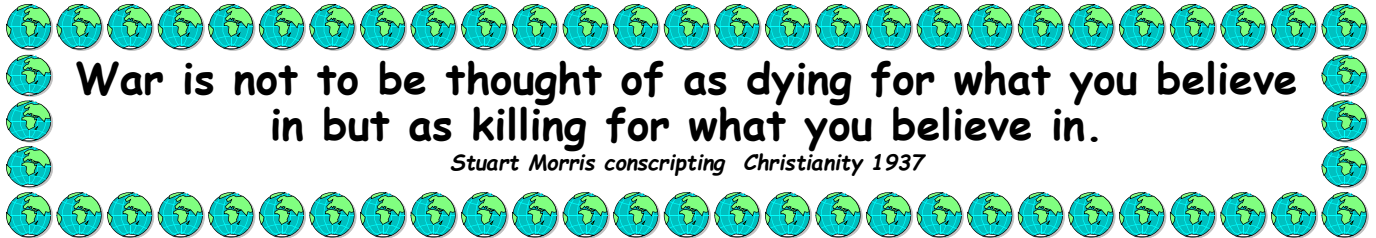


# Merseyside CND Newsletter



WINTER 2017/8

151 Dale St. Liverpool L2 2AH 0151 229 5282 mEND@care4free.net www.mEND.org.uk



**War is not to be thought of as dying for what you believe  
in but as killing for what you believe in.**

*Stuart Morris conscripting Christianity 1937*

## **CND AGM & Policy Conference- 15 October 2017**

CND held its annual AGM and Policy Conference again in London this year. Not a particularly exciting event, but, given that its purpose is for members to elect Council representatives and establish CND policies and priorities for the coming year, that's as it should be. However, it was a thoroughly business - like and positive occasion and one, perhaps imbued with more optimism than usual.

The tenor of the Conference was set by both positive and negative factors.

**On the positive**, the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and the UN's nuclear weapons ban treaty.

**On the negative**, the escalating nuclear tension between the US and North Korea, NATO's continuing expansionist and provocative policies, President Trump's apparent eagerness to increase America's nuclear arsenal and his threat to wreck the Iran non-proliferation treaty.

That was the context within which delegates, in democratic debate, established the following priorities for CND in 2018.

### **Campaigning to secure UK signature to the UN's Global Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty -**

122 Nations voted through an unprecedented Weapons Ban Treaty at the UN in July this year and it is now open for ratification by member states. The nine nuclear armed states, including the US and the UK have ignored or denigrated the Treaty, so CND's campaigning focus will be to change our government's mind and get them to sign up to this potentially world changing initiative.

### **Campaigning to make scrapping our Trident Nuclear Weapons system a major factor in the next General Election -**

given the very real possibility of another General Election in 2018, CND members of all political parties to ensure that Trident is a prominent

issue in any campaign and to seek to persuade candidates to oppose Trident replacement.

### **Raising awareness of US and NATO military bases in the UK**

and exposing their continuing role in nuclear weapons research, production and storage and in facilitating NATO's dangerous, de-stabilising and expansionist policies in Europe. CND to work with international groups and with local groups in actions at UK bases such as Fylingdales, Menwith Hill and Croughton.

### **Campaigning at both national and international level, to persuade governments to abandon the outdated concept of nuclear deterrence in favour of the UN's common security approach.**

The notion of deterrence is based on mutual fear and suspicion and underwrites the drive for overwhelming military dominance which produces nuclear proliferation. States must recognise their interdependence in the face of modern threats of climate change, pandemics and terrorism. CND to promote the concept that Nations hold security in common and must work together to counter these common threats.

### **Campaigning to build international opposition to NATO -**

alerting public opinion to its role as a de-stabilising expansionist nuclear armed alliance and the dangers posed by its confrontational rhetoric and military exercises throughout Europe.

**There was also an emergency resolution strongly condemning both North Korea's nuclear and missile testing and US nuclear intimidation and provocative military exercises**, both in disregard of UN Security Council resolutions. CND to urgently campaign for the UK Government to explicitly reject a military solution to the Korean conflict and support the UN's call for a resumption of the Six Party Talks. This was passed unanimously.

*Peter Wilson: Co-chair Merseyside CND*

# ICAN JUST WON THE 2017 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE!



NOBEL PEACE  
FOUNDATION

## International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) Wins Nobel Peace Prize

Congratulations to our friends and colleagues around the world who are part of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). This morning, the Nobel Committee awarded ICAN the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize "for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons."

