Yorkshire CND
Issue 105

Autumn 2020

Action for Peace

Yorkshire Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

CAN WE MAKE NUCLEAR WEAPONS ILLEGAL BY CHRISTMAS??

Treaty for Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons now ratified by 44 states as another Yorkshire council pledges support

In the past few weeks four more countries have signed or ratified the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We know other countries will follow around the anniversary of the treaty launch and expect it to reach the 50 states required for it to become international law by Christmas. While international public opinion is firmly in favour of the global ban, nuclear states such as the UK have already stated they will remain outside the treaty

When governments refuse to listen or even to enter into debate, we must build our opposition via local structures of power. Resolutions supporting the TPNW have now been passed at all levels of local government; from parish councils such as Shaw & Crompton; through town councils, such as Hebden Royd & unitary authorities, such as East Ayrshire; to city councils, such as Manchester and Edinburgh. Internationally, resolutions have been passed by hundreds of towns and cities including Paris, Berlin and Washington D.C.

The latest to pass a resolution of support was Blackshaw Parish Council in Calderdale. Calder Valley CND worked with a supportive councillor to table the motion, and were immensely pleased that it passed unanimously. The group have already taken steps to get a similar motion tabled at other parish, town and the borough council in the area.

We want to see discussions in villages, towns and cities across the region, we want our local representatives to stand with the majority of the world in rejecting these weapons and calling on the Government to do the same. So we are asking each and every one of our members and supporters to take action now. Ask your councillor to sign the pledge, and/or to raise it in their elected assembly, it will take only a few minutes and you don't even have to leave your home.

Find your local ward councillor (writetothem.com is useful for this), or contact your parish or town council.

cont. pg 2....

'75 years is enough' - Iconic Human CND Symbol

On 16th July, the date of the first atomic test explosion in New Mexico, a giant human peace symbol was formed by 75 local campaigners in Bradford. The demonstration commemorated all the lives lost as a result of the testing and use of nuclear weapons and called on Bradford Council to formally support the UN Treaty to ban all nuclear weapons across the globe

The action was such a success that other groups are being encouraged to repeat it in their areas, with ***Leeds next on 26th September.*** International day for Nuclear Disarmament.

cont. pg 2....

Inside

Reports and photos from events for Hiroshima/Nagasaki Day, Keep Space for Peace Week and more.....

...cont. from pg 1

The event was an ideal form of safe but effective action to take in the Corona-Virus era.

"We had to do something to mark this milestone, but wanted to ensure we didn't put anyone at risk. The solution we came up with, was to mark out the symbol with painted pebbles placed 2 metres apart. Every participant was given a number ahead of time to ensure we maintained a safe distance. The only problem was too many people wanting to be involved!" said Mike Barrett a local artist and graphic designer, who mapped out the symbol.

The small group of volunteers who worked alongside YCND to organise the event were very pleased with the diversity of the 75 people involved. With local councillors, religious leaders, long time peace activists, and young people it represented a good cross-section of Bradford residents. It got great coverage in the press featuring on local radio and in the Telegraph & Argus in the run-up to, and after the event, with an appearance on the front-page and editorial!

Neil Terry got some excellent photos, as you can see over, and we were extremely lucky to have the involvement of local film-makers Stephen & Jamie Garnett whose short film of the event is a fantastic record.

You can watch the film on the YCND website and it is highly recommended you do!

If this inspires you to join Bradford and Leeds (see this page) and carry out a similar action in their areas, get in touch - we can help!

Leeds 75 - Be part of the iconic symbol on International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

In Leeds we are calling for 75 local citizens, be they campaigners, supporters, local councillors or religious and civic leaders to form a peace symbol in Millenium Square to mark out Leeds as a city of peace. Will you join us?

In 2013 the United Nations declared 26th September "The International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons'. Leeds CND, alongside other peace and social justice campaigners, is using this day to call on the local and global community to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We are staging this flashmob photoshoot in order to bring pressure to bear on our own government: a nuclear weapon state openly committed to defying future international law and maintaining its nuclear arsenal.

The event will take place under social distancing guidelines, each signatory will be given a number, which will be marked out on the floor at least 2 metres apart.

