ACTION FOR PEACE

Winter 2024/2025 | Issue 121



FEATURING

- A report from the 3rd MSP on the TPNW
- Notes from our strategy day
- The latest updates on Gaza & Ukraine
- Travel plans for the Lakenheath Peace Camp
- Upcoming events & more

LATEST NEWS

Since our last issue, quite a lot has happened. This includes some really great campaigning from CND activists, alongside some very concerning events and news.

Previously we wrote about Trump's bold claims on ending the war in Ukraine in 24 hours, but that hasn't happened. This makes us doubt the recent claims that he wants to restart nuclear arms control talks with Russia and China, with the goal being that eventually all three countries could agree to cut their massive defense budgets in half. Peace negotiations are hard and they can take a while, especially when there's so many unpredictable figures at the forefront of them. Even arranging a partial ceasefire is currently very tricky. Adding to this is Starmer's Coalition Of The Willing, and discussions around a Europe-based homegrown nuclear deterrent (led by Germany's Friedrich Merz). Furthermore, while negotiations over Ukraine take place, the US carried out a live weapons drop exercise with Sweden using B-52H Bombers (nuclear-capable).

In other international news, on January 28th, the Doomsday Clock was set at 89 seconds to midnight. This is the closest the Clock has ever been to midnight in its 78-year history. You would think this would be a cause for alarm, yet we were disappointed to see that the UK did not attend the Third Meeting of States Parties to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). That meeting ended with a powerful political declaration rejecting nuclear weapons and challenging nuclear deterrence, and adopting a host of decisions that strengthen the Treaty's process (these can be accessed on ICAN's website).

Regarding nuclear power, residents in Suffolk have feared being priced out of their hometowns due to the construction of a nuclear



power plant (Sizewell C), with the rent on some homes doubling to more than £3,000 a month.

In light of all this, we are thankful to all those that have continued to campaign with us for nuclear disarmament. We had a good turn out to our AGM on 18th January, which included an informative and inspiring talk by Steve Barwick (Nuclear Education Trust). We are still in need of a vice-chair, and welcome suggestions. We welcome James, Jimmy, and Rashida to our co-ord. We thank Sylvia, Cath, Chris, and Sarah for all their hard work over the years.

On Wednesday 22nd January, Leeds CND members celebrated the 4th anniversary of the TPNW and the 3rd anniversary of the resolution being passed by Leeds City Council in support of the Treaty. Thanks to all those that joined to mark the occasion, including several local councillors.

On 23rd February, activists took part in the Global Day of Action to



Close Bases. There was a demo at Menwith Hill, which happened alongside 61 other actions in 27 countries in an effort endorsed by 72 organisations.

We organised a another demo at Menwith Hill (in collaboration with yorkshire-based Palestine solidarity groups and students) to show our voice against US imperialism and the recent statements by Trump about the future of Gaza he imagines.

We also now have a student intern called Jake, so if you'd like to arrange a chat to discuss ideas for youth&student engagement in your area get in touch: jake@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Moving forwards, we encourage you to get involved with GDAMS (10th April - 9th May) and the Lakenheath Peace Camp (14th April - 26th April).

REPORT FROM 3MSP

BY NOAH HUDSON

In March, New York was host to the 3rd Meeting of States Parties (MSP) to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), bringing together diplomats, activists, and experts to push forward the fight for nuclear disarmament. While I couldn't be there in person, attending virtually as a youth delegate still offered an incredible opportunity to learn from the discussions, hear from inspiring speakers, and connect with others working toward a nuclear-free world. From lobbying strategies to the human impact of nuclear weapons, here are five key takeaways from my experience.

1) The Significance of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

I'll admit I didn't know much about the TPNW before signing up to be a youth delegate. It sounded like something worth learning more about and I was quickly taken by the ambition of the project. The TPNW is the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively ban nuclear weapons, prohibiting their development, testing, possession, and use. It entered into force in 2021, and following the 3rd Meeting of State Parties (MSP) this march, over 90 countries had signed it, with more than 70 fully ratifying the treaty. Perhaps unsurprisingly, no nuclear-armed states have signed the treaty to date but the early take up of the majority of the global south is providing momentum.

TPNW signature and ratification status is concentrated in the global south.

