



## Scrap Trident - use the £205bn to Build Back Better!

The world has changed drastically since the last edition of Action for Peace. The existential threat posed by the virus has left us reeling and forced us to make unprecedented changes to our lives, and also to the way we campaign.

This edition is smaller than usual, reflecting the fact that many events have had to be cancelled. However Yorkshire CND has continued remotely, pressing the point that now more than ever, spending £205 billion on nuclear weapons looks pointless and foolish. The huge upheaval has in some ways created new opportunities, as the world has had to reexamine priorities. A global pandemic that threatens all countries and societies requires a globally coordinated response. In that sense, it seems incredible that wars are still being waged, and that people are still dying from entirely preventable causes. This is why in March, the UN Secretary General called for a global ceasefire. *“The fury of the virus illustrates the folly of war”*, Antonio Guterres said. *“That is why today, I am calling for an immediate global ceasefire in all corners of the world. It is time to put armed conflict on lockdown and focus together on the true fight of our lives.”* In outlining the intense diplomatic efforts to end some of the most devastating ongoing conflicts in the world, he emphasised that *“To silence the guns, we must raise the voices for peace.”*

And raise our voices we must.

Work on progressing the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has continued apace here in Yorkshire and we are making ambitious (if unusually distanced!) plans to hold events to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (see articles inside). We have also held a successful international webinar on the militarisation of space. How fruitless it seems now to be spending billions on this while here on earth humanity is struggling to survive!

YCND has also just joined Build Back Better, a new coalition which campaigns for a new economic deal that protects public services,



tackles inequality in our communities, provides secure well-paid jobs and creates a shockproof economy which can fight the climate crisis.

Sara Medi-Jones explains why CND is working with Build Back Better in CND’s national newsletter, Campaign, *“The pandemic has caused personal devastation and economic hardship and it doesn’t seem like our lives will return to ‘normal’ soon. But perhaps we don’t want to go back to exactly the way things were before. Out of this catastrophe we need new thinking from the government, to meet the real challenges our society faces. Pandemics will continue to affect our lives. The climate is worsening. Water and food insecurity will intensify, especially with the expected post-pandemic economic crisis. These are all genuine security issues that the government needs to urgently address. The government should not only be judged on how they responded to this crisis, but how they prepared for it. And unfortunately, this government – and ones before it – got their priorities wrong. Instead of spending on health, successive governments have chosen to go ahead with building a new generation of nuclear weapons. But it’s not too late to change course. Work on the first submarines is only in the initial stages. It’s time for a new vision of society, we must be bold enough to declare that nuclear weapons have no part in it. As campaigners rooted in our communities, we must speak up about the type of world we want to live in. As part of this work, CND is delighted to be working as part of Build Back Better.”*

It is down to us to make sure that when building back better, militarisation and nuclear weapons take a back seat.

Get involved with Build Back Better’s actions and make sure your voice is heard. You can visit the website [buildbackbetteruk.org](http://buildbackbetteruk.org) or follow on Twitter [@BuildBckBetter](https://twitter.com/BuildBckBetter).

### Inside

Update on Treaty for Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Events for Hiroshima/Nagasaki Day and more.....

## Making our point....

In view of everything said on page 1, if you agree that now is a good time to consider spreading the word about changing priorities after lockdown, perhaps you can make use of the posters designed by Build Back Better ([www.buildbackbetteruk.org](http://www.buildbackbetteruk.org)). Or more directly relevant to our campaigning, XR Peace have produced an excellent range of leaflets and posters

- ***Climate chaos and covid-19 pandemic: dangers for our security when warnings are ignored.***
- ***Global ceasefire now! Save lives, build international security and peace***
- ***Nuclear weapons in covid times: deadly threats to lives, health and security***
- ***Using nuclear weapons: humanitarian catastrophe and massive climate destruction***

Printable versions with linked references online - <https://xrpeace.org/leaflets-and-posters/>

## UK Military Carbon Emissions exceed 60 countries

A new report published by Scientists for Global Responsibility (SGR) and Declassified UK (DUK) – accuses the Ministry of Defence of being “highly selective” in the information it publishes about its carbon emissions and other environmental impacts. The total figure they calculated of 11 million tonnes, is equivalent to 6 million cars. More info: [www.sgr.org.uk](http://www.sgr.org.uk)

## UK spending on nukes is 3rd highest in world

Another new report, this time published by ICAN shows UK spending on nuclear weapons was only exceeded last year by the US and China. If you're wondering why our spending is so much more than other nations with larger stockpiles a report by the UK Parliamentary public accounts committee two weeks ago showed billions wasted as a result of MoD mismanagement.

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

## 16 July - Bradford 75 years under the bomb



A flashmob style photoshoot of a human CND symbol made up of 75 Bradford citizens marking 75 years since the **Trinity test** and the dawn of the nuclear age. We will be asking local councillors, civic figures and peace campaigners to join us in calling time on the nuclear age and supporting the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The symbol will be marked out ahead of time, strictly to social distancing guidelines and each participant will be allocated a number which will be marked out on the floor. Get in touch with us in the office if you'd like to be one of the 75 (or nominate someone) or join the organising group weekly virtual meetings - anyone local to Bradford is very welcome.

