

Issue 111

Spring
2022



Action for Peace

YORKSHIRE CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT



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expansion

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Latest News

Welcome to Sam!

Hello all!

My name is Sam Legg and I've just started with Yorkshire CND as your new Campaign and Events Co-ordinator. I'm excited to help the campaign grow, especially in times of ever increasing nuclear tensions and Boris Johnson's worrying push for more nuclear power stations across the UK. I hope that together we can help build a better future for generations to come.

I recognise the importance of ensuring that this message is heard and understood. I'm particularly keen on building up stronger relationships with young people and within academia, whilst investigating how we can act creatively to spread our message in an accessible way e.g. through music, comedy, and art.

If you have any questions or information you'd like me to know (e.g. about upcoming events or collaboration opportunities), please don't hesitate to get in touch. Feel free to contact me at:
sam@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

In peace,

Sam



MHAC continues its weekly evening demonstration at Menwith Hill spy base

There is a witness and protest led by the Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign outside the main entrance to the American base every Tuesday evening (6 - 7.30 pm). This demonstration has been going almost every week since July 2000. Menwith Hill is in North Yorkshire on the A59 to Skipton road and nine miles from Harrogate.

Yorkshire CND and affiliated groups are beginning to resume their tradition of attending once a month. If you're thinking of coming, please contact Sarah: sswift64@gmail.com

The TPNW gains even more international support!

The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) has continued to achieve further global endorsement. So far this year, the following state parties have shown support through approving ratification of the TPNW: Cabo Verde, Dominican Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, and Timor-Leste.

Slowly but surely, international support for the TPNW is growing. We hope that further breakthroughs will include greater support from within the NATO and NATO-adjacent states, with Norway and Germany already agreeing to participate in the conference this coming June. Additionally, we hope that the Welsh Senedd motion calling on all states to sign and ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), will help to grow support for the treaty in the UK.

For the latest updates on countries, please visit the ICAN website:

https://www.icanw.org/tpnw_progress



Could your town/city be next?

The Nuclear Ban Communities Campaign is going from strength to strength across the nation, with campaigners throughout the region putting pressure on their councils to call on the UK government to back the UN ban treaty. To get copies of our nuclear ban communities pledge and example council resolutions, call the office or visit:

yorkshirecnd.org.uk/nbc

Yorkshire marks the MSP, even if Boris won't!

Key to our work is the fact that according to the UN's TPNW, nuclear weapons are banned! But what does this mean for Britain? Currently, our government is not showing support for the treaty and is refusing to do this for the foreseeable future.

Whilst support grows throughout the world, Britain refuses to even attend the upcoming first Meeting of States Parties (MSP). Whilst there has been interest from some MPs and the Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon to go to Vienna in support of the Treaty, Boris continues to ignore this agreement by the UN and is pushing for a greater nuclear presence in the UK both militarily and in terms of energy supplies. Nevertheless, there is growing support amongst NATO states e.g. Norway.

The first MSP will be crucial for setting out a nuclear free world, so for Boris' government to refuse to attend as even an observer is unacceptable. However, we can't let that stop us making progress. Towns and cities around the world – including Washington, Paris and Manchester – are bypassing their governments' opposition and becoming Nuclear Ban Communities as they sign up to support the TPNW.

If communities get together and demonstrate their support, we can put

pressure on the government to engage with the treaty. Working with your local politicians and our suggested draft motion, your town or city council could soon join others around the world in working towards a nuclear free world.

Yorkshire CND has continued to advocate for talking, over the use of bombs, especially in regards to the use of nuclear weapons. This was a key part of our Regional Campaigners Meeting on 2nd March, where activists came together to share experiences and collectively hash out what we will do across the region. Beyond this, we have seen excellent action by peace groups from Keighley to the Calder Valley. Groups across Yorkshire have used protests and stalls to help spread the message that in nuclear war there are no winners, instead we should put our efforts and money to form better and more peaceful societies.

As our politicians bang the doldrums of war over Ukraine, and the British government continues to ignore the coming TPNW Meeting of the States Parties, it is critically vital that peace campaigners in the region assemble and work out a response. We will continue to support groups across the region to ensure a more peaceful and safe future for all.