2) There's no link between defence spending and job creation

One meeting I attended comprehensively took apart the idea that in-





creased defence spending is good for job creation. In reality, research shows that for every £1 spent on defence fewer jobs are created than the same amount invested in other industries. Clean energy and health care spending creates 50% more jobs than the equivalent amount of spending on the military. Education spending creates more than twice as many jobs. Shifting funding away from military expansion and towards socially beneficial sectors is not only a moral no-brainer, it will generate more employment opportunities

3) The treaty goes beyond nuclear disarmament

The TPNW isn't just about eliminating nuclear weapons—it also addresses the lasting harm they have caused. Articles 6 and 7 of the treaty focus on victim assistance and environmental remediation, ensuring that communities affected by nuclear weapons use and testing receive support. These provisions acknowledge the devastating humanitarian and ecological consequences of nuclear weapons, from the long-term health effects suffered by survivors to the environmental



destruction caused by nuclear testing. The treaty also emphasises international cooperation, urging states to work together to provide resources and expertise to affected regions. This broader scope makes the TPNW not just a disarmament treaty, but a commitment to justice and healing for those impacted by nuclear weapons.

4) Political lobbying starts at home

One of the most valuable insights I gained was that lobbying isn't just about pressuring politicians—it's about mobilising the people around you. At the event Strategies for Promoting the TPNW in the US Congress, speakers emphasised that getting 25 people to send letters to a politician about a single issue is far more effective than one person sending 25 different letters. Engaging friends, family, and local communities in advocacy efforts creates a ripple effect, making our collective voice harder to ignore.

5) We're part of a global movement

The most motivating thing about attending the 3rd MSP was seeing how vast and interconnected the movement for nuclear disarmament really is. It's easy to feel isolated when attending small-scale demonstrations or lobbying MPs who seem unwilling to listen. But being part of this conference showed me that we are not alone—there is a huge, dedicated network of activists, diplomats, survivors, and campaigners around the world, all pushing for the same goal. From youth delegates in Japan to grassroots organizers in Latin America, the commitment to a nuclear-free future reaches across the globe. Knowing this gives me renewed motivation to continue our work at home, knowing that every action, no matter how small, contributes to a much larger movement.