ICAN is made up of over 400 groups in 100 countries. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has been an ICAN member since the

campaign began a decade ago. This year, we were proud to work with ICAN and many dedicated non-nuclear countries to bring into existence the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The Nobel Peace Prize is a recognition of many decades of campaigning by activists around the world. We still have a lot of work to do to achieve a nuclear weapons-free world, and we hope that this prestigious honour will encourage you to work even harder alongside us for this goal. **But today, let's take a moment to celebrate!**

Further info: [www.icanw.org](http://www.icanw.org)

## New Global Ban Treaty is a game changer in the UK nuclear disarmament debate

On 20th September 2017 the new UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons opened for signatories from member states. It replicates the global agreements in recent years to ban weapons of mass destruction such as chemical and biological weapons, as well as landmines. The time has come to ban nuclear weapons too, and the new treaty would prohibit the use, stockpiling, testing, production, manufacture, stationing and installation of nuclear weapons, and it commits signatories to assisting victims of nuclear weapons, whether from their testing or their use.

Once 50 countries have signed the Treaty, it comes into force; signatories have signed up to encouraging other states to join and there will be regular review meetings on progress towards achieving a global ban.

When the text was agreed by 122 nation states in July 2017 it was the culmination of years of work by non-nuclear states and civil society,

reflecting the frustration of the global majority with the failure of the small number of nuclear weapon states, such as Britain, to honour their commitments under the Non-Proliferation Treaty to pursue in good faith steps towards an end to the nuclear arms race and for nuclear disarmament. Britain must now decide if it will remain in splendid isolation on this issue, or recognise the multilateral momentum developing towards a global ban across the planet. At last year's annual conference Labour committed to playing a leading role in global nuclear disarmament, but under the Tories Britain has been on the sidelines as the International agenda has developed rapidly. Labour must call on the British Government to sign the treaty at an early stage and renew its commitment to be a world leader under a Labour government.

With Jeremy Corbyn as Prime Minister that commitment will be taken seriously internationally and the next Labour Government's place in history would be its part in bringing a nuclear free world.

### Labour CND

Recalls the 2017 manifesto commitments to:

- 'reducing human suffering caused by war'
- 'lead multilateral efforts with international partners and the UN to create a nuclear free world'
- Creating 'a Minister for Peace and Disarmament to lead this work.'

Believes that support for the Treaty is in line with these commitments and:

**'Therefore calls on the next Labour Government to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.'**

*Extract from Labour CND Newsletter*

CND have issued a new petition - **'Citizens' Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.'**

The aim is to publicise the Global Ban and force our government to sign the UN treaty. Merseyside CND will be promoting this around Merseyside - Please let us know if you can help.

### Labour CND

Labour CND are planning to hold their annual conference and AGM in Yorkshire in February. This is to coincide with the launch of Yorkshire Labour CND. They suggest that Merseyside and G. Manchester CND members who are also Labour Party members might attend with a view to setting up Labour CND groups in their areas.

#### Wirral

Wallasey and Birkenhead CND are trying to set up either one meeting with all Labour Party constituencies or individual meetings with each of the 4 Labour Wirral constituencies.

Only one of the Wirral MPs (Margaret Greenwood MP for Wirral West) supports us.

#### Rest of Merseyside

There are 18 more constituencies in Merseyside—17 Labour and 1 Tory— we need to get to their constituency meetings and get them to discuss the new Global Ban and hopefully put pressure on their MPs to vote against Trident, and for signing the Global Ban Treaty. After all if the Global Ban is going to come in within the next couple of years—why are we spending any more money on Trident now???

NB CND's new Parliamentary worker Michael Gallagher can help with voting records etc. [Michael.gallagher@cnduk.org](mailto:Michael.gallagher@cnduk.org)

# Don't Bank on the Bomb!

Now that the Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons is confirmed—we now have to get rid of them. One way is to stop investment in them  
Hence the idea of 'Don't Bank on the Bomb'

Financial institutions around the world invest 314 billion dollars in nuclear weapons producers. 298 banks, pension funds and insurance companies invest in 27 companies involved in the production, maintenance and modernisation of nuclear weapons.

The 'Don't bank on the Bomb' website [www.dontbankonthebomb.org](http://www.dontbankonthebomb.org) lists institutions in two categories — Hall of Fame and Hall of Shame.

The Cooperative Bank is the only major bank in UK in the 1st category. Those in the Hall of Fame are examples of Good practice. There is also a category which has partial limiting or exclusion policies towards investment. Barclays and Royal Bank of Scotland fall into this category but need to widen their exclusion policies.

