

ACTION

FOR PEACE

Spring 2025 | Issue 122



FEATURING

- Recent local demos e.g. for GDAMS
- Our thoughts on the Golden Dome
- The Game of Bluff - an article by Alasdair Beal
- Details of Hiroshima & Nagasaki Day vigils
- Upcoming events & more...

LATEST NEWS

In the build up to the 80th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we are deeply concerned about the state of world affairs. This ranges from the rising nuclear tensions between India and Pakistan after the Kashmir attack, to the continued attacks of Ukraine in the struggle to reach a peace settlement, and the bombing of Iran by the US and Israel. The 3rd Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) also concluded without the adoption of an outcome document, demonstrating a profound lack of urgency.

We hoped this year would have been an opportunity for reflection and to be more cautious, but it's clear that war mongering is growing rampant and the UK government is frighteningly keen on investing more money into the nuclear industry e.g. with new plans to buy at least 12 nuclear capable F-35A fighter jets.

The relevance within Yorkshire has even been made more clear, with the Sheffield Tribune recently exposing the development of nuclear

warheads at the University of Sheffield's AMRC facility. This news follows recent peaceful protests at Forgemasters (organised by Christian CND) and Forge Solutions (organised by local Palestine solidarity groups), showcasing the devastating complicity in the war machine the city has.

On nuclear power, we also learned that Holtec chose a South Yorkshire site for a SMR factory investment and the Humber Estuary could get a floating power station with a small nuclear reactor (SMR) to generate energy.

In light of all this, we are very grateful to everyone taking action for a more peaceful world. Lakenheath has been a centre point of CND's recent energy, so we thank all those who took part in the Lakenheath Peace Camp, especially to the 250 people who helped successfully shut down the main gate of RAF Lakenheath during the Saturday's blockade! We send our solidarity to the 7 activists that got arrested. We are also thankful to Bradford CND for organising a successful camp at Menwith Hill on Easter Monday. Their event featured singing, talking and flag waving! Further to this, we have supported other national demos in Devonport Dockyard and local demos at Menwith Hill.

The next few months will be particularly important for raising aware-





ness about our campaign, and we hope that the Hiroshima/Nagasaki vigils will serve as an important reminder that we must never let attacks like those happen again. You can find the details about local vigils later on in this edition of Action for Peace.

There are also plans to hold events around 20th/21st September for International Peace Day, such as the Peace History Conference (Bradford University on 20th August) and an arts event that will feature a screening of a documentary about a Japanese director (Ishiro Honda) who was influenced by the impacts of war on his country.

Ensuring our social media output is of a high quality during this time will be essential for successful outreach with young and new audiences. With our student intern Jake now having finished his placement with us, we are seeking a new student/youth volunteer to assist us with our social media. We are particularly keen on finding someone who is confident in front of a camera, to help us develop our video content on platforms like Tiktok & Instagram. If you know anyone that could be suitable for this position, please get in touch with our office: sam@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Please also note that our internet and phone line in the office are both currently down due to an incident locally. We have been informed by our provider that this should be fixed by early August, but recommend emailing us if you have anything you'd like to discuss (especially in the build up to Hiroshima and Nagasaki events).

The Golden Dome

Yorkshire CND joins those who condemn Donald Trump's launch of a \$540 billion plus "Golden Dome" missile defence system. He says that it will be able to intercept missiles launched from anywhere on earth or space, be 100% effective and fully operational before the end of his term in 2029. This is extremely unlikely, but what it will do is dangerously destabilise the idea of nuclear deterrence and accelerate an already ongoing arms race. The stationing of space-based missile interceptors will also rapidly turn outer space into a battleground. Donald Trump is known as a business man who takes risks to achieve his aims, but here he is gambling with the future of the planet.

GDAMS action: Food not Bombs!

"Wouldn't it be a beautiful day if the schools had all the money they needed and the air force had to hold a bake sale to buy a bomber?"

On Sunday 4th May, Yorkshire CND collaborated with the Leeds Food Not Bombs group for a stall as part of GDAMS 2025 (Global Day of Action on Military Spending) to raise awareness about the lunacy that our government increased military spending by £2.2 billion in April. This now puts military spending at 2.36% of GDP, meaning we have seen a total increase of £5.1bn on war and nuclear weapons since the Autumn Statement in October 2024.

At the same time the government is making devastating cuts to vital benefits for disabled people, and plans further public sector cuts. When food banks are overwhelmed, public services are crumbling, NHS waiting lists are at record highs, and families are drowning in debt, the government's obsession with militarisation shows that it is morally bankrupt.

We held this stall dressed in military garb (including a NBC suit!) to attract attention, akin to the early Food Not Bombs stalls that highlighted how ridiculous it is that schools need to do bake sales to sustain themselves whilst the military would never need to hold a bake sale to buy a bomber.



Alternative Defence Review

Calderdale TUC's anti-war event with Perveen Hussain of Halifax Friends of Palestine, Professor Paul Rogers and Alex Gordon (RMT) was superb! The event aligned with the launch day of CND's Alternative Defence Review, and those present also laid a wreath by the 1842 Great Strike plaque.

