



Global Ban on Nukes within reach!



Campaigners outside the UN HQ in New York

The first draft of the United Nations treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons was released in Geneva, Switzerland, on 22 May. Elayne Whyte Gómez, the Costa Rican ambassador who is presiding over negotiations of the historic accord, presented the text to diplomats and members of civil society.

The draft was developed on the basis of discussions and input received during the first round of negotiations, held at the UN headquarters in New York from 27 to 31 March 2017, with the participation of 132 nations. The negotiations will resume on 15 June and continue until 7 July, with the draft as the basis. These historic negotiations bring an end to more than two decades of paralysis in multilateral nuclear disarmament efforts – and mark a decisive turning point for the international community.

A large and diverse team of campaigners including representatives from CND participated actively during the first round of talks at the UN headquarters in New York. Setsuko Thurlow, a survivor of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, delivered ICAN's opening statement – an impassioned plea to delegates to bear in mind the victims of these horrific weapons and to work for a comprehensive, unambiguous ban. Sue Coleman-Haseldine, an Aboriginal nuclear test survivor from Australia, echoed her call, urging governments to include in the treaty a provision on victim assistance. Yorkshire CND Chair, Dave Webb was there and sent us this post from New York on Day 4 of the talks "There has been a buzz right from the start of this conference. I have not come across such a positive attitude from such a wide

Continued p.3



Vote out Nukes!

As this newsletter reaches you, the country will have been to the polls. Of the main political parties, the SNP, The Green Party and Plaid Cymru have an expressly anti-Trident policy. Former Vice-Chair of CND, Jeremy Corbyn's view on Trident are well known, but his hands were tied by official Labour Party policy. But with Theresa May declaring her willingness to press the nuclear button in parliament, and Michael Fallon going further, saying he would be prepared to launch a nuclear first strike, it seems clear that CND will be hoping that the Tories are no longer in power.

Inside

No To NATO - Trump not Welcome here!, upcoming demonstration at Menwith Hill on 4th July, Disarmament Camp at Coulport, preparations for anti-nuclear day at DSEi arms fair and more.....

Continued from front page

section of Civil Society before. All the way, from the numerous positive opening speeches of the conference until yesterday, people have been daring to say –“Is this really it? Are we on the verge of a breakthrough to make nuclear weapons illegal?” Of course, there is still a long way to go and the absence of the nuclear weapons states (apart from the rather sad and feeble demonstration by some – including, embarrassingly, the UK ambassador – right at the start) has removed the possibility of any major negative input to the proceedings.”

Meanwhile, activists in the UK attempted to fill in the gap in media coverage by drawing attention to this important world event. Some people from Yorkshire CND travelled to London to join Trident Ploughshares to announce the good news, dressed as town criers while in Bradford city centre, we had a stall and a banner (see photo).

The chair of the conference, Costa Rican ambassador Elayne Whyte, has conveyed her confidence that the treaty can be concluded by 7 July – the final day of the second round of negotiations – describing this as “an achievable goal”. In light of today’s dire international security environment, which places us within a hair’s breadth of nuclear catastrophe, our task is all the more crucial and urgent.

However, so far Britain has not stepped up to the plate, boycotting these negotiations. So, after the general election, the new government will have a clear choice: will it join the next stage



of negotiations taking place at the United Nations in June, or will it turn its back on the international community actively engaged in multilateral attempts to disarm?

As Kate Hudson of National CND asks “Does Britain stand for confrontation or co-operation? This is a key question as we near polling day. Let’s make sure we elect representatives who won’t turn their back on the world.”

Transport to Menwith Hill - 4th July demonstration

Yorkshire CND will be coordinating transport and lifts to the annual demonstration on 4th July at Menwith Hill organised by Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases.

It’s looking like it will be another cracker of a demo, with speakers including Fabian Hamilton MP, Shadow Minister for Peace & Disarmament, and music with a number of choirs and singers and the brilliant Bassa Bassa.

The demonstration is at the main gate at the base, and runs from 4pm until 8pm. If you would like a seat on the transport which we



hope to run from Bradford, Leeds and Calder Valley, do give us a call or an email as soon as possible so we can work out how many vehicles to arrange.

More info caab.org.uk

Weekly Demo

And don’t forget, if you can’t make it to the 4th July, CAAB still do a weekly demo at the main gate of Menwith Hill from 6pm-8pm every Tuesday. Don’t let them be lonely up there - join in!

The Militarisation of Scandinavia and the Arctic

On May 22nd, a few days before the anti-NATO demo in Brussels a much smaller but effective protest was taking place close to the Arctic Circle in Rovaniemi, Finland. This demo was against the Arctic Challenge Exercise being held there and in Sweden and Norway and which included contributions from Switzerland and 7 NATO member countries including the UK and US.