"Just one letter has an effect, said Suzi Snyder, founder of Don't Bank on the Bomb. One year one person wrote to her bank, asking for their policy statement on their investments, nothing much happened, then they got another letter, so they brought out the first letter, and began to do something. Banks want to project a nice caring image; Nuclear Weapons do not do that."

'Don't Bank on the Bomb' is in the tradition of the boycott of South African goods that brought down Apartheid. It will raise the issue of nuclear Weapons in our local communities, as well as pushing our financial institutions towards disinvestment. We can write our letters privately, we can write them together, we can stand outside those financial institutions that invest in Nuclear Weapon production.

There are sample letters and lots of info on the [www.dontbankonthebomb.org](http://www.dontbankonthebomb.org) website.

The following are in the Hall of Shame:-

Aviva Pension provider  
Barclays (partially)  
Children's Investment Fund Management

HSBC  
Legal and General  
Lloyds  
Old Mutual  
Polar Capital Holding  
Prudential  
Royal Bank of Scotland (partially)  
Santander  
Standard Chartered.

The following companies involved in production etc in the UK are:

Airbus  
BAE  
Bechtel  
Boeing  
Serco  
Lockheed Martin

Thanks to Caroline Gilbert CCND for alerting us to this campaign

## Merseyside Peace Network

Merseyside Peace Network is a coalition of peace related groups such as CND, Quakers, Pax Christi, Forces Watch who meet regularly to plan campaigning together.

Their current concerns include:-

**Creeping militarisation**—particularly in schools but also on our streets in the form of 'fun days' such as 'Armed Forces Day' when children are invited to play with guns and climb on tanks. The Irish Guards promoted themselves in Williamson Square with a gazebo structure sheltering a military vehicle, a tripod-mounted heavy machine gun and a climbing frame!! John Usher of Pax Christi says: "Most of us believe in tolerance, mutual respect and nonviolent coexistence between nations which is what we should be promoting. Our Armed Forces must be for defense only, and never for aggression as in recent years in the Middle East. I've just watched the film 'Journey's End' about life and pointless death in the trenches in the First World War, a wonderful film and utterly depressing. War must never be glorified or celebrated or even normalised. War indicates failure, in war all sides are losers. We must work for justice, because justice results in peace."

**Movement for the Abolition of War** are joining Liverpool Student Amnesty International to present an afternoon of talks on 'The Creeping Militarisation of our Society'. Forces Watch and MPN will be participating. **November 8th pm at Friends MH L1 3BT**

### Parents for Peace

are setting up a website for those parents who object to the Military taking part in school activities.

**Peace Education:** 3 members are being trained and Brian Kelly a peace educator is coming to the next MPN meeting on Tuesday Nov.7th. 11am Friends Meeting House, School Lane L1 3BT with advice on getting into schools using Peace Education Packs.

### Prisoners of Conscience Day

**Friday 1st Dec** Card signing event for Christmas time cards to be sent to Prisoners of Conscience world wide in University Square, Brownlow Hill 12-2pm. Evening film show "20 Years of Disobedience" a brief history of recent antimilitarism in Spain at Friends Meeting House 6.30pm refreshments 7pm film. Further info. on any of the above or to join MPN email:

[mpn2017@googlegroups.com](mailto:mpn2017@googlegroups.com)

## Remembrance Day

**Sat. Nov.11th 10.45 am**

St. John's Garden in the Peace Garden area behind St. George's Hall, St. John's Lane L2

11am Wreath laying, poetry, music and possible process to Friends MH to lay a 2nd wreath of white poppies—tbc.

White poppies (60p) available from the office or from News from Nowhere, Bold St.

Further info: [www.mcnd.org.uk](http://www.mcnd.org.uk)  
0151 229 5282 [mcnd@care4free.net](mailto:mcnd@care4free.net)

Another event on Remembrance Day:

Our annual lantern peace parade, Travelling Light, is on Saturday, 11th November. The parade will start at 5:30pm at Coronation Gardens, West Kirby. It brings Martinmas and Armistice Day together to promote sharing and non-destructive ways of relating with each other and the Earth. Bring along a lantern ... or a torch ... and join us for this much loved annual event.