Doing what we can to promote the Alternative Defence Review is incredibly important right now, especially following the spending review. An extra £15billion for nuclear weapons production has been at the forefront of the current UK government's defence strategy. On top of this, we have also seen nuclear power investment at the expense of choosing to cut disability benefits.

This Alternative Defence Review challenges the dominant war narrative—cultivated by political elites, the military-industrial complex, and the mainstream media—and offers a new vision for peace, justice, and security.

It was proposed by CND in response to the RMT union's decision to '... campaign with other trade unions and peace organisations to convene a labour and peace movement summit to work out the basis of a new foreign policy with the promotion of peace and social justice at its heart'. The Alternative Defence Review is intended to be a contribution towards this.

Scan the QR code on this page to read the report:



The Game Of Bluff

A debate rages around the practical use of nuclear weapons as deterrents.

'Ukraine wouldn't have been invaded if they had nuclear weapons'; 'we must have them in case we are required to defend our vital national interests'; 'nuclear weapons keep the peace and deter conflict.'

It may appear logical that the current UK government has promised an extra £15bn for nuclear weapons production in preparing for war-fighting readiness. Whilst these arguments may appear convincing on first sight, we must question whether they are actually valid points and why supposedly the presence of more weapons of mass destruction creates a safer world.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine raises all kinds of difficult problems, none of which have easy answers. CND believe this is a game of bluff and if nuclear weapons were to be used (even tactical ones), that would lead to a cataclysmic event which no person could reasonably wish for. We stand with the belief that nuclear weapons are not the answer, and they do not make nations safer. Not in Ukraine, not in the UK, not anywhere!

Here's some important ideas to consider:

1) CND opposes the Russian invasion of Ukraine and is very concerned about the dangers it is creating. From the start of the invasion we have shown this opposition, and you can read the statement from the late Bruce Kent (handed to the Russian Embassy) on National CND's website.

2) ICAN (one of our partner organisations) put together a good and worthy response to these sorts of questions. They write:

"Ukraine never had an independent nuclear weapons arsenal, or control over these weapons, but agreed to remove former So-

viet weapons stationed on its territory. There is little convincing historical evidence that the possession or presence of nuclear weapons definitively prevents conflict, when many other variables may be considered, including the prohibition of the use of force under the UN Charter or even just luck. Even beyond this, it is not clear that Ukraine would have been able to take control of former Soviet nuclear weapons, technically or politically. What we do know is that the possession of nuclear weapons by Russia and the United States clearly has not prevented the threat of conflict between Russia and a U.S. ally or the potential humanitarian consequences of any conflict for civilians in the region."

3) Even if Ukraine had nuclear weapons, then according to the theory of deterrence Russia would not have invaded but in reality this would be an enormous gamble.

(a) nuclear deterrence is a game of bluff where each side threatens to use nuclear weapons and hopes that the other side will be sensible enough to blink and back down but if this doesn't happen, or if there is a miscalculation or a breakdown of communications the result is disaster- rather like two parties trying to play a version of Russian Roulette where both have fully-loaded pistols;

(b) just as the UK may not be able to use its US-built nuclear missiles independently of the USA, Ukraine might have found it could not use its Russian-made nuclear weapons independently to attack Russian targets;

(c) instead of being deterred, Russia might have invaded regardless, leaving Ukraine to decide whether to commit nuclear suicide or 'blink' and accept that its 'deterrent' was useless – or Russia might even have tried to launch a 'first strike' attack on the Ukrainian nuclear bases to neutralise them.

Would possessing nuclear weapons have made Ukraine safer and prevented the Russian invasion? Nobody knows what would have happened – in reality nuclear weapons might have proved militarily useless to Ukraine and they could even have made its situation worse, bringing a risk of a complete catastrophe. The present situation is bad but CND believes that nuclear weapons have no role to play in solving it. We also still believe that for Britain's defence the Trident replacement programme is an expensive, dangerous irrelevance.

ATOMIC CABARET

Lynda Williams
The Physics Chanteuse

**The Science
& Madness of
THE BOMB**
From Trinity to Trident

"BETTE MIDLER MEETS CARL SAGAN" - The New York Times
"LYNDA WILL BLOW YOUR MIND!" - Kip Thorne - Nobel Laureate Physicist
"WILLIAMS PUTS THE FIZZ IN PHYSICS!" - People Magazine ★★★★★

1ST-9TH AUGUST 22:45 (45 MINS)
Tickets from just £8
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UPCOMING EVENTS

**'Ishiro Honda: Memoirs of a Film Director and Dawn of Kaiju Eiga' screening
+ Q&A panel**

20th September @ Cultplex, Manchester, M4 4HF

Peace History Conference

20th September @ University of Bradford

Yorkshire CND's Peace & Crafts Fair

29th November @ Victoria Hall, Saltaire, BD18 3JS

Kites for Palestinian Children

August 17th from 2pm @ Lister Park, BD9 4PX

Weekly evening demos at Menwith Hill

Every Tuesday @ 6-7:30pm

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



REMEMBERING HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI: 80 YEARS ON

Bradford (Norfolk Gardens) - 6th August, midday

Settle (Market Square) - 6th August, midday

Hebden Bridge (Wavy Steps) - 9th August, 2pm

Leeds (Park Square) - 9th August, 10:30am

Sheffield (outside City Hall) - 9th August, 1pm

