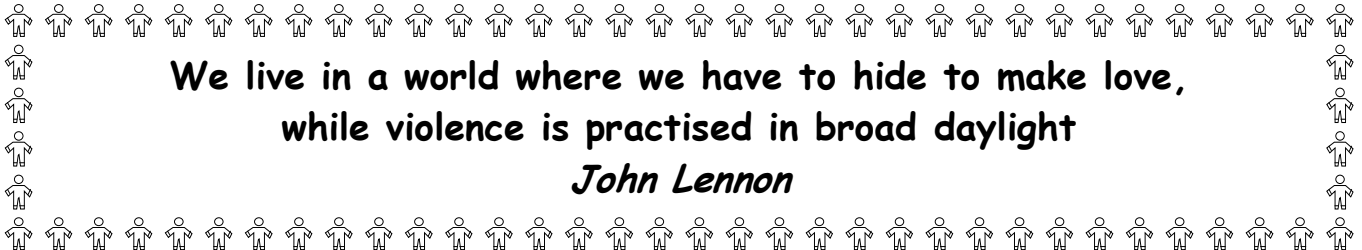


Merseyside CND Newsletter



January/February/March 2013

54 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5SD 0151 702 6974 mcnd@care4free.net www.mcnd.org.uk



**We live in a world where we have to hide to make love,
while violence is practised in broad daylight**

John Lennon

Professor Johan Galtung: Four Components of Peace

Monday 28th January 2013 Time: 6pm Venue: Capstone Theatre, The Creative Campus, Shaw Street, Liverpool, L6 1HP

$$\text{Peace} = \frac{\text{Equity} \times \text{Harmony}}{\text{Trauma} \times \text{Conflict}}$$

In his Civic Lecture on the Four Components of Peace, Professor Johan Galtung talks about how peace concepts should be applicable across history, geography, and level of human organisation. He will explore the formula for peace and outline four tasks required in its creation:

- Constructing Equity
- Constructing Harmony
- Reconciling Past Trauma
- Resolving Present Conflict

To attend this event, please reply to tutu@hope.ac.uk

Peace Workshops

Professor Galtung will also run a set of workshops on Tuesday 29th January. If you are interested in attending one of the workshops, please send an email to tutu@hope.ac.uk with a brief statement of your interest in Peace Studies.

Professor Galtung can be considered a founding father of the discipline of Peace Studies and one of the most famous and influential thinkers, both in terms of the academic community as well as among practitioners. His TRANSCEND method is very widely used in the fields of conflict resolution and conflict transformation around the world. He is still very active with respect to publishing his path-breaking work and engaging in peacebuilding internationally.

Banner

Hey the banner is no longer lost
Thanks to all who hunted for it

MCND AGM

Saturday January 19th

96 Bold St. Liverpool L1 2nd floor above
News from Nowhere. Lift available.

2pm Business Meeting - all MCND members eligible: Annual accounts, reports, elections etc.

3pm New Year Social - bring your friends and family. Young people especially welcome.

3.15pm 'The Secret Drone War' a 30 minute BBC Panorama film with Jane Corbin reporting. Followed by audience discussion.

4pm - 5pm Light refreshments

A really good turn-out at our AGM will give us a kick-start to campaigning in 2013 - so come along, please.

Contact: MCND 54 Mount Pleasant, L3 5SD
0151 702 6974 mcnd@care4free.net www.mcnd.org.uk

Q. what do the UK, Iran, North Korea and Zimbabwe have in common?

A. they all recruit 16 year olds into their armed forces

The UK is the only country in Europe and one of only 20 worldwide to recruit 16 year olds into the military. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has urged the UK government to 'reconsider its active policy of recruitment of children into the armed forces'.

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Drones

Letter Writers please get writing

How many people know that a new, sinister weapon has become part of British military strategy? Drones, officially "unmanned aerial vehicles" (UAVs), have been flown frequently in Afghanistan since 2008. Britain purchases its drones from Israel and the US, as well as manufacturing them at Thales UK. They are operated in conjunction with the US, directed from an airbase in Nevada, though soon to be moved to RAF Waddington, Lincs. They are highly controversial. They have, for instance, repeatedly been directed - like a video game - from an armchair in a distant continent for the extra-judicial execution of an individual 'terrorist', at the same time killing an

unknown number of civilian bystanders. They foreshadow warfare without risk to an attacker's own troops; and are being used in the ongoing attacks on Gaza. For detailed information see the CND drones leaflet & *Guardian* article.

Can we this month **write to our MPs** telling them that we firmly oppose the use of drones & want the Defence Secretary to review their use? You have a chance to inform others about these secret weapons if you **send a copy of your letter to your local paper**.