Trinity was the code name of the first ever detonation of a nuclear device. It was conducted by the US Army on July 16, 1945, as part of the Manhattan Project to develop nuclear weapons. The test was conducted in the Jornada del Muerto desert in New Mexico.

## 75th Anniversary of Hiroshima/Nagasaki

Many of our local groups will have been planning to organise special events to mark the 75th anniversary since the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. At this moment, it is difficult to predict which of these plans will need to be replaced with online events, and which will be able to proceed in an amended way. Below are the events that are planned that we are aware of, but this may change and it is best to contact us closer to the time or check our website for updates.

Leeds - Nagasaki Day commemoration on Sunday 9th August. Hope to be able to take place in person in Park Sq, assemble 10.30, perhaps followed by a film showing. For updates contact [a.beal@btinternet.com](mailto:a.beal@btinternet.com)

Calder Valley - Hiroshima / Nagasaki Day commemoration - 9th August. At the very least we will have an online presence with individuals issuing peace declarations at various peace related locations in the valley. But we hope to have a socially distanced event in Calder Holmes park, perhaps making a CND symbol in the manner described above in Bradford. Contact [kathypitt725@hotmail.com](mailto:kathypitt725@hotmail.com) for details or via the office.

Bradford - Norfolk Gardens 11-11.50am 8th August, Lord Mayor to attend. However the initial plans to have a march and cultural event following this have been scaled back. Contact the CND office for more info.

Keighley - usually hold a vigil on 6th August, but plans under discussion at the moment, - please contact [robinandsylvia@aol.com](mailto:robinandsylvia@aol.com) for more info.

## Only 3 Trident subs for UK?

Kate Hudson, General Secretary of CND writes in her blog recently...

“Interesting news is emerging that the defence budget is facing huge cuts next year as government slashes spending due to the predicted falls in economic output.

Meanwhile the government is mired in a delayed Integrated Review of defence, foreign and security policies and it's anyone's guess when this will finally report. There are suggestions that nothing is sacrosanct when it comes to cuts.

According to military sources, 'A top candidate for the chop is the nuclear submarine HMS Vanguard, which has been languishing in a dockyard in Plymouth for five years. A project to refuel its reactor is more than a year late after serious technical hitches, raising fears that its £400m budget is out of control and could double'. It is suggested that Vanguard may be broken up for parts to keep the other three Trident subs going until the replacement comes on stream from 2030.

This re-raises the debate of a decade ago, when the Lib Dems entered the Coalition government with the Conservatives. The Lib Dems proposed that Britain should drop to three subs instead of four, and end 'continuous at-sea deterrence' (CASD). The case was extensively argued in a Cabinet Office review led by the then Armed Forces Minister Sir Nick Harvey. Indeed, Lib Dem opposition to like-for-like replacement was the most significant policy difference between the Coalition parties.

Harvey slated CASD, describing it as complete insanity, that costs too much and is militarily illogical. Quite so, but the Conservatives didn't buy the argument and Harvey was sidelined. But what they rejected at that time they may now have to embrace.

Meanwhile, the MoD has declined to comment on when HMS Vanguard will come back into service, falling back on the habitual argument that to release this information would "prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces". Watch this space.'

## Trump fouls the air!

With the world distracted by Covid-19 and the approaching 2020 presidential election, Trump has now threatened to undertake the first nuclear weapon tests in America since 1992, breaking the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. The idea was reportedly discussed by senior Trump officials at a meeting in the White House on 15 May. These tests could start a new multilateral Cold War and have already provoked North Korea.

This comes immediately on the heels of the announcement that Trump intends to withdraw from the Open Skies Treaty, which is intended to reduce the risk of war by allowing Russia and western nations to conduct observation flights over each other's territory. This is the third arms control treaty that Trump has trashed since taking the presidency, and his actions not only reveal him as a global security threat but as a deeply stupid and contradictory man. Apparently he is preoccupied with the existential threat of nuclear war, and wants to be the one to put an end to it, while simultaneously boasting about the size of his nuclear button, and a mystery "super duper" missile. Withdrawing from treaties which have helped keep us back from the brink of nuclear war is hardly likely to bring other countries to the nuclear negotiating table.

What Trump appears to misunderstand is that arms control is not merely a business trade-off. Nuclear treaties must be managed with delicacy and sensitivity. Qualities sorely lacking in the current US President. Let's hope he doesn't survive another term, or else we may not survive another generation.

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## Treaty for Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Belize became the latest country to ratify on 19th May, leaving just 13 more countries needed before the Treaty becomes international law (see previous editions for details on the Treaty or [www.icanw.org](http://www.icanw.org)). Following that the Fijian parliamentary foreign affairs and defence committee recommended full ratification to parliament, so it is likely they will be the next.