Possible return of nukes to Lakenheath?

The US is the only country to locate its nuclear weapons outside its own borders and this major increase in NATO's capacity to wage nuclear war in Europe is dangerously destabilising. The possible return of US nuclear weapons to RAF Lakenheath after 14 years has been condemned by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

It comes amid reports that the US Department of Defense has added the UK to a list of NATO nuclear weapons storage locations in Europe being upgraded under a multi-million dollar infrastructure programme.

The UK's inclusion in the budget was first spotted by Hans Kristensen, the director of the nuclear information project at the Federation of American Scientists (FAS). Kristensen believes the base in question is RAF Lakenheath, located just 100 km from London.

CND General Secretary Kate Hudson said the introduction of more free-fall nuclear bombs to Europe was extremely

dangerous and destabilising: "News that US nuclear weapons may already be back in Britain, at RAF/USAF Lakenheath, makes the UK once again a forward nuclear base for the US in Europe."

These bombs are assigned to NATO and the return of US nuclear weapons to Britain – along with the upgrading of its nuclear weapons across Europe – constitutes a further undermining of prospects for global peace. Their return will increase global tensions and put Britain on the front line in a NATO/Russia war."

Join CND to protest against the possible return of US nuclear weapons to RAF Lakenheath on 21st May 2022. If you have any questions about the event, or would like to express your interest in the event, please contact:

info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

If there is enough interest, YCND could organise transport to Lakenheath so get in touch and let us know.



Thousands march for Ukraine's peace

Yorkshire CND strongly condemns the Russian invasion of Ukraine. We call for immediate de-escalation before it is too late. If it doesn't end, everyone will lose and many will die.

This past month, protests against the war have been held throughout Yorkshire and beyond. They also involved Yorkshire MPs and helped to provide a voice to the Ukrainians whose friends and families are most effected by the conflict.

Keep up to date with future protests by visiting the event page on the Yorkshire CND website. Further photos and information can be found on local social websites in Bradford, Leeds, Huddersfield and Calder Valley.





Nuclear reactors and the union response

New nuclear reactors are not the answer to energy security. However, up to eight new nuclear reactors could be built under plans outlined in the UK government's energy security strategy published recently.

Nuclear power forms the cornerstone of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's promise to "wean" Britain off foreign energy imports. Speaking during a visit to the Hinkley Point C construction site, Johnson said Britain was "the home of nuclear energy" and lamented that the nuclear industry was "more or less moribund in this country," after decades of under-investment.

"We first split the atom in the UK, we had the first civilian nuclear power plant, we are bringing nuclear home,"

Boris, 2022



Johnson also made commitments to solar and offshore wind but said onshore wind remained "controversial" due to their visual impact. However, Labour said the omission of onshore was due to pressure from Johnson's own backbenchers and disagreements within the cabinet.

The government wants to get 25% of its energy mix – or 24 GW – from nuclear by 2050. This will require finding billions of pounds of private investment. No. 10 will also have to provide guarantees under a new "regulated asset base" funding model.

A £120 million "Future Nuclear Enabling Fund" will be launched later this month in the hopes of kickstarting investment. A new body – Great British Nuclear – will oversee the projects.

In addition to Hinkley Point C – due for completion in 2027 – the government is looking to extend the life of Sizewell B in Suffolk. Other planned projects include Sizewell C and Wylfa, on Anglesey. Sites at Oldbury in Gloucestershire and Moorside (Sellafield) in Cumbria could get fast-tracked support. Meanwhile, Rolls-Royce wants backing for a fleet of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) – often referred to as mini-nuclear plants.

CND Vice-President and nuclear energy expert Dr Ian Fairlie said: "The Government's apparent obsession with nuclear power is ill-considered. It should instead be concerned about fuel poverty and the recent 60% hike in energy costs. This, plus the recent NI increase and inflation, will force millions of poor people into desperate choices between eating and heating. The Government is supporting the most expensive, by far, of all the energy options available to it. How is that going to help fuel poor people? CND asks why the Government sidelines the renewables which are the fastest and most effective means of alleviating high energy costs and gas dependence and presses for the most expensive option that can do nothing for over a decade?"