Some possible points you might like to use:

- These weapons have been introduced surreptitiously, without parliamentary or other public discussion of the principles involved.
- Drones are weapons which introduce a new, unpredictable and uncontrollable dimension into modern warfare.
- They are an effective recruiting sergeant for future terrorists when, as usually happens, innocent people near an intended target - who is being executed without any trial - are killed.
- The same is true when the drones fly continuously over suspect areas, for reconnaissance or to intimidate, terrifying the population.
- Drone operations are inextricably linked to the US Defence Department.
- Imagine if Pakistan or Israel were flying drones over this country in order to 'execute' persons they don't like?

345 drone strikes: four civilians dead?

Are the UK government's figures on drone casualties really credible?

As the UK doubles its fleet of armed Reaper drones in Afghanistan and starts shifting their control to British soil, new figures have underlined the lack of credibility of UK claims concerning civilian deaths at the hands of these remotely-piloted killing machines.

On 26 October, Number 13 Squadron was reformed at RAF Waddington, from where it will start piloting five new British Reapers in early December. Until now, British Reapers have been piloted by RAF personnel from Creech air force base in Nevada, USA.

According to a 1 November statement by defence minister Andrew Robathan, the UK has conducted at least 345

drone strikes in Afghanistan since May 2008, firing 293 Hellfire missiles and 52 GBU-12 laser-guided bombs.

More strikes are known to have taken place since these figures were compiled.

Britain currently deploys a total of 335 drones in Afghanistan, including the tiny 'Black Hornet' and the Israeli-built Hermes 450. However, only the Reapers are armed.

Not credible

Peace campaigner Chris Cole - who first drew attention to the figures on his Drone Wars UK blog - notes that the number of British strikes in Afghanistan (345) almost exactly matches the number of reported strikes by the CIA in Pakistan (350).

An analysis of credible reports by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism puts the reported civilian toll from the CIA attacks at 475-885 deaths. By contrast, the MoD admit to only 4 civilian casualties in Afghanistan, in a single incident in March 2011.

'The figures suggest [either] that the UK is 100-200 times better at drone warfare than the US,' Cole notes, or that the UK figures 'are just not credible'.

Meanwhile, new figures from the US air force have revealed that there have been 1,160 US drone strikes in Afghanistan since the beginning of 2009, with drone strikes making up 9% (333 strikes) of the 3,600 aerial attacks in the country this year, up from 5% in 2011.

'The [drones] are growing in importance while the rest of the military is receding,' notes Noah Shachtman, editor of Wired magazine's national security blog.

According to The Guardian, the British government 'has yet to decide' whether its Reapers will remain in Afghanistan after 2014, following the withdrawal of NATO 'combat forces'.

*Gabriel Carlyle - Peace News
Dec. 2012/Jan.2013
www.dronewarsuk.wordpress.com*



BANg! Ban All Nukes generation intends to offer youth a space to develop and implement their own strategy to achieve peace and nuclear disarmament in Europe and in the world. It is also a marketplace of ideas to exchange successful experiences, tricks and information.

By now, BANg Europe has over 100 members from various organisations in a dozen countries. Website www.bang-europe.org

Our mission

*"The danger of a nuclear war has never been greater than today"**
 Hundreds of thousands of people were killed by the atom bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Since then the world has lived under the threat of nuclear weapons. The US, Russia, the UK, France and China have developed nuclear arsenals, which they keep, even modernise, despite their obligation to disarm according to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. India, Pakistan, Israel and maybe North Korea followed the five 'official nuclear powers' in developing their own nuclear weapons. Other countries in Europe (namely Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy and Turkey) have US nuclear weapons deployed on their soil and even train with them along the NATO nuclear sharing arrangement. They have all failed to honour their commitments and obligations towards international law and have blocked possible roads to global nuclear disarmament. Meanwhile, the process of proliferation continues, as one cannot claim to have nuclear weapons for its own security, while ruling out the same right to others. The risks of proliferation of nuclear weapons from civil nuclear programs are increasing,

while not enough support is provided for peaceful cooperation on the inalienable right of humans to safe, clean and sustainable energy.

BANg, the European Youth Network for Nuclear Disarmament, believes it is time to turn the tide. Nuclear weapons are immoral and illegal. The time for nuclear disarmament is now! We believe a nuclear weapons free Europe is a necessary step towards nuclear disarmament and peace worldwide.

As a network we join the worldwide struggle for nuclear disarmament while focusing, as a first step, on Europe.

We aim to:

- Bring young people together and share ideas on peace and disarmament,
 - Inform people on the threat of nuclear weapons and the urgency of disarmament,
 - Promote non-violent action for a more peaceful world,
 - Support and strengthen existing campaigns against nuclear weapons by organising international youth participation,
 - Organise actions to increase the pressure for disarmament.
- In our actions, we strictly commit ourselves to non-violence.

