



# ***West Midlands***

CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

# ***Mailing***

*November/December 2025*

## **Next steps in the campaign to get rid of US nukes from UK**

CND and Lakenheath Alliance for Peace held a protest outside RAF Lakenheath in September to call on Keir Starmer to kick out Trump's nukes from Britain – a small group from WMCND was able to be there too.



### **Upcoming events:**

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

### **CND NATIONAL CONFERENCE:**

### **HOW TO REVERSE THE GOVERNMENT'S DISASTROUS WAR DRIVE**

Join CND for this national conference to discuss how the government's decision to buy nuclear capable jets will put us at risk and make us poorer. The conference will take place from 10.30 – 17.30 at The Green House, Ethical Property, 244 – 254 Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9DA.

You can register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/stop-british-nuclear-expansion-tickets-1706725093699>



**Saturday 28 February 2026:** Stop British nuclear expansion demonstration at RAF Marham, more details to be announced. There will be transport from Birmingham, so please contact the office by e-mail (see box below) if you are interested.

**1-6 April 2026:** RAF Lakenheath peace camp, more details to be announced.

WMCND, 54, Allison Street, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 5TH  
e-mail: [wmcndall@gmail.com](mailto:wmcndall@gmail.com); website: [www.wmcnd.org.uk](http://www.wmcnd.org.uk)  
Follow us on Twitter: @westmidlandscnd



## **BITS FROM ABROAD**

As **NATO's** annual nuclear readiness exercise 'Steadfast Noon' proceeds in the **Netherlands**, an exiled human rights group from Belarus and a peace group in the UK are challenging the arrangements which permit the 'hosting' in both of these nations of nuclear weapons from third-party superpowers.

*NFLA 15th Oct 2025*

<https://tinyurl.com/yshf34t2>

1000s of nuclear bombs? **Russia** exits US nuke pact to reclaim 34 tons of plutonium. Russia has officially pulled out of an important agreement with the United States regarding how to dispose of weapons-grade plutonium. According to Russia's state news agency TASS, the lower house of the Parliament passed legislation on October 8 to officially denounce the 2000 Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement (PMDA). The pact required both nations to dispose of 34 metric tons of weapons-grade plutonium, enough for thousands of nuclear warheads, by converting it into fuel for civilian power reactors.

*Interesting Engineer 9th Oct 2025*

<https://tinyurl.com/44d5xe2r>

Threats by **Iranian** hardliners to leave the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) after a June war are likely headed nowhere because of Tehran's keenness not to irritate Russia and China, Middle East expert Kenneth Pollack told Iran International. "The Chinese absolutely do not want to see Iran acquire nuclear weapons. That would be very problematic for them. For the same reason, the Chinese do not want to see Iran violate the NPT," added Pollack, Vice President for Policy at the Middle East Institute think tank in Washington DC.

*Iran International 2nd Oct 2025*

<https://tinyurl.com/mr3k28tk>

**North Korea** is believed to have accumulated large quantities of weapons-grade uranium, according to South Korea. Seoul's Unification Minister Chung Dong-young cited an assessment that Pyongyang possesses 2,000kg of highly enriched uranium "at a purity of 90 percent or higher". If confirmed, the amount would also signal a sharp increase in North Korea's stockpile of nuclear material. Intelligence provided by civilian experts reveals that North Korea is operating four enrichment plants, he added.

*Aljazeera 25th Sept 2025*

<https://tinyurl.com/8czrt2fy>

**Russia** has agreed to build nuclear power sites in **Iran** at a meeting in Moscow between Vladimir Putin and Tehran's atomic energy chief. Mohammad Eslami said during a visit to Moscow that the two countries would sign a deal on expanding Iran's nuclear power capacity this week. The agreement, reached three months after Iran's nuclear enrichment sites were bombed during the 12-day war, came as dozens of Iranian MPs separately called for the development of atomic weapons.