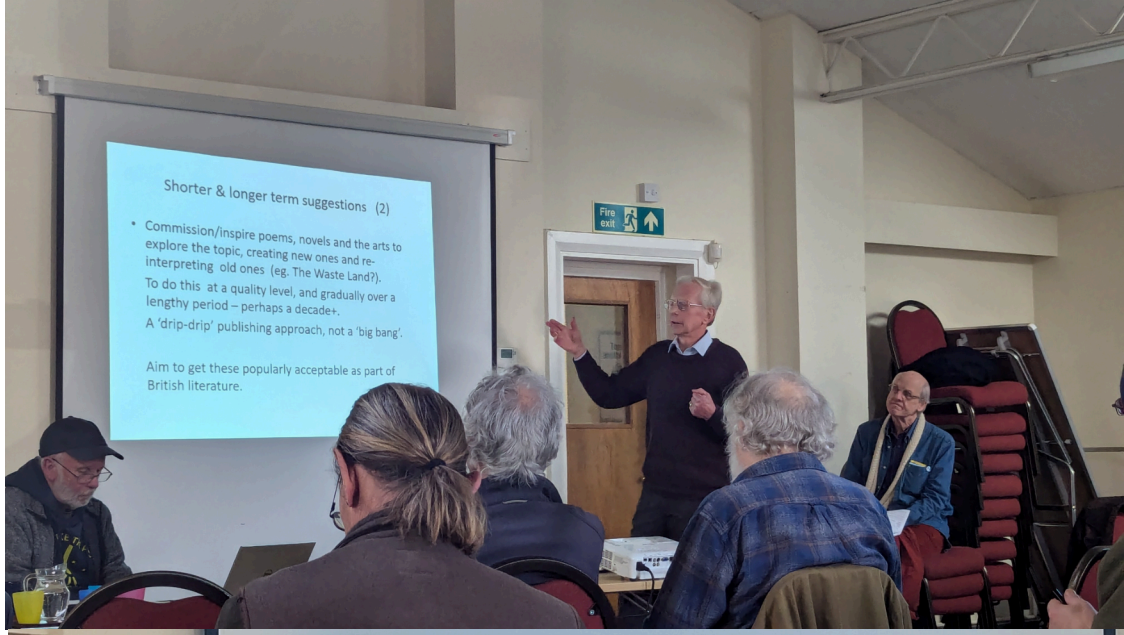
STRATEGY DAY : NEXT STEPS

On 15th March, Yorkshire CND activists met up in Leeds to discuss plans for the next year and how to improve our campaigning. A key theme that was raised was how we can use the arts and social media to improve our outreach, both to the public and policy makers.

Some of our key plans that we agreed on were:

- YCND to put out a brief statement on X to say we are pausing our presence on this platform and to please follow us on Bluesky. Wording to be agreed by co-ord.
- YCND co-ord to discuss whether we should have a social media committee, and who should be part of it.
- YCND to finalise an updated website in line with new National CND guidelines, including removing outdated content.
- We want to do more visually interesting demos to grab public interest in city centres e.g. redo Zombie Bradford & there was interest from students to do a satire stall for GDAMS raising money for a bomber/trident, in collab with Food Not Bombs groups in Leeds & York.
- The YCND worker will investigate whether Canva and Capcut could support regional campaigners with their digital campaigning.
- YCND to push for getting high profile figures (e.g. politicians, church leaders, or celebrities) to attend and promote commemoration events in August.

Thanks to Peter Nias (independent researcher) and Salena Barry (Stop Killer Robots) for leading the workshops and discussions.





LAKENHEATH PEACE CAMP

Make your plans to join the Lakenheath Alliance for Peace for a peace camp from April 14th-26th, to protest against the return of US nuclear weapons to Britain. If you need help with transport, please get in touch. So far we've had interest for the following days, so please email the office (info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk) to express your interests and needs. Alternatively, scan the QR code below!

Wednesday 16th April

The Political and Protest Choirs and Singers Day. Some Sheffield activists have booked a coach to travel down to the camp on this day, and have 4 seats left. Get in touch for more information: rachel-row@yahoo.co.uk

Monday 21st April (Bank Holiday)

21st April will be the War Crimes and Genocide Day, where solidarity groups will gather to protest at Lakenheath's involvement in war crimes being committed by US/UK/NATO forces and its military support enabling Israel to commit Genocide in Gaza.

Saturday 26th April

For the final day of the Lakenheath Alliance for Peace peace camp, join the blockade at the main gate of the Lakenheath base at 12 noon!

PEACE CAMP 14th -- 26th APRIL 2025

WEDNESDAY 16th APRIL

10:30 to 12 Singing Workshop @campsite
1:30pm to 4:30pm Singing at the base
7:30pm Fundraising gig in Bury St Edmunds

CHOIR DAY

THURSDAY 17th APRIL

Leafleting and outreach in Brandon with the Greenham Women & at Main Gate

GREENHAM COMMON WOMEN
Say No to Nukes!

MONDAY 21st APRIL

Protest Lakenheath involvement in War Crimes being committed by US/UK/NATO and enabling Genocide in Gaza

WAR CRIMES & GENOCIDE DAY

TUESDAY 22nd APRIL

Politcal Reps speak out against nuclear weapons and in solidarity with Lakenheath Alliance for Peace

DEMOCRACY DAY



WEDNESDAY 23rd APRIL

Join leaders of different faith communities in vigil and prayers at the Main Gate

FAITH DAY

THURSDAY 24TH APRIL

Local & international speakers say NO to US militarism and NO to US controlled NATO bases in Europe

INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE

SATURDAY 26th APRIL

Join the blockade at the Main Gate from 12 noon

BLOCKADE
USAF LAKENHEATH!



LakenheathAllianceforPeace.org.uk

Lakenheath Alliance For Peace

UPCOMING EVENTS

Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS)
10th April - 9th May

Lakenheath Peace Camp
14th April - 26th April

Talking About The Fire (play)
17th May @ The Warehouse in Holbeck, Leeds, LS11 9RQ

Weekly evening demos at Menwith Hill
Every Tuesday @ 6-7:30pm

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) – jake@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