Educational tools for abolishing nuclear weapons

Since 2005 the two Organisations [Pressehuette Mutlangen](http://www.pressehuette.de) and the European Youth Network BANg work together to educate young people on nuclear weapons. Our aim is not only to bring the knowledge about nuclear weapons to young people but also to empower them to form their own opinion and to stand up for their beliefs.

In various workshops at schools, universities and in youth groups we developed interactive materials. Now we put them together as a "tool box" and present it to you on this website. <http://www.nuclearfreeeducation.de/>

Expanding the cadets and 'military ethos' in schools

What are the cadet forces?

Around 140,000 13-18 year olds participate in various cadet forces of which 45,000 are school based. The reason for them is stated as recruitment, creating awareness to ensure the continued support of the population, and 'wider personal development'.

How will the cadets be expanded?

The government announced more funding to be given to expand the cadets into state schools - targeting free schools and academies in particular.

Why is this happening? Who benefits?

Following the government's intention to increase the Reserve forces - the

cadets will be an important source for recruits. Government also intends to have military academies in the state school sector.

Why is this a problem?

- At a time when spending on other youth services is being cut this is being expanded
- The policy is based on a one-sided view of 'military ethos' and the assumption that it is an appropriate 'solution to social problems'
- Negative aspects of the 'military ethos' - deters awareness of alternatives to conflict, so favouring military solutions. Abuse of cadets at camp?
- Little evidence that military is better than other youth services at helping young people develop useful life skills
- No public consultation

This is an extract of a briefing paper on forceswatch.org website

Housman's Peace Diary £8.95

This, the 60th edition of the Diary, includes many apt quotations and a special feature on 75 years of Peace News! This year's feature theme is Taking Risks to Resist, looking at examples of nonviolent action. Available locally from News from Nowhere Bookshop, Bold St.

South and Central Liverpool

Anyone willing to join a local group based on South/Central L'pool? Aim to run stalls at places like the Blackie, the Florrie, Toxteth Town Hall, Sefton Park and Princes Park etc. Contact MCND office.

Maghull and Lydiate

We wish everyone a happy and peaceful New Year. Contact: Sylvi: 0151 526 7293

Merseyside CND 50 Club

Annual Draw at Dec. Co-ord: 1st prize, £250: Neville Grundy; 2nd prize, £100: Gordon Nash; 3rd prize, £50: Janet Laycock; October draw: Wallasey CND and November draw: Ruth Mullins
Thanks to all members of the 50 Club for your continuing financial support. If you'd like to contribute £5.00 per month regularly to MCND funds and a chance to win £50 each month or £250, £100 and £50 in the annual draw ask Janet for a membership form - 0151 702 6974 or (home) 0151 677 1133

A healthy, happy 2013 to all our readers and helpers!

We are always looking for help: at Co-ord meetings planning events, on stalls, (indoors and out), hand delivering newsletters, IT skills especially on facebook - we can use your talents!

Have you got the Nerve?

Merseyside's Resistance Calendar 2013 "Nerve" 10 years since the 1st issue is out now full of historical information on past demonstrations, groups, art, social issues with radical ideas for current campaigning for alternative society. On sale (or free) at News from NW or Nerve Office above NfNW shop. catalystmedia.org.uk

Birkenhead CND

New Year Party - Thursday 3rd 8pm at Shirley's

Next meetings: Tues Feb 12th and March 12th 8.00pm at Shirley's, Flat 2, 14 Beresford Rd.

Stall - none planned till March

Volunteers wanted. Shirley 652-3768

Wallasey CND

AGM 2pm Sat. Jan 5th followed by **Social: 3.30**

Planning Meetings: Feb 4th 3pm at Barbara's, 4 Taunton Rd., and Mar. 4th to plan UN

Peace Day Sept. 21st time and venue tbd.

Contacts: Barbara 638 3967 or Janet 677 1133

MCND AGM

& New Year Social
2pm Sat. January 19th
2nd floor above News from Nowhere 96 Bold St.
Lift available.

See front page for details
Contact MCND: 702 6974
mcnd@care4free.net
www.mcnd.org.uk

If you receive a separate renewal form with this newsletter it means your subs are due - Thankyou

This newsletter was put together by Cathy Page and Janet Laycock and printed thanks to Barbara Hardcastle of Wallasey CND.

MERSEYSIDE CND MEMBERSHIP FORM

To receive regular newsletters please complete form and return to address below.

Name..... Phone.....

Address.....

Email.....

I/we wish to *join/ rejoin Merseyside CND.

Subscription rates: *waged-£4/ family-£6/ unwaged or youth (under 22) £1.

I/we *would/ would not also like a new member's pack at a cost of £1.

I/we understand that Merseyside CND needs funds for its campaigns and donate £_____

Total Enclosed £..... (Please make cheques payable to Merseyside CND)

Signed..... Date.....

(* Delete as appropriate)

Merseyside CND, 54 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5SD