

# Christian CND Annual Report November 2017

The past 12 months have been extraordinary for all of us working on nuclear disarmament. After decades of campaigning the United Nations agreed a Treaty that will finally see nuclear weapons banned. This is a great opportunity to bring about a world free of nuclear weapons, and campaigning on the Treaty will continue in the coming year.

Elsewhere Christian CND has been active in a number of areas including the Non-Proliferation Treaty and opposing the replacement of the UK's nuclear weapons system, Trident. More details on those activities can be found below. During the past year we have also welcomed a new staff member, with Russell Whiting joining us as Development Manager from National CND where he had been working. We are sure that Russell will enable us to continue to expand our work and reach more Christians

in the coming year. There are lots of opportunities for existing members to get more involved, so if you would like to express your faith and use your talents in some way, please get in touch.

We take this opportunity to remember the friends we have lost during the past year, including Tony deBrum, Marshall Islands Foreign Minister and tireless campaigner for peace. We are incredibly grateful for the support of all Christian CND members and supporters. We are thankful for your prayers and look forward to continuing to serve God alongside you in the coming year.

Although our membership numbers have remained broadly static this year, we have massively increased the number of people we reach through social media, especially Twitter (see page 2).

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## Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty



The UK did not attend

Christian CND had two Executive members present in New York for the first round of negotiations in March where meetings were held with delegations and assistance given to the

lobbying efforts coordinated by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). As well as welcoming the Treaty when it was agreed in July we have been working to secure support from Christians in the UK. Church leaders signed an open-letter calling for the UK government to sign the Treaty in September and we have been supporting CND in all lobbying activities.

We were thrilled when ICAN, of which Christian CND is a partner organisation, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in October. We pray that the award will raise awareness among Christians and others around the world.

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## International Campaigning

The annual Christian CND Embassy Walk was another success in 2017. We visited 17 embassies with useful discussions on disarmament issues. The Indonesian Embassy was being refurbished but their staff offered to meet us elsewhere so a room at St Martin-in-the-Fields was booked for a very useful meeting.



CCND Exec members meet with Indonesian Embassy Staff

Christian CND also attended the Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee in Vienna, meeting delegations including the Holy See and participating in a multi-faith fringe meeting.



Meeting the Holy See delegate in Vienna

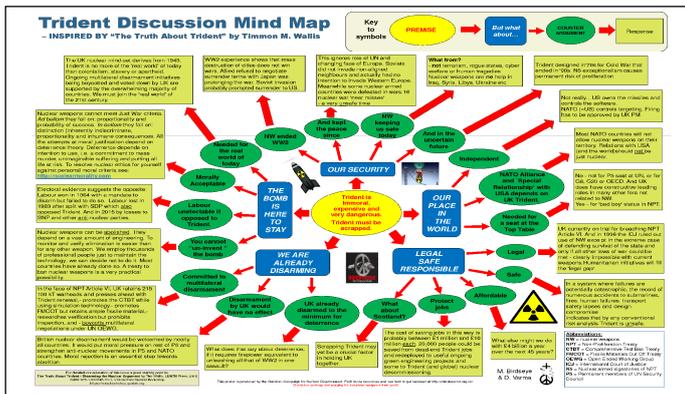
# Christian CND in the media

Executive members Michael and Patricia Pulham have written a regular column in The Universe throughout the year, raising issues around nuclear disarmament and the Ban Treaty. Michael also appeared on radio to discuss

our interfaith work. Our new Development Manager Russell Whiting was invited on to Radio 4 to discuss ICAN winning the Nobel peace Prize and the Christian motivation for campaigning against nuclear weapons.

## Publications and web presence

The Christian CND journal, Ploughshare, has been published 3 times this year, with Ploughshare Plus providing updates between issues.



The 'Mind Map' which can be downloaded from the website 'Downloads' page, or available on request from the office

Briefings have been produced on the Ban Treaty and a leaflet to raise awareness of this November's Vatican Conference on Nuclear Disarmament. The Ban Treaty mind map has also been updated. All of these publications are available for free on the Christian CND website.

