

# MERSEYSIDE CND

## AUTUMN UPDATE 2020

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*The human and environmental devastation caused by nuclear weapons - whether by testing, mistake or malice - is the very reason we need to eliminate them altogether.*

- [Valerie Plame](#), Author and former CIA agent



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## The Expense and Non-Independence of Trident

**A Zoom meeting with Bruce Kent**

**13:00, Wednesday 4th November**

Merseyside CND is delighted to announce that veteran peace campaigner, Bruce Kent, will be joining us to discuss the immorality, expense and non-independence of Trident.

Following the talk there will be a Q&A session. If you would like to ask a question, please email it to the MCND office as soon as possible. To join the meeting please use the link below.

Meeting ID: 811 3779 3921 Passcode: 157355 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81137793921?pwd=ZDNSS2FpWnZ3V0dKL1o0QVl1eiF0QT09>

## HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI DAY 2020

We'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who joined us for this year's Hiroshima/Nagasaki Day commemoration. In particular, to Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Cllr. Anna Rothery, who made a short speech and laid a wreath in honour of all the victims.

Despite Covid-19 restrictions, the turnout was excellent and it was greatly encouraging to see so many Merseyside CND members and supporters there.

Earlier that morning MCND Co-Chair, Barbara Hardcastle, was interviewed on BBC Radio Merseyside where she not only spoke of the horror inflicted upon Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but highlighted the steps being taken to ensure it never happens again.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is perhaps the best hope of a world free from the atomic bomb. For more information, continue reading.



# GLOBAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS BAN CONFIRMED

Sunday 25th October 2020 will go down in history as the day the UN banned nuclear weapons with UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons signed by 50 states.

For years most states in the world have wanted to ban nuclear weapons. In 1970 the nuclear weapon states agreed to work towards a ban and signed the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty. While most non-nuclear states have stuck to their side of the bargain – the now 9 nuclear armed states have failed to do anything about disarming their nuclear weapons, and are currently developing new nuclear weapons.

In 2017 the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear weapons (ICAN) got the UN to hold a conference and promote a Treaty to ban them. 122 countries signed and then went back to their countries to get the treaty ratified. When 50 ratified it then comes into force 3 months later i.e. Jan 2021.

None of the nuclear weapon states even went to the pre-Treaty conference, showing that none are interested in multilateral disarmament what ever they loudly proclaim to their tax payers who pay for the weapons.

Now in 2020 with Covid writ large throughout the world the UK is spending £205 billion on renewing its nuclear fleet and weaponry when suggesting £5 billion for schools and hospitals was generous!!

Towns and cities all over the world are bypassing government opposition and declaring their support for the ban, such as Washington DC, Manchester, Edinburgh, and Paris. We are now encouraging local borough councils, Liverpool, Halton, Knowsley, Sefton, Wirral and St. Helen's to show their support.

## What can I do to support the treaty?

- We ask all members and supporters to contact their MP urging them to back what is undoubtedly the best opportunity we have for multilateral disarmament. If our ultimate aim is to be realised we need them on our side.
- Contact your local Councillors and ask them to support the [Nuclear Ban Communities](#) campaign. Many Councils in the UK, including Manchester, Oxford and Edinburgh, have already signed up. Yours could be next!
- Now that the 50th ratification is confirmed CND is asking its members to take action. Covid-19 restrictions mean we can't gather together in one place but you can create a CND symbol in your garden or home. Be as creative as possible, perhaps using ribbons or even tealights. Take a photo, send it to us and post it on social media.
- [Join Merseyside CND](#)

## CONFERENCE 2020 RESOLUTIONS

On Saturday 11th October CND members gathered together online for this year's Conference. It was inspiring to see how many events and campaigns have been organised despite Covid-19 restrictions.

The following resolutions were passed:

1. How we work post-Covid to get the government to redirect the £205 billion, they intend to spend on replacing Trident, to Health, Education & Climate.
2. Campaign against a new and dangerous cold war with China.
3. To address worries about the dismantling of Nuclear Treaties and raise these issues with Parliamentary CND.
4. To continue to campaign against the militarisation of space.
5. Covid 19 and Defence Diversification. (Swords into Ploughshares)
6. To support action against new Nuclear Power Stations being built.
7. To encourage members to support CCND next July in London to mark 4th anniversary of TPNW treaty
8. Youth Engagement. At this present time young people face numerous Issues, many of which could be alleviated by redirecting the £205 billion earmarked for nuclear weapons to [BUILD BACK BETTER](#)

## SECURITY NOT TRIDENT - A NEW REPORT BY CND

Just a few days ago CND launched [a new report looking](#) at the high security challenges of the Covid-19 era, why nuclear weapons can never keep us safe and how our security would be strengthened by scrapping Trident.

The report comes at a time when Britain finds itself completely unprepared for the coronavirus pandemic: insufficient equipment, staff and infrastructure to serve, and save, its people.