Finland and Sweden are not members of NATO but are members of NATO’s ‘Partnership for Peace’ programme having entered into ‘Host Nation Agreements’ in 2014 and 2016. This enables NATO to store military equipment and transport military forces through Finland and Sweden in times of crisis. The agreement does not mention nuclear weapons but as NATO is a nuclear power, there are no real guarantees that nuclear weapons will not be brought to or through ‘Host Countries’. One of the protestors, Kersten Tuomala, told how, since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Finland has slowly abandoned former understandings of peace and co-operation with Russia. Where once there was agreement not to threaten or attack, or allow a third part to do so through Finnish territory, we now see increasing levels and frequency of military action which can only intimidate and annoy.

US and NATO military exercises or deployments are held almost monthly in Europe and Scandinavia, some on a large scale – for example, the annual NATO exercise Operation Cold Response (held in Northern Norway), and Operation Joint Warrior (held twice a year off the coast of northern Scotland – how many of you know about this one!). The 3-week long Aurora exercise to be held around Gothenburg in September will be the largest military exercise in Sweden in 20 years (Protests are planned - see www.stop-paaaurora.se). There was also the huge ‘Operation Atlantic Resolve’ held early this year, in which US & NATO forces moved through Germany to fan out through Poland and Romania – along the Russian border. The US and NATO missile defense missile and radar bases established in Turkey, Poland and Romania, are other examples of the aggressive stance being taken against Russia - forming a choke hold along its western borders.

What makes the Arctic region so

No to NATO - Trump not Welcome Here!



“No to NATO” demonstration and conference, 24-25 May, Brussels

Dave Webb and I attended the “No to NATO” demonstration and conference in Brussels. On the evening of 24 May a crowd, estimated by the police at 15,000 and so probably many more, marched from the Gare du Nord station round much of the city centre. There were banners, bands, drummers and general noise makers of every sort, attracting a lot of attention. The whole gamut of groups opposing NATO were represented. The CND banner was carried by Kate Hudson and Carol Turner. There was of course an enormous armed Police and Army presence, with helicopters overhead. Donald Trump was in town for the NATO summit. The march was a great success and a credit to the organisers. It finished for some of us on this hot evening in the Grande Place eating a plate of delicious moules-frites washed down with a large glass of Belgian beer.

The conference was excellent covering all aspects of NATO policy. What really struck me was the number of speakers who called for an end to the demonization of Russia, Iran and North Korea. This only creates hatred and fear. What ever we think of these countries demonization is not the answer. Peace can only be achieved by dialogue. NATO seeks to create this fear and hatred to justify militarisation. This has to stop.

Kate Hudson and Dave Webb were a great success as speakers and moderators at the various sessions. CND was well represented.

What an excellent conference stressing again the need for international cooperation of the global Peace Movement.

Chris Butler

important is that it is rich in natural resources, in particular oil and natural gas. Most of the gross production of the region is by Russia (67%) and is crucial to the country’s economy. The melting of sea ice and glaciers is opening up important new sea transportation routes, including a northern route that would be the shortest between W Europe and Asia-Pacific. It could also enable US Aegis Combat Ships to be deployed in the Arctic. The US and Russian Navies have been deploying underwater drones to assess how quickly the ice is melting and understand how soon they will be competing

for new strategic waterways in the region. In addition, access to resources and new oil and gas fields is imminent - NATO and Russia seem to be preparing for the possibility of a new ‘Gold Rush’ to secure these resources.

The weapons corporations and politicians with vested interests are making a lot of money from just practicing wars, never mind starting them. We need to be aware of what is happening there and support our friends and colleagues in Scandinavia who are standing up against the militarisation of the Arctic and Far North.

Dave Webb

Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day Memorial Plans (6th & 9th August)

Bradford: As in previous years, we'll meet at midday on 6th in Norfolk Gardens and the ceremony will finish before 1pm when attendees will be welcomed by Bradford Peace Museum for refreshments. The Lord Mayor will read the Peace Declaration that will be made by his counterpart the Mayor of Hiroshima Mr. Kazumi Matsui on that same morning.

Sheffield: Peace picnic for Hiroshima day - Sunday afternoon 6th August in the walled garden at Meersbrook park - with the Choir for Peace and other entertainment. Hosted by Sheffield Creative action for Peace and Meersbrook Walled Garden.

Leeds: There will be the traditional Nagasaki Day commemoration event in Park Square, Leeds, 9th August 10.45am for 11am start.