Register to be in the photoshoot at the Yorkshire CND website - or call the office on 01274 730795

UK Government lobbies Congress over new nuclear warhead

The UK has made an unprecedented intervention into a US Congress debate in support of a new warhead for Trident missiles. A letter from the UK's Defence Secretary, Ben Wallace, urged Congress to support spending on the W93 warhead. He argued that US support for the new warhead programme would be 'critical' to allowing the UK to upgrade its nuclear warheads, which would, in his view, ensure 'the long-term viability of the UK's nuclear deterrent and therefore, the future of NATO as a nuclear alliance.'

This intervention supports Trump in his conflict with Congress. The US already has two nuclear warheads it can use on Trident missiles and this controversial step fits in with Trump's decision to take the US out of arms control/reduction treaties.

This sorry episode demonstrates not only the UK government's lack of commitment to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty; it also shows its desperation to secure US support for its floundering Trident replacement project.
It also further reveals the dependence of the UK on the US for its "independent" nuclear weapons. It is increasingly clear that the future of Trident is decided in Washington and not Westminster. This is unacceptable and our parliamentarians need to reassert their authority.
(www.cnduk.org)

UN Treaty....cont from pg. 1

Send your local councillors a copy of the draft resolution and briefing paper and ask them if they will table a resolution. Also you can send a copy of our Local Councillor Pledge and ask them to sign it.

It doesn't have to be a long letter, you don't have to be a nuclear expert, just let them know in a paragraph why it's important to you and ask them to take a look. All the communities that we live in (and that they represent) are targets in any nuclear conflict. It is our public money squandered on weapons of mass destruction rather than local services. Municipalities across the world are joining the resistance, why not yours?

Faith Leaders

We have also created a Faith Leaders pledge of support. You can find it on our website or contact the office for a copy. If you are a member of a church or faith community, write to your leaders or elders and ask them for their support.

Don't forget to let us know if faith or community leaders sign it so we can build up evidence of community support across the country.

Keighley remembers Hiroshima!

Organised by the Keighley Peace, Justice and Environment Network, a vigil was held involving over 20 local residents and activists. Joined by Keighley Town Mayor Peter Corkindale, Rev. Graham Potter on behalf of the Parish of Keighley and Doctor Richard Solomons – the event involved speeches, the retelling of first-hand stories from Hibakusha survivors documenting the horrific experience of Hiroshima and the placing and collection of peace cranes.

Mr.Corkindale received a copy of the Peace Declaration published earlier in the day by Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui. The Peace Declaration noted that “On 6 August 1945 a single bomb destroyed our city. Rumour at the time had it that ‘nothing will grow here for 75 years’. And yet, Hiroshima recovered, becoming a symbol of peace visited by millions from around the world.” Mr. Corkindale himself emphasized the need to learn lessons from the past and from the current pandemic as we move forward.

Sheffield says"No More Hiroshimas"

Sheffield Creative Action for Peace (SCRAP) held a well-attended vigil outside the Town Hall, involving many local residents, campaigns and organisations, such as Yorkshire CND and Extinction Rebellion. As well as displaying home-made placards sending a defiant message of peace and justice, SCRAP members read messages from the Mayors of both Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Lord Mayor of Sheffield Tony Downing and Sheffield Hallam MP Olivia Blake, also spoke of the need for global peace, disarmament and co-operation.

Calder Valley CND commemorate 75 years since the bomb

Mayor of Hebden Royd and CND supporter, Val Stevens, joined members of the Calder Valley CND for Peace & Justice at a smaller than usual event in Hebden Bridge on 9th August. A decision had been taken not to publicise it widely due to the 2nd lockdown in our area but around ten people attended the moving service.

Bradford commemorates 75th Hiroshima & Nagasaki anniversary

The event to mark the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Bradford was moved online over social distancing concerns.

The ceremony, featuring contributions from the Bishop of Bradford Toby Howarth and Lord Mayor Councillor Doreen Lee alongside a poem written especially for the occasion by Bradford Poet Sharena Lee Satti was been livestreamed. Five local campaigners also laid a wreath in Norfolk Gardens paying their respects to all the lives lost due to nuclear devastation.

Lord Mayor Councillor Doreen Lee outlined the sheer scale of destruction and terror which underpinned the “human tragedy” of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Urging everyone to 'remember in order not to repeat', she stressed, “we must not squander the ability to learn from these lessons of the past”.