Here in Yorkshire, we continue to believe that getting the UK to sign the Treaty is an effective way to abolish Trident, and that this will only happen when there is pressure from wider society. Since the beginning of the year when Richard Outram joined the Yorkshire CND team his work on encouraging town and parish councils to engage with the TPNW has bloomed. He has done extensive research and we now have a target list of councils and councillors to approach.

Richard has also been meeting (online mostly!) local CND groups and peace campaigners to further these aims. Scores of councillors have been written to, promising

leads followed up with those interested, articles written for the peace based media.

A few things are holding us back, the first being Covid19; local councils either are not meeting at all, or are only dealing with essential business. The second is that although the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) Cities Appeal and Parliamentary Pledge are useful tools, the wording of these isn't necessarily entirely appropriate for local councillors to sign, or smaller parish councils to adopt. We are working on creating an adapted resolution and pledge, and hope to get this work on a very local level adopted in other parts of the UK.



Richard presenting peace cranes to Hibakusha on the visit of Peace Boat to Liverpool, Oct 2018

## Armchair Activism

There are more peace-related webinars and online petitions than we have space to mention here. Many have featured in our regular e-newsletters, so make sure you are signed up. Here are some of the most relevant to YCND:

**Menwith Hill** - There have been no weekly demos at Menwith Hill since the lockdown, and Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign do not feel that they can go ahead with their annual 4th July Independence from America demo in person. They will instead be holding an online demo featuring Chris Cole (Drone Wars), Dave Webb, The Peace Artistes and E Lancs Clarion Choir. Please do join us. **3.30pm to 5pm, 4th July.** Contact the office for the link to join in.



**'End of the Atomic Age'** - Yorkshire CND and NW Labour CND present a webinar marking 75 years since the Trinity tests, the Hiroshima/Nagasaki bombings and (hopefully) the year in which a UN ban enters into international law. Date to be fixed: late July, early Aug  
Speakers: Fabian Hamilton MP, Shadow Minister for Peace & Disarmament, and Alicia Sanders-Zakre (ICAN



policy and research coordinator) Focusing on the UN TPNW, the webinar will also touch on the the global ceasefire proposal vs the dangers of a new nuclear arms race.

### War in Space - Weaponising the Final Frontier.

YCND and Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space organised an informative webinar in April. We were delighted to have almost 100 people join us on Zoom from around the world with many more watching live on Facebook. Prof Dave Webb (CND Chair) was in conversation with Bruce Gagnon (Coordinator of Global Network) & Lynda Walker (Activist and Science-educator, California, US). Available to view online now at [www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk](http://www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk).

**CND has been live-streaming seminars** on defence diversification, security, nuclear weapons, and more throughout the Covid-19 lockdown. Catch-up on all of the discussions at [www.cnduk.org](http://www.cnduk.org).

**'The Atom: A Love Affair'** - A new documentary which was scheduled for cinema release last month is available to watch at home now. There is also the possibility of organising community showings when restrictions are lifted. [www.curzonhomecinema.com](http://www.curzonhomecinema.com)

## Fundraising Update

As you will no doubt be aware, we had to cancel almost all our planned events. Sadly the Day of Dance will not happen in 2020 at all, but instead this year's programme will run on 15th May 2021 with tickets valid until then. Both the festivals we usually fundraise at, Glastonbury and Shambala, were cancelled meaning a shortfall of around £7-8000. We have managed to postpone the Rob Newman benefit gig in York until 8th December. Tickets are still available <http://thecrescentyork.com/events/rob-newman-philosophy-show/>

We are desperately hoping that we can run the Peace & Craft Fair on 28th November, but anticipate much reduced income due to the social distancing measures we may need to take, including less people and less stalls.

All in all this leaves us in a difficult situation financially. The government furloughing scheme has helped, with Cath having largely been furloughed. At the beginning of lockdown we had also just recruited another worker to replace Andrew, job sharing with Matt as the Campaigns officer. However due to the office being closed, we were unable to begin his employment. We are looking forward to welcoming Jonas to the YCND team in July, and we will write more on this in the next edition.

We are discussing ways of fundraising online, and will give an update in the e-newsletters (see below) and in the next edition. We are reluctant to run an Appeal at present, as we know that many of our members are also facing an uncertain financial future. We may well do this in the near future when things feel a little more secure. In the meantime, please support our campaigning initiatives, though as always, we are happy to receive donations at any time!

**Are you subscribed to our fortnightly email keeping you up to date between newsletters? This is even more important now that we can do much less in person, and because plans are changing all the time due to COVID19 regulations. Contact [info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk](mailto:info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk) to be added.**

Yorkshire CND stands in solidarity with those around the world who are demonstrating saying 'Black Lives Matter'. The death of George Floyd has highlighted the persistence of racial inequalities in our society. We understand that until *all of us* are free to live in peace, none of us can do so.

**'War School'** Documentary available free on Youtube until end of June. War School is a brilliant film about the battle for the hearts and minds of Britain's children. [www.war.school](http://www.war.school)

Action for Peace is produced quarterly by Yorkshire CND

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