Calder Valley: Hiroshima Day event at the wavy steps in Hebden Bridge. Likely to be around 11am on 6th, but please contact kathypitt725@hotmail.com for more information.

Keighley - There will be a memorial event for Hiroshima / Nagasaki in Keighley Town Centre with details yet to be finalised. Contact Eithne on 07947793876 for more details

If your town is not mentioned here, and you would like to organise a commemoration, please get in touch and we can help you publicise it by designing a flyer, and giving you local contacts.

DSEI Protest Plans

For four days in September 2017, the international weapons industry plans to set up shop in London at a huge arms fair, DSEI. The weapons sold here fuel the death, destruction and injustice perpetrated by militaries and police forces around the world. These include companies involved in nuclear weapons production such as Lockheed Martin and Rolls Royce. In 2015, hundreds of people took part in a huge week of action to stop the set up of the arms fair – the biggest-ever protests against DSEI. For six days entrances were blocked disrupting the set-up of the fair.



has been called for the 4 – 11 September 2017, and we need everyone to help make it happen. As part of this week of action there will be an Anti-Nuclear Day

Visit to Coulport

Yorkshire CND will be taking part in the Coulport Disarmament Camp in Scotland. We are planning to travel up on Friday 14th and return on Sunday 16th.



If you would like to come along, please get in touch with us at the office.

Here is the invitation from Trident Ploughshares:

Everyone who opposes Trident and its grim replacement is invited to join us for ten days of camping, plotting and taking direct action to disrupt this monstrosity whether it be, vigilling, blockading, breaking in, graffitiiing, weapons inspecting, dancing in the road, planting seeds or what have you... the possibilities are enormous.

All welcome for as little or as long as you can stay. Bring friends, make friends, and enjoy camping in an ancient oak woodland adjacent to MOD Coulport, where the nuclear weapons are stored in sinister bunkers deep inside the hillside by one of the most beautiful lochs in Scotland. Let's evict the undesirable tenants and return that hillside to nature.

on Wednesday 6th September which is being organised by Trident Ploughshares and local and regional CND and peace groups including Yorkshire CND.

We have held one Non-Violent Direct Action Training Day already, but will plan another in response to need.

There will be a northern meeting for those planning to participate in the No Nuclear Day at DSEi in Manchester on 9th July - please

contact the office for more details.

Nuclear Convoy Break-down



On May 15th, the nuclear warhead convoy that was travelling between AWE (Atomic Weapons Establishment) Burghfield near Reading and the warhead storage facility Coulport in Scotland, was involved in a breakdown on the M40. One of the Armoured Personnel Carriers that form part of the convoy had to be attached to the breakdown truck. A slip road was temporarily closed, and the convoy set off once more after 45 minutes.

The breakdown was noticed by members of Nukewatch, who track the nuclear convoys whenever possible. A Nukewatch spokesman said: *"The breakdown happened to an escort vehicle rather than one of the warhead carrying trucks but clearly any vehicle can have problems. "After all, there have been 180 incidents involving the convoys in the period 2000 to 2016. "It is probably only a matter of time before we have a serious accident involving these convoys. The transport of these weapons shows a disturbing disregard for public safety, which is put in second place by the government's determination to continue to deploy these horrific weapons of mass destruction."*

We will be organising a meeting in Pontefract, which is on the convoy route over the summer, working with Father Simon Lodge, so please look out for details on our emails, or contact us in the office.

Nukewatch Appeal

Nukewatch monitors the Trident nuclear warheads as they are transported by convoy from Burghfield to Coulport. During 2016 at least 6 loaded convoys travelled north and at least 5 travelled south. Nukewatch estimates that 34 warheads were delivered to Coulport and 28 returned to Burghfield. These numbers coincide with the arsenal of nuclear bombs on one Trident submarine. Journeys have also taken place that Nukewatch have not been able to monitor.

More members of the public are spotting the convoy. If you see it please ring a nukewatch number as soon as possible.

S 0345 45 88 364
N 0345 45 88 365
M 07793 226 488
M 07790 409 339

Nukewatch needs to know what you see, when and what direction the convoy is travelling in.

Fundraiser's Column

The Day of Dance in May was another wonderful day with a huge variety of dance, performance and other workshops (see photo). As always, huge thanks must go to all our tutors who donate their time and skills with such passion and enthusiasm. We are also very grateful to all our wonderful volunteers who work so hard to ensure the day runs smoothly.