Bishop Toby Howarth stated that, in the context of both the pandemic and the climate crisis, it is more important than ever, that we rid ourselves of nuclear weapons and redirect those resources into making the world a healthier, safer place. He echoed the words of Pope Francis and ended with a prayer for peace.

Leeds remembers Nagasaki!

Organised by Leeds CND, and sponsored by Mayors for Peace and Leeds Peacelink, a vigil was held in Park Square on August 9th. Joined by Councillor Eileen Taylor, the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Councillor David Blackburn, chair of both Peacelink and Nuclear-Free Authorities, and Councillor Ann Forsaith, local campaigners paid their respects to the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

After laying down a wreath at the foot of Park Square’s Ginkgo tree, the Lord Mayor proceeded to read out the Mayor of Nagasaki’s own anniversary speech commemorating the lives lost 75 years ago and reaffirming the peace movement’s commitment to nuclear abolition. Councillor Blackburn read out the Mayor of Hiroshima’s annual declaration.

There were also Hibakusha testimonies read out by local campaigners, pertaining to the damage and destruction caused by nuclear weapons. As well as music played by the Hands Across band, several elected councillors signed ICAN’s Councillor peace pledge demanding support for the 2017 UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). We also had words from National CND chair and Leeds resident, Dave Webb who, on the refusal of the nuclear weapon states to recognise the TPNW, restated “that we’re not going to let that stop us.” He urged Leeds City Council to follow the path trodden by Oxford, Manchester, Norwich and many others across the world in defying national government and pledging support for the treaty.

Keep Space for Peace Week 2020 3-10th October

Every autumn the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space organises Keep Space for Peace Week where activists on the issue of militarisation of space around the world are invited to hold local events.
In 2020 they are highlighting the provocative US-NATO military encirclement of Russia & China with 'missile defense' systems that are key elements in Pentagon first-strike attack planning. The aim is to highlight that very expensive military satellites, launched into space by very expensive rockets, are fundamentally key in making it possible for the military to carry out their deadly and immoral deeds on behalf of corporate interests.

With the two US bases linked with US Missile Defence in Yorkshire, the militarisation of space has long been a main thrust of our campaigns activity, working alongside Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign (MHAC).
Our usual events at the US bases of Fylingdales and Menwith Hill will move online this year.

There will be an online protest on Saturday 10th October linking Menwith Hill and Fylingdales, with a live-link up to the base, featuring the Yorkshire CND film, music and speakers.
More details and how to register will be sent on the e-newsletter closer to the time, but do get in touch with the office if you want more info.

At the beginning of the week, Oxford CND are organising a webinar about USAF Croughton (see opposite)

The regular Tuesday night demos at Menwith Hill, which have happened every week for over 20 years come wind, rain or snow, have been brought to a halt by corona virus. Negotiations are taking place with the police about when these could start up again, and we will keep you updated via the Yorkshire CND website and e-news.

CND Webinar - 'Global war-fighting starts here' Saturday 3rd October – 2pm

Speakers: Kate Hudson – General Secretary CND
Dave Webb – Chair CND, and another TBC
Q&A, Video update USAF Croughton – Paul Mobbs (Croughtonwatch)
Seagreen Singers sing Peace songs
01865 248357 or oxonpeace@yahoo.co.uk
This major U.S. communication and intelligence base supports space communications, data links, military drone information, bomber guidance, missile defence, diplomatic communications, and command and control war fghting functions. It is a key link in the 'chain' controlling US surveillance, armed drone and special forces operations across Europe, Africa and the Middle East.
Webinar register:
cnduk.org/events/global-war-fighting-starts-here/

Croughton: The 'British' base for American spies

Richard Norton-Taylor has written an expose on the secretive US base in Northamptonshire. He explains that it has taken the accident involving an alleged US intelligence office in which 19 year old Harry Dunn was killed, to uncover the real role of Croughton. Scott Lucas, professor of international politics at the University of Birmingham told Norton-Taylor: "It took the killing of Harry Dunn to bring attention to a significant expansion of US intelligence capability, for collection and analysis at the bases at Croughton and Molesworth."
The full article is at www.dailymaverick.co.za

Fundraising update

You'll see from the accompanying appeal letter, that YCND is in difficult financial straits. With much sadness we made the decision to covid cancel the Peace & Craft Fair, which together with other events brings the number of major fundraising losses this year to five. Even next May's Day of Dance hangs in the balance due to social distancing measures.