CCND made copies, in A5 format of the UN Ban treaty, officially the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, available to all our members, also at the CND International Conference, AGM & at the meeting for Religions for Peace in October. We intend to use them a lot; get in touch if you need any.

The Christian CND website is currently undergoing transformation and updating, and our social media presence has been increasing throughout the year, meaning we now regularly reach more than 40,000 people each month.



To follow CCND on Twitter search for @ChristianCND

Our Facebook page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/ChristianCND>

If you're a Social Media user, please 'Like' and 'Share'!

As part of the Archbishop of Canterbury's "Thy Kingdom Come" prayer campaign at Pentecost we produced a special prayer diary which was sent to members and also distributed elsewhere.



We got them banned ... but the work continues

## Interfaith work

We have had speakers at major Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and Buddhist celebrations where we were able to explain why Christians support the Ban Treaty. The former led to two further radio interviews. We continue with these contacts.

We held an interfaith side meeting at the NPT PrepCom in Vienna. The first speaker was a Muslim and the second a Japanese Buddhist, with CCND representing the Christian element.

Michael Pulham (photo, right) was invited to address the London Peace Pagoda at their anniversary celebration in June.

Martin Birdseye attended an Ahmadiyya Islamic international conference in October after an invitation sent to Network for Peace.



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## Christian CND at events and festivals

Christian CND was present at a wide range of events; amongst these were the annual Ash Wednesday Witness outside the Ministry of Defence in London, Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day commemorations, and the annual National Justice and Peace Network event at Swanwick in July.

In April Christian CND attended 'Spring Harvest' in Butlins at Skegness. We had a stand which attracted a lot of attention, one Tweeter later said finding our stall was the 'highlight of my visit. Thanks for being there!' We also took out advertisements in the programme, which was also beamed into every chalet.

CCND members attended the Global Ban Lobby of Parliament in March and supported the 'NHS not Trident bloc' at the 'It's our NHS' demonstration in March in London.

There was a lot of support for the Faiths Day at the DSEI (Defence and Security Equipment International) arms fair at the Excel Centre in east London. Our members were out in 'force' with banners. At least one of our members was arrested, though later released without charge.

Caroline Gilbert spoke at Harpendon UNA on the Ban treaty the day after the Nobel prize was announced. A further meeting on the Ban treaty and Nobel prize took place in Oxford Cathedral (15 or 16 November, still waiting.) Don't Bank on the Bomb

A resolution on the 'Don't Bank on the Bomb' campaign at the CND AGM in October by CCND, with strong support from Scottish CND. The resolution overwhelmingly passed. The Don't bank on the Bomb campaign is closely linked to ICAN.

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## CCND Grants

Due to the Estella Newsome legacy, Christian CND has been in the lucky position to offer a few small grants. This year saw the set up of the Estella Newsome Memorial Prize at Kings College London. The prize will be offered to the student with the best essay on peace and disarmament.

Other grants went to:

£100 To national CND to help fund the attendance of Caroline Lucas MP at the second round of the UN negotiations on a global nuclear weapons ban treaty.

£350 To British Pugwash for one student to attend the next 10th International Student/Young Pugwash (ISYP) conference, in Kazakstan.

£100 to Movement for the Abolition of War for the Peace History Conference in June at the Imperial War Museum.

At the end of 2016 we granted £500 to Nigel Young (Editor in Chief, The Oxford International Encyclopedia of Peace) to help with the images (permissions, scanning and printing) in a book including a chapter on nuclear weapons.

We are in the process of agreeing a protocol for grant-giving; the annual budget for grants is £5,000 and grants should be no more than £500 each and of course projects must advance the objectives of Christian CND.

## United Nations Ban Treaty Conference, New York, March 2017



Ban the Bomb at the UN



Fujimori Toshiki, Assistant Secretary of Nihon Hidankyo (Japan Confederation of Atomic and Hydrogen Bomb Sufferers Organisations) at the Campaigners' meeting, New York March 2017



Caroline Gilbert shows how to 'Bin the Bomb', New York