With fundraising at Glastonbury and other festivals taking up much of the summer, we shall soon be turning our attention to the Peace & Craft Fair. Taking place this year on Saturday 25th November at Victoria Hall in Saltaire, we look forward to welcoming hundreds of people through the door to shop from a really fantastic selection of crafters and traders. We ensure all our stalls are of a really high standard to make the event very special. If you are a maker or crafter and wish to apply for a stall for the November event, please get in touch!

As we now know Glastonbury won't be taking place in

www.nukewatch.org.uk

Here in Yorkshire the A1/M1 passes through the length of the county and more volunteers are needed to monitor it. It is often frustrating because of lack of specific timings of the movement of the convoy. It is also boring. But this is forgotten when you see the warhead carriers with a long line of support vehicles and think of the implications. This is the nearest most of us get to nuclear bombs. So the more contact names on a rota the more likely someone will be able to monitor when the news comes that the convoy is gathering in Burghfield.

A car is not vital but for comfort and logistics it is useful, as is watching in twos.

This an appeal for any members who feel they could help to contact Sylvia 0798510280 or Dave 07717606189

2018, we will be looking at how we plan our fundraising events for the next couple of years. This will include new events and applications for funding from organisations who support our campaigning objectives. If you or anyone you know is interested in getting involved in this work, or has contacts with organisation, please let us know.

Once again, many thanks for all your membership, donations and support for events. Every penny really does count and we work hard to use every penny in the most effective way to build a future free from nuclear weapons.

Sarah



Diary

4th July - Annual Independence from America demo at Menwith Hill, organised by CAAB - see inside for details of transport.

10th June - CND tent at Peace in the Park in Sheffield, Ponderosa, 1-8pm - do come and see us!

10-12 June - THE BOMB - The UK Premier as part of Sheffield Documentary Film Festival. Through the use of experimental montage and atmospheric film scoring, the trio of filmmakers (including author of Command & Control Eric Schlosser) presents an alarmingly bleak impression of humanity under atomic threat. With a focus on the decades before and after the nuclear attacks in Japan, the film shows how global military hubris repeatedly endangers life on earth as we know it.

24th June - Armed Forces Day - CND hopes to do something in opposition to this in Bradford, so please contact the office if you are interested.

8-16th July - Trident Ploughshares Disarmament Camp at Coulport (see inside)

27th-31st July - Peace News Camp <http://peacenewscamp.info/>

6th August - Hiroshima Day

9th August - Nagasaki Day

See article inside for details of local commemorations.

6th September - Anti-Nuclear Day at DSEi - see inside.

14th October - CND National Conference

New Student Outreach Worker

As some readers may be aware, ICAN UK recently folded, and the remaining money was distributed among three member campaigning groups to continue its work. CND is one of these, and is tasked with raising awareness of the Global Ban Treaty and nuclear weapons among students, and continuing some work on nuclear convoys.

To that end, it was decided to employ a student outreach worker for a year one day a week, working from the Yorkshire CND office. We are delighted to introduce Rachel Melly, who was previously the Student Network Coordinator for Campaign Against Arms Trade.

She will be working to raise awareness in universities in Leeds, Sheffield, York and Huddersfield, so if you have any contacts there, or would like her to visit your group, please do get in touch with her at the office.

Sheffield discusses Global Ban Treaty.

Sheffield Creative Resistance for Peace organised a meeting on the Global Ban Treaty (see front page article for more information on the treaty) with Janet Fenton from Scotland. It was well attended with around about 30 people there - mainly SCRAP and WILPF members. Everyone came away with the feeling that the global nuclear ban treaty was something that we needed to do much more to highlight, as it is probably the most hopeful thing that has happened in terms of nuclear disarmament in a long time.

Local CND & Peace Groups/

NEW GROUP - Shipley CND- Chris Butler
christopherbutler1@mac.com or 07913 636036

York University CND group - contact
joshfoskett@gmail.com

Rotherham CND - jon_smith@blueyonder.co.uk
or phone 07952 044824

Calder Valley - contact kathypitt725@hotmail.com
or 07980 291478

Huddersfield Peace Group c/o Charlie Fairbank,
fairbankcharles@gmail.com, Tel: 01484-846183

Leeds CND - contact Dave on 07717 606189
[facebook.com/LeedsCND](https://www.facebook.com/LeedsCND) or leedscond@gmail.com

Middlesbrough / Teesside CND -
hussainsam03@gmail.com

Hull CND - Angela Needham, 07737 249461,
angela_needham@homeopathy-soh.org

Keighley Peace Justice & Environment Network - contact Sylvia on 01535 596808
robinandsylvia@aol.com

Grassington & District Peace Group - Richard Hargreaves, strand@hawkswick.net

Sheffield CND - 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

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