CND General Secretary Kate Hudson said: "This government's plan does nothing to tackle the immediate energy crisis facing the people of this country. Instead of investing in clean and quick to install green technologies, Boris Johnson is betting big on nuclear with the taxpayers' money. As he said himself - the nuclear industry is 'moribund' in this country - so why is he trying to keep it on life support? Attempts to revive it in recent years have been an abject failure, so why try again? Nuclear power remains dangerous, expensive, dirty, and inextricably linked to its military uses. It's time to put a stop to it."



Nuclear power is increasingly marketed as part of the solution to the climate crisis and there is considerable support for it from trade unions. In fact it's dirty, dangerous, expensive, won't help with our climate problems, and there are far more jobs in renewables. CND's trade Union Advisory Group has arranged an online talk on the topic.

The event will feature the academic expert Dr Paul Dorfman, who will brief us on this subject. He is an Associate Fellow in the Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex; Chair, Nuclear Consulting Group; Member, Irish Govt. Environment Protection Agency; and Member of Radiation Protection Advisory Committee.

For more information, and to register for the event, please follow this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/4crsp3un>

Investing in change



Did you know that major UK banks and pension funds have invested £32 billion in companies producing nuclear weapons? That your money could be going towards making these weapons of mass destruction? Find out more in Don't Bank on the Bomb's most recent report.

In the coming weeks, AGMs (Annual General Meetings) will be taking place and CND – alongside other organisations as part of the Investing in Change network – plans to challenge companies on their nuclear investment.

Join days of action against these companies to make it clear that you want your money divested from these companies now!

If you are a pension holder, or know someone that is, you can take action against this by participating in the following Twitter storm events:

4th May - Barclays

22nd May - People's Pension

22nd may - Nest Pensions

7th June - Royal London pension holder

For more information, please visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/y5f7ndkx>

It's time to act for true security:

The environmental costs of militarisation (SCrAP event)

This event, organised by Sheffield Creative Action for Peace (SCrAP) explores the impacts of the military on the environment and climate change, and the urgent need to re-think security. It is a unique opportunity to hear first-hand about the effects of nuclear colonialism on people in the Global South and to reinvest effort in banning the nuclear weapons that threaten our entire planet.

Leona Morgan is a dynamic young activist from New Mexico who speaks passionately about the effects of uranium mining and the dumping of waste on her people and their land.

Matt Fawcett from the Global Campaign on Military Spending UK will speak on the extraordinary costs of military spending – both financial and environmental.

A member of Sheffield Creative Action for Peace will speak about the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, ratified by more than 86 states, which the UK has failed to engage with, and will outline actions that can be taken locally to support the ban on nuclear weapons. Register for the meeting by following this link: <https://tinyurl.com/jnyr4uxd>



Coming up

18th June 12pm (Briggate)

Leeds marks the TPNW Meeting of States Parties

25th June 2pm (Cliffe Castle Park)

A celebration of UN Treaty banning Nuclear Weapons

2nd July 2pm (Menwith Hill)

Independence from America event 2022

Other peace groups across Yorkshire will be holding meetings/events to mark the meeting of state parties, so keep an eye out!

For up to date listings of events across the region see:

yorkshirecnd.org.uk/events

The best way to stay in touch with rapidly changing events is to sign up to our fortnightly email list.

yorkshirecnd.org.uk/newsletter

Contacts

Bradford CND

bradford@cnd.rocks

Calder Valley CND

kathypitt725@hotmail.com or
07980 291478

Grassington Peace Group

strand@hawkswick.net

Huddersfield Peace Group

01484 846183

Huddersfield Quakers

cara@cooptel.net

Keighley PJ&E Network

a.whitaker@gmx.co.uk

Leeds CND

07717 606189

facebook.com/LeedsCND

Sheffield Creative Action for Peace

(SCRAP) 07818040982

scraptridentnow@gmail.com

Shipley CND

christopherbutler1@mac.com

Yorkshire CND

Bradford Deaf Centre

25 Hallfield Rd, Bradford BD1 3RP

Office: 01274 730795

Press/Urgent: 05603 640753

info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk



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