

MERSEYSIDE C.N.D.

OCTOBER 2019 UPDATE

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The only sure way to eliminate the threat posed by nuclear weapons is to eliminate the weapons themselves.

— Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General



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NUCLEAR FOLLY

Pax Christi hands anti-nuclear petition in to Downing Street

The Director of Pax Christi UK - Theresa Alessandro - joined a delegation of peace organisations to hand a petition into Downing Street on 26 September calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons. She said, "Pax Christi continues to call for our government to engage with the Nuclear Weapons Ban and work seriously towards ridding our world of nuclear weapons; as Pope Francis says, the threat of their use as well as their very possession is to be firmly condemned." Leading Catholic anti-nuclear campaigner Bruce Kent wore his UN blue tie since the action marked the UN Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.



Dear Prime Minister,

Today, on the UN's International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, we urge the UK government to honour its commitment to a world without nuclear weapons. This has been a longstanding commitment of successive governments since the UK's ratification of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1970. In an increasingly dangerous world, where the threat of nuclear war is rising, this goal has never been so important.

The UK cannot claim to support this goal whilst prioritising the replacement of Trident, at vast expense and considerable opportunity cost to other forms of security and spending beneficial to our country. This is particularly so when the government's own National Security Strategy identifies the real security threats we face today as terrorism, cyber-attacks and the imminent consequences of climate change.

We urge the government to scrap Trident and fully engage with the fresh multilateral disarmament initiatives that are taking place. More than 120 countries voted in the UN General Assembly for an historic United Nations treaty to ban nuclear weapons - the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and it is well on the way to ratification. It is the UK government's responsibility to engage with this process and we urge you to do so. Clearly there is an urgent need for states to build common ground on disarmament and steps should be taken by the UK to build bridges with nuclear and non-nuclear weapons states. This must include signalling unmistakable progress towards the UK's own obligation to disarm.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Kate Hudson (General Secretary - CND), Bruce Kent (Vice-Chair - CND), Lindsey German (Stop the War Coalition), Daniel Jakopovic (Quakers UK), Theresa Alessandro (Pax Christi)

C.N.D. CONFERENCE 2019

AGM and Policy Conference

Saturday 19th October

St. Thomas's Hospital, London

Resolutions include:

- Preventing the resurgence of intermediate range missiles
- Safeguarding and strengthening arms control
- Increasing tensions between the U.S. and Europe
- Campaigning against the militarisation of space

If you would like to attend the Conference as an individual, you can register on the CND website: <https://cnduk.org/conference-2019-register-as-an-individual/>



I.P.B Triennial Congress: 20 October 2019

CND is privileged to host the Triennial Congress of the Nobel Prize winning International Peace Bureau on the Sunday of our conference, under the banner '21st Century security: challenges and solutions'. Joined by activists from around the world, we will have a global take on the problems we face, seeking global and local alternatives, for a vision and reality, of peace and justice. Themes include: common security, resource

wars, climate change, nuclear dangers and human rights.

IPB President, Reiner Braun said: *A conference between a very successful national organisation and the biggest international peace network can create new ideas for world peace. The INF Treaty shows dramatically that a great war is not any longer excluded. What can we do globally, nationally, regionally and locally for peace?*

NUCLEAR BAN COMMUNITIES

Towns and cities around the world are becoming nuclear ban communities as they sign up to support the UN's Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Manchester recently became the first city in Europe to back the Treaty after its city Council unanimously passed a resolution in support of the nuclear ban. And this movement isn't confined to the U.K., as Washington, Paris and Berlin have all passed motions of support.

We are encouraging all Merseyside CND members and supporters to contact their Liverpool City Councillors, asking them to table this motion at a future council meeting. A draft can be downloaded from the C.N.D. website: <https://cnduk.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/model-resolution-for-councils.pdf>



LUCAS PLAN AND TRADE UNIONS

"Production still follows the dictates of the market, not of social need and environmental protection"

On 17th July Merseyside CND and Merseyside Pensioners' Association hosted an extremely successful meeting with former Lucas Aerospace Combine Shop Stewards' Committee member John Routley.

John was part of an effort to apply the knowledge and skills of the Lucas workers to 'socially useful products' which benefited society. Our meeting was an attempt to reignite that effort in the 21st Century, i.e. the formation of a New Lucas Plan.

To this end, a series of workshops has been held in Manchester, which, it has been proposed, will spread out across the country.

Watch this space for news of these workshops in Merseyside.

A 30 minute documentary about the Lucas Plan, shown at our meeting, can be viewed online at <https://vimeo.com/305253552>

KEEP SPACE FOR PEACE STALLS



Wallasey CND Stall and Leafleting

11:00–13:00

Saturday 12th October

Marine Lake

at the Bottom of Rowson Street,

New Brighton

HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI DAY 2019

Remembering the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 74 years after the atomic bombs were dropped

Merseyside CND members and supporters gathered at St. John's Gardens with former Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Cllr. Christine Banks, to commemorate the 74th anniversary of atomic bombings of Japan. Julie Lamin and Liverpool Pax Christi's Jan Harper read moving survivor testimonies, Barbara Hardcastle recited *Girl from Hiroshima* by Nazim Hikmet and Neville Grundy provided the music. A big thank you to all those who came.



All photos taken by John Usher