We are hoping to create an online Peace & Craft Fair working alongside ShopAppy, which will launch on the day of our fair, so please support our stallholders by looking out for this in our e-newsletters.

In the meantime we'll be looking for grant funding, and other online funding ventures including a raffle of experiences. If you could offer an experience, whether it is a massage, a language lesson, craft lesson, guided walk, DIY job, or other, please contact cath@yorkshirecnd.org.uk with the offer.

More 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-newlsetters, so make sure you are signed up. Here are some of the most relevant to YCND:

15th Sep: Defence Diversification: Its time is now – CND's TUC Congress fringe As the pandemic hit, government urged rapid changes in industrial production. Many companies, including those that make parts of the UK's Trident system, switched to making ventilators, protective visors and other NHS requirements. This shows it can be done – and it has never been more urgent to produce for the public good. Join CND's zoom fringe – at this year's TUC Congress – to discuss how we can help make this type of change permanent. Speakers: Sam Mason (PCS Policy Officer), Hilary Wainwright (Red Pepper, participant in original Lucas Plan initiative) and Bert Schouwenburg (former International Officer GMB). Chaired by Kate Hudson (CND General Secretary). www.cnduk.org

19th September - **A Dangerous World: The US, China & The Threat of War** This meeting during Labour Connected Conference aims to push the case for it to continue the progressive and peaceful foreign policy stance adopted during Jeremy Corbyn's leadership, towards not just China but the rest of the world. www.stopwar.org.uk

21st September - save the date! Yorkshire CND webinar: Reclaiming Peace & Justice: mapping solidarities and histories between global peace and anti-racist movements" - 7pm. More details on speakers etc to be released soon. Contact the office for details.

26th September - creating the CND symbol in Leeds (see page 2)

3rd-10th October - USAF Croughton Webinar on 3rd, YCND and MHAC online protest on 10th (see inside)

10th October - **National CND's annual policy conference and AGM is all online this year and split over two weekends.** See https://cnduk.org/cnd-conference-2020/ or contact the office for info. Any CND member can take part, and we encourage you to do so

18th October - CND's discussion and workshop part of annual conference, "Campaigning in the post-virus world" online - to register see details above.

28th November - Online Peace & Craft Fair - do your eithical christmas shopping from the comfort of your chair and support CND at the same time. Details soon!

8th December - Rob Newman's Philosophy Show, a benefit for YCND in York - spread the word and be there! Tickets from thecrescentyork.com

If you missed the Yorkshire CND webinar 'The End of the Nuclear Age' recorded on 23rd july, you can listen to speakers Alicia Sanders-Zakre (policy & research coordinator for International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) and Fabian Hamilton MP (Shadow Minister for Peace & Disarmament) at www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Local CND & Peace Contacts/

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

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

Calder Valley - contact kathypitt725@hotmail.com or 07980 291478. Meeting online only at present.

Huddersfield Peace Group c/o Charlie Fairbank, fairbankcharles@gmail.com, Tel: 01484-846183 or Huddersfield Quakers - Robin Bowles at cara@cooptel.net

Leeds CND - meeting online only contact Dave on 07717 606189 facebook.com/LeedsCND or leedscnd@gmail.com

Leeds Coalition Against War - Meetings are currently online info@anbeal.co.uk

Keighley Peace Justice & Environment Network - email Ada at a.whitaker@gmx.co.uk

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

Sheffield CND - jonathanpaul.wallis@virginmedia.com http://www.sheffieldcnd.org.uk

Sheffield Creative Action for Peace (SCRAP) - Hilary 07818040982 - scraptridentnow@gmail.com

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 to be added.

Action for Peace is produced quarterly by Yorkshire CND

facebook.com/YorkshireCND

@yorkshireCND

Yorkshire CND, Bradford Deaf Centre, 25 Hallfield Rd, Bradford BD1 3RP 01274 730795

info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk
www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk

YCND Privacy Policy - https://yorkshirecnd.org.uk/privacy-policy/