathy-soh.org)

**Keighley Peace Justice & Environment Network** - contact Sylvia on 01535 596808 [robinandsylvia@aol.com](mailto:robinandsylvia@aol.com)

**Grassington & District Peace Group** - Richard Hargreaves, [strand@hawkswick.net](mailto:strand@hawkswick.net)

**Sheffield CND** - [jonathanpaul.wallis@virginmedia.com](mailto: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](mailto:cath@yorkshirecnd.org.uk)**

Action for Peace is produced quarterly by Yorkshire CND

It is also available by email, which helps us save on postage and paper - please contact the office

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