[info@transitiontownwestkirby.org.uk](mailto:info@transitiontownwestkirby.org.uk)





## Birkenhead CND

**Next meetings** : Tues 14th Nov and 12th Dec (to be confirmed) 8pm at Joan's, 18, Southdale Road, Tranmere CH42

New Year party Tuesday 10th January at Liz's 4 Quail Park, Bidston Rd CH43 6WA 7.30pm

Further Info—Cathy Page 0151 378 1760

cath.page@phonecoop.coop

## Merseyside CND AGM

**Wed. Feb. 7th 4pm**

following the monthly co-ord meeting at 2pm

Venue LCVS, 151 Dale St. L2 2AH

As well as the usual reports, elections and campaign plans we may show the film

"The Man who Saved The World"

www.mcnd.org.uk 0151 229 5282

## Chester CND

### Stop Arming Saudi Silent Vigil

To highlight the immoral trade of UK arms to Saudi Arabia we hold a silent vigil on the last Saturday of every month. 12.30 - 1.30 pm, The Cross, Chester (outside St Peters Church). No vigil in December but there will be a candlelight Peace vigil on another date that month. Check out our Facebook page or email [chestercnd@gmail.com](mailto:chestercnd@gmail.com) for details of monthly meetings and other information

## Peace Sunday

**January 14th 2018**

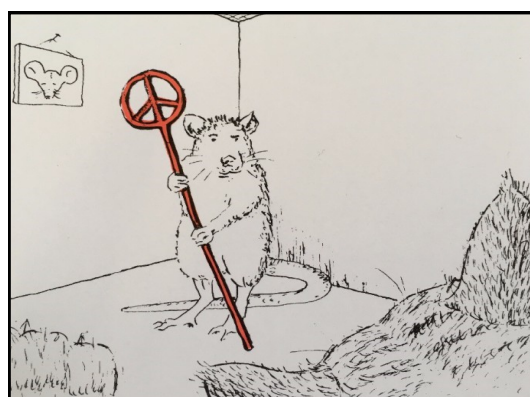
Contact Pax Christi: Janharper1@yahoo.co.uk

## Wallasey CND

**Planning Meetings:** Mon Nov. 6th, Dec. 4th 2pm at Barbara's 4 Taunton Rd. CH45 3JN

Wallasey continues to hold monthly meetings and have been involved in the 'Group's Challenge' with Birkenhead CND which has seen us on the streets all over the Wirral; the response from the public has been quite overwhelming, and it would seem that the idea of Nuclear Disarmament is a voter winner not a vote loser as some MPs imply.

Our main fundraising events take place in Wallasey Central Park where we hold cake & campaigning stalls in the summer. Two of our members have undertaken training in Peace Education hoping to get involved in schools in 2018. Other activities we joined 2017: Stop Trident petition street stalls, now including 'Join the Total Nuclear Ban', in Wirral and Merseyside; a street stall 'for Global Day of Action on Military spending', UNISON Health Conference, Armed Forces Day at the Albert Dock in June, Hiroshima and Nagasaki events in Aug. Birkenhead Wirral in Bloom Show August, Wirral Earth Fest Sept. in West Kirby, Peace One Day (UN Peace Day) 21st Sept. Protest march outside Tory Conference Manchester 1st Oct. and CND Conference London Oct. 14/15th Still to come: Remembrance Day, Liverpool, Prisoners of Conscience Day 1st Dec. and hopefully a Labour CND meeting. We are also involved with Merseyside Peace Network Contacts Barbara 638 3967, Janet 677 1133



### Exhibition of Peace Cartoons

At the Peace Museum in Bradford.

From October 18th to Dec. 31st.

Open Wednesday, Thursday, Fridays 10-4pm [www.peacemuseum.org](http://www.peacemuseum.org)

## Merseyside CND 50 Club

Recent winners: July: Wallasey CND; August: Liz Heydon; Sept: Lyn Henry. For £5.00 per month you too could be a winner of £50 per month or £250/£100/£50 in the annual draw. Apply to the office for a membership form - 229 5282

## MERSEYSIDE CND MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

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

email.....

Address.....

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

Subscription rates: \*waged-£5/ family-£6/ unwaged or youth (under 22) £2.

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, 151 Dale St, Liverpool L2 2AH

MCND Co-ord: next meeting: Wednesday November 1st, 14:00 CND Office 151 Dale St. L2 2AH 0151 229 5282

If you receive a separate renewal form with this newsletter it means your subs are due - Thankyou. This edition of the newsletter run up by Cathy Page and Janet Laycock. Printed in the MCND Office

**Stop Press :**  
Congratulations to Daniel Woodhouse and Samuel Walton found NOT Guilty today for attempting to damage a war plane at BAE Warton in Jan 2017