Out of this catastrophe we need new thinking from the Government to meet the real challenges our society faces. A comprehensive review of the Government's security, defence, development and foreign policy is expected to be published soon. CND [submitted evidence](#) to the Cabinet Office inquiry where we highlighted how the Integrated Review can reflect and meet the actual security needs of the UK.

The Government should take heed of issues raised in this submission and in this report, which includes contributions from defence and military experts, and reflect on the fact that our security can no longer be focused on military scenarios, but rather on increasingly

complex and ever-changing factors.

As well as looking at the concept of security today, the report looks at all the reasons why nuclear weapons don't keep us safe. It looks at how technology could soon make our nuclear weapons system redundant; the nuclear accidents that have made the world less safe; and considers what impact a nuclear war would have on the planet.

The last few months have turned the world upside down. This is the time for a new vision of society and nuclear weapons have no part in it.

### Contact your MP

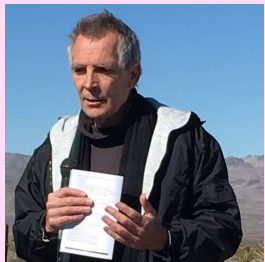
The report highlights the Government's twisted priorities which mean billions of pounds are being wasted on nuclear weapons rather than preparing for [the real threats we face](#), including the situation in which we now find ourselves with the spread of Covid-19.

[Write to your MP](#) to tell them it's time for the Government to wash its hands of Trident.

## KING'S BAY PLOWSHARES - UPDATE

The King's Bay Plowshares 7 are a group of American peace activists who were arrested on 4th April 2018 after non-violently entering the King's Bay naval base in Georgia and symbolically 'disarming' a Trident nuclear submarine.

Fr. Steve Kelly was sentenced on 15th Oct. to 33 months incarceration, three years of supervised release and restitution. He has served 30 months in pretrial confinement so should have completed this sentence with the addition of good time. Steve still has to answer for a probation violation from a previous arrest so may be taken to Washington State. Patrick O'Neill was sentenced on Oct 16 to 14 months in prison and the same probation and restitution. He will have to self report to prison when ordered within next 90 days.



The other four defendants are scheduled for sentencing on 12th and 13th November. However, there may be further delays because of the virus situation.

### Sign the Global Petition

We ask Merseyside CND members to [sign the petition](#) calling for all charges against the King's Bay Plowshares 7 to be dropped and join the prominent names who have already lent their support. These include:

[Prof. Noam Chomsky](#), Linguist, author and political activist

[Daniel Ellsberg](#), former military analyst, author and 'whistle-blower'

[Michael Moore](#), Filmmaker and political activist

[Prof. Martin Rees](#), Astronomer Royal

[Martin Sheen](#), Actor and peace activist

[Archbishop Desmond Tutu](#), Anti-apartheid campaigner



## REMEMBRANCE DAY

**10:45 for 11:00 start, Wed. 11th November**

### St. John's Gardens

We would like to invite all our members and allies to join us as we remember **all** victims of war, regardless of their nationality, race or religion.

Following speeches, a minute's silence will be observed and a wreath laid in their memory.

For further information, please contact the Merseyside CND office. Please note that social distancing guidelines must be observed.

**Please bring a white poppy for us to plant!**

## ELECTRONIC WARFARE EUROPE CANCELLED

As you may know the Electronic Warfare Europe arms fair was due to take place in Liverpool in November. However, due to the coronavirus pandemic it was, thankfully, cancelled.

The campaign against E.W.E. quickly gathered pace on Merseyside, with various organisations and individuals coming together in opposition to the sale of weapons of death and destruction.

Now that campaign shifts its focus to ensuring that no such event ever happens in Liverpool again. Liverpool City Council received over 40,000 emails to that effect, demonstrating massive public opposition to the arms trade.

For more information about how to get involved contact the MCND office.

## 50 CLUB - RECENT WINNERS

### Monthly Draw

July - Judy Patterson (27)

August - Brenda Lowndes (42)

September - John Middleton (47)

Despite the likelihood of Co-ord not meeting in person for the foreseeable future, the 50 Club draw will continue each month. If you have won you'll be notified immediately by email. If you have not already done so, please send your bank details to [cath.page@phonecoop.coop](mailto:cath.page@phonecoop.coop)

## CO-ORD MEETINGS

Since May our Co-ord meetings have, with one exception, been held online due to the Covid-19 pandemic and this is likely to be the case for the foreseeable future.

If you would be like to take part in the next meeting at **14:00, 4th November**, contact the office.

**Please note that it may begin later than planned as it immediately follows our meeting with Bruce Kent**

## JOIN MERSEYSIDE CND

### MERSEYSIDE C.N.D. MEMBERSHIP FORM

To receive regular newsletters please complete this form and return it to the address at the top of Page 1 along with your cheque.

NAME.....TELEPHONE.....

ADDRESS.....

EMAIL.....

I wish to \*join/ rejoin Merseyside CND. Subscription rates: \*waged-£5/ family-£6/ unwaged or youth (under 22) £2.

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

I understand that Merseyside CND needs funds for its campaigns and donate £.....



Produced by Merseyside Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament