

ploughshare plus



News update from Christian CND

March 2016

Christians working and praying for a nuclear weapons-free world

SOWING THE SEEDS of PEACE

Telling the Truth about Trident

A series of workshop-based training-days organised by Christian CND and Quaker Peace & Social Witness, to give you the skills you need to communicate with confidence as 'decision time' on Trident fast approaches.

16th April: Friends Meeting House, Euston Rd, London "Having More Productive Trident Conversations"

14th May: Central Hall, Westminster. "Getting Your Peace Message into the Media"

18th June: Friends Meeting House, Euston Rd, London "Making the Best use of Social Media"

Each Training-Day will take place from 10.30am-5.00pm and will follow a similar pattern of three repeated interactive workshops during the day. Lunch is not provided but available to purchase from the on-site café.

Numbers limited so registration essential. See enclosed leaflet for details.

Nuclear Exits; Nations that have given up nuclear weapons

Why not the UK?

A report on the meeting on 4 November 2015 by Caroline Gilbert

In 2013 I went to the Helsinki Conference on 'Nuclear Exits' organised by IPPNW, as I thought this was a very useful idea to introduce into the debate here. I was given 100 copies of the proceedings of the Conference, which we presented to diplomats on our Embassies Walk before the NPT in 2015, and then we got another 40 into the hands of MPs at a meeting on the same day as the CND Lobby of Parliament on the 4th November. So we have made a beginning on getting this simple idea, that nuclear disarmament is both feasible and desirable.

We had a good turnout, about 40 people, but the only MPs were our sponsor Ruth Cadbury (Labour) MP for Brentford and Isleworth and one of our speakers, Brendan O' Hara, SNP Defence Spokesperson.

Andreas Persbo from VERTIC, our main speaker, has made the Swedish 'exit' from nuclear weapons a sort of hobby in addition to his other work. His father was in the Swedish airforce. Sweden started to research nuclear weapons after World War II to deter the Russian submarines from entering the long deep Swedish fjords, good places for submarines to hide. That was the Swedish security problem that they were trying to solve. The factors that changed their minds were the massive Swedish Womens' Peace Movement, the cost of developing nuclear weapons but Andreas says the decisive factor was that the Swedish airforce wanted very expensive new planes,

and Sweden couldn't afford nuclear weapons as well.

Brendan O'Hara, SNP MP for Argyll and Bute said he could see Trident submarines going up and down the Clyde in his constituency of Argyll and Bute. Nuclear disarmament was in the SNP DNA. When Scotland is independent they will turn Faslane into a conventional naval base, so nonsense that there would be loss of jobs. They would remain in NATO because of their geographical position.

Frank Boulton, MEDACT, the UK part of IPPNW, spoke of nuclear winter and how any nuclear exchange would be unsurvivable because of the damage to the environment. The medical & emergency facilities would be overwhelmed

Discussion followed; we really need this story to be known in the wider public, and particularly by those making the decision on Trident Replacement. Most of the world follows a non-nuclear defense policy. Scotland is against having a nuclear weapon parked in its territory, so where is Trident to go? It's colonialism for the UK to insist on keeping it there against the inhabitants' will.

We intend making the three speeches into a small booklet - more on that later. Also we still have a few copies of *Medicine, Conflict and Survival Volume 30, supplement 1: Special issue: Nuclear Exits, Guest editors: Vappu and Ilkka Taipale*. If you would like a copy, donation if possible, please get in touch with the CCND Office.

14 April: The Truth about Trident. Tim Wallis from Quaker Peace and Social Witness will preview his forthcoming book 'The Truth about Trident'. Followed by Q&A. The Network for Peace AGM will take place at 7pm and will take about half an hour. All welcome. mail@networkforpeace.org.uk 07794 036602
www.networkforpeace.org.uk

16 April, 14 May and 18 June: Sowing the Seeds of Peace: Getting across our message on Trident. See enclosed leaflet.

18 April: Global Campaign on Military Spending. A great opportunity to take simple actions that show how military spending could be redirected to other needs – social and environmental. <http://demilitarize.org.uk/>

21 April: Public meeting at the House of Commons on Nuclear Weapons and Morality. See below.

22 – 24 April: 'The Things that make for Peace'. Joint conference organised by the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship and the Methodist Peace Fellowship. Speakers inc Bea Foster, Steve Hucklesby and Stephen Kingsnorth. Whaley Hall, High Peak, Derbyshire.
enquiries@anglicanpacifists.com
<http://anglicanpeacemaker.org.uk/>

15 May: International Conscientious Objector's Day. Events worldwide. 12 Noon event in Tavistock Square, London. <http://www.wri-irg.org/>
<http://www.ppu.org.uk/coday>

21 May: Pax Christi Annual General Meeting. Oxford Place Centre Oxford Place, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS1. 10:30 am – 4:30 pm. <http://paxchristi.org.uk/>

June: Trident Ploughshares month of direct action at AWE Burghfield See below.

27 June: Faiths Day at Burghfield. See below.

4 June: CCND EGM to discuss how to use the CCND legacy. Venue will be in London, but you can still have an input to the decision-making. More details later but put the date in your diary.

Please send photos of your events to Christian CND for *Ploughshare*, and/or our new website - <http://christiancnd.org.uk/>.

Also don't forget to tell us about your plans for Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days, or the International Day of Peace.

"THE RIGHT THING TO DO?" - AN ETHICAL BRIEFING ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

An open meeting 1.30-2.45pm Thursday 21 April 2016

House of Commons Committee Room 5

Christian CND is organising a briefing for MPs on the ethics of nuclear weapons, based on the Nuclear Morality Flowchart, see <http://nuclearmorality.com/>.

All the MPs will be invited to this meeting. You can ask your MP if he/she is going. Ask them anyway about their ethical position on Trident. Ask them, at the very least, to complete the Flowchart and let you, their constituents, know their decision path, the basis for their decision on this critical, moral, issue.

Ask your faith leader to sign this multi-faith statement on nuclear weapons:
<http://www.endnuclearweapons.org.uk>

Burghfield Blockade

The Atomic Weapons Establishment at Burghfield is responsible for the final assembly of UK Trident nuclear warheads and their maintenance and surveillance while in service.

Trident Ploughshares are asking you and your friends to spend at least one day in the month of June at AWE Burghfield to disrupt the illegal and immoral 'business as usual' by joining our month of action. We need you to show public opposition to Trident Replacement and to encourage nuclear disarmament.

The Faiths Day will be 27 June. There will be an organising day on Saturday 23rd April 12 to 6pm at Giuseppe Conlon House, 49 Mattison Road, London. The aim of this meeting is to get to know each other, make plans, and prepare for the action. We will also be able to use Friends House in Reading for another meeting from 3pm on Sunday 26th June, the day before the action, and stay overnight.

Contact Nora at londoncatholicworker@yahoo.co.uk
020 8 348 8212
<http://www.londoncatholicworker.org>

Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Mordechai Vanunu House, 162 Holloway Rd, London N7 8DQ Tel: 020 7700 4200 Fax: 020 7700 2357
christians@cnduk.org <http://cnd.gn.apc.org/>