ACTION FOR PEACE

Summer 2024 | Issue 119



FEATURING

Hiroshima & Nagasaki commemoration events.
The Independence from America Day Demo.
Peace Museum re-opening.
Our take on the new government's agenda.
Amendments to the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement (MDA).
Upcoming events & more!

LATEST NEWS

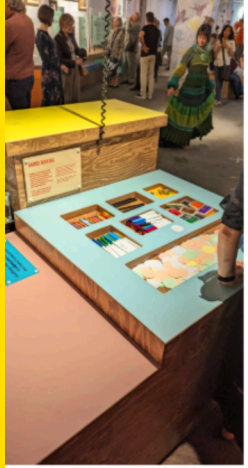
Over the summer period, Yorkshire CND have done quite a lot! From demos/stalls across the region, to fundraising at festivals, and holding our annual commemoration events in August.

It has been a few months since the change in the UK government. We hope that this will bring about change, but so far it's difficult to remain optimistic. With declarations by Prime Minister Keir Starmer that he would be willing to deploy nuclear weapons, and the labour government's triple lock on their nuclear policy, it doesn't look likely that they will be passing any motions in support of the TPNW anytime soon. The recent talks with Ukraine around allowing the use of Anglo-French long-range missiles (e.g. Storm Shadows) to strike targets in Russia are also very concerning, as this could lead to escalations of a nuclear proportion.

Nevertheless, we must keep trying as there's been a lot of good progress made in the peace movement! **Indonesia, Sierra Leone, and the Solomon Islands have just ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). With these latest ratifications, there are now 73 states parties.** Furthermore, more councillors from Sheffield have signed the TPNW pledge and we've been working on appointing more Peace Champions / Elected Member for Mayors for Peace in local councils (e.g. in Bradford & Sheffield).

We'd like to thank the volunteers who joined us at Glastonbury & Shambala Festival, who helped us raise the funds to sustain our campaign work over the summer period. **We were thrilled to have the Yorkshire-based band 'Yard Act' give us a shout out on social media**, to help raise our profile within their fan base.

We were happy to see the support (from faces new and old) at the annual Independence from America Day demo, at Menwith Hill. Special thanks to the speakers and performers: Joanna Frew (Rethinking); Phil Gittins (World BEYOND War); Dave Webb (YCND); The Country Stylings of Beau Disco, Finger Slick, & Recyclin' René Rose; Roger Harrington; & The Harvey Parkin-Christie / Teruki Chan Duo.

















From 15th-25th July, The Lakenheath Alliance For Peace were camped outside 'RAF' Lakenheath. Demos were also held outside Menwith Hill, organised by Bradford CND, in solidarity with the camp.

We were pleased to see the attention the camp caught from mainstream media (including a spot on BBC news), but were less happy that the US base commander refused to meet with the group in order to hear our concerns over the dangers of siting US nuclear weapons here. We send our solidarity to the two activists who were arrested outside RAF Lakenheath, and hope that the US base commander will swiftly re-consider a meeting.

These demos are ever more important, in the wake of amendments to the Eisenhower-era 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement (MDA). All references to an "expiry date" have been removed "to make the entirety of the MDA enduring, securing continuing cooperation with the US", according to a memorandum signed by defence secretary John Healey. CND have therefore been encouraging members to **ask your MP to sign the EDM 123 : Mutual Defence Agreement.**

The next Lakenheath peace camp will be from Monday 14th April to Friday 25th April 2025. Also the Lakenheath Alliance for Peace have just started 3 hour monthly vigils every last Saturday of each month, except December. We encourage you to attend one, if possible. We are currently looking at February/March for a potential Yorkshire CND organised trip in support of the vigils, so if this would interest you please let us know your availability. **There's also a national demo on 2nd November.**

In August, **The Peace Museum re-opened.** We were thrilled to attend the re-opening of The Peace Museum, which is now based in Saltaire (Salts Mill, Victoria Rd, Saltaire, Shipley, BD18 3LA). It's clear that a lot of effort and attention to detail has gone into making the museum a great experience for a vast range of audiences, with a great showcase of CND memorabilia.

In September, **we were pleased to see the TUC Congress backing a motion calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and an end to all arms sales to Israel.** This follows on from various demos over the past few months, such as the recent protest at BAE Systems in Samlesbury on 24th August. BAE Systems in Samlesbury makes the rear fuselage of the F35 aircraft that is currently being used in the Israeli genocide of Palestinians in Gaza. The protest involved peace activists from across the North (including some CND campaigners from Manchester and beyond).

We would also like to say a huge thanks to Ronnie, who has moved on from YCND after nearly 2 years working as our finance officer.

HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI COMMEMORATIONS

This year marks 79 years since the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Vigils were held throughout Yorkshire (e.g. in Skipton, Leeds, Bradford, Keighley, Sheffield, & York) to commemorate what happened, and we are thankful for those that attended to pay their respects. We were glad to see the local support for the first commemoration event in York for a while. York's Lord Mayor, Sheriff and Rachael Maskell MP attended the event.

This time of year can be an incredibly useful moment to remind our politicians of the dangers of nuclear weapons and war. Many anti-war activists in Hiroshima used this moment to gather in front of the Atomic Bomb Dome to protest the invitation of Israeli delegates to its memorial of the atomic bombing by the US 79 years ago. Due to the pressure of activists, the mayor of Nagasaki refused to invite Israel to the city's memorial ceremony. The British Ambassador to Japan, Julia Longbottom, skipped the Nagasaki ceremony because of the city's decision.

We were pleased to see the engagement from more Sheffield councillors (who have since signed the TPNW pledge). As next year will mark 80 years since the bombings, we hope that this will encourage even more reflection and we will see more places throughout Yorkshire (and beyond!) help our campaign for a nuclear-free Britain and world.



















The Yorkshire CND

PEACE & CRAFTS FAIR 2024

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16TH 2024

VICTORIA HALL, SALTAIRE, BD18 3JS
OPEN FROM 10AM - 4PM

VICTORIA HALL

£2 ENTRY / FREE FOR UNDER 18s

Featuring over 60 stalls with a wide range of quality crafts, campaign & charity stalls, live music, delicious veggie food, tombola, plants & Christmas presents galore!

Please contact us for further information: info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk / 01274730795

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lakenheath demo
(2nd November)

Olof Palme Peace Lecture - with Jeremy Corbyn
1st November, 6PM @ The Royal Armouries, Leeds, LS10 1LT

Peace History and Museums – A Peace History Conference
9th November, 9:30am-5pm @ The Peace Museum, Saltaire, BD18 3HU

Northern CND / Peace Group Gathering
November 23rd, 12pm-4pm @ East Street Arts, Leeds, LS9 7EH

Artists Against the Bomb Exhibition
6th November - 2nd December @ Dorothy Pax, Wharf Street, Sheffield, S2 5SY

For more information, please contact: info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk
Or subscribe to our calendar for more: yorkshirecnd.org.uk/events

LOCAL CONTACTS

Youth & Student CND (Yorkshire Region) – sam@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Huddersfield Peace Group - fairbankcharles@gmail.com

Leeds CND – leedscnd@gmail.com / dave@space4peace.org

Bradford CND – bradford@cnd.rocks

Keighley – tridentsylvia@gmail.com

MHAC (Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign) – mail@themhac.uk

Grassington & District Peace Group – strand@hawkswick.net

Sheffield CND – richardbakewell@yahoo.co.uk

Sheffield Creative Action for Peace – rachelrow@yahoo.co.uk

Calder Valley CND – kathypitt725@hotmail.com or Catherine on 07980 291478