*Telegraph 22nd Sept 2025*

<https://tinyurl.com/4fw7k65d>

## **FROM THE MEDIA**

An international deal with Iran designed to keep the world safe from the spread of atomic weapons has officially ended, with Tehran announcing the termination of the decade-old agreement. Iran said on Saturday that it was no longer bound by the 2015 agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), under which international sanctions were lifted in exchange for limitations on Tehran's nuclear programme. From now on "all of the provisions [of the 2015 deal], including the restrictions on the Iranian nuclear programme and the related mechanisms are considered terminated", Iran's foreign ministry said in a statement. However, it added that the country "firmly expresses its commitment to diplomacy".

*Guardian 18th Oct 2025*

<https://tinyurl.com/57uc9xbr>

A Russian submarine capable of carrying nuclear missiles has declared an 'explosion hazard' alert after suffering a fuel leak in the Mediterranean. The Black Sea Fleet submarine Novorossiysk is 'experiencing serious technical problems' and has now put out the urgent warning, Russian Telegram channel VChK-OGPU reported today. The crew of the 242ft Kilo-class craft may have no choice but to pump out the hold directly into the sea, it was alleged by the channel's source.

*Daily Mail 27th Sept 2025*

<https://tinyurl.com/mrx4kwet>

Keir Starmer's plans to splash out on new nukes are in breach of international law, according to new legal opinion obtained by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

*Morning Star 26th Sept 2025*

<https://tinyurl.com/4dbyyate>



## **TRIDENT AND RELATED NEWS**

John Swinney's independence plan to remove nuclear weapons from Scotland is a "win" for Russia and Vladimir Putin, a UK Government minister has warned. Defence procurement minister Luke Pollard launched a scathing attack on the Scottish Government as he accused the First Minister of "attacking" the UK's national security.

*Herald 22nd Oct 2025*

<https://tinyurl.com/twptyjfy>

A protest was organised outside the University of Sheffield's Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC). ... The AMRC is working with the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) to design the Astraea, a new generation nuclear warhead. This research has been taking place for at least the past three years. The weapon being designed with AWE is expected to be 30 times as powerful as the bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima. This research is receiving government support from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Authority and 10 Downing Street.

*Labour Outlook 15th Oct 2025*

<https://tinyurl.com/5n98rr7a>

The Royal Navy's newest nuclear-powered attack submarine, HMS Agamemnon, has successfully submerged for the first time during trials at BAE Systems' Barrow-in-Furness shipyard, according to the company. The three-day "trim dive" in Devonshire Dock tested the 7,400-tonne vessel's stability, buoyancy, and watertight integrity ahead of its departure from Barrow to join the Royal Navy's fleet at His Majesty's Naval Base Clyde.

*UK Defence Journal 13th Oct 2025*

<https://tinyurl.com/2es6rzbs>

Glasgow will play a central role in building a new generation of attack submarines after UK ministers stepped in to save a facility at risk of collapse due to an SNP "student politics" ban on munitions funding. John Healey, the defence secretary, is expected to confirm in his speech to Labour conference on Monday that plans for a state-of-the-art welding centre, which the SNP quango Scottish Enterprise refused to support due to its potential military uses, will go ahead after he agreed to provide the funding instead. ... Ambitious plans for the new centre, backed by Strathclyde University and a £11 million investment from Rolls-Royce, were days from collapse after the agency made clear it would not provide an anticipated £2.5 million in funding as it deemed submarines a "weapon". The revelation led to

months of criticism that an SNP ban on taxpayer support for munitions projects meant Scotland was at risk of missing out on a boom in defence funding, while undermining the defence of Britain and its allies.

*Times 29th Sept 2025*

<https://tinyurl.com/4ja8jwas>

The UK's nuclear deterrent programme reached another milestone on Monday as steel was cut for HMS King George VI, the fourth and final Dreadnought-class submarine. The ceremony at BAE Systems in Barrow-in-Furness was led by Defence Secretary John Healey MP, marking the start of construction on a vessel expected to enter service in the early 2030s as part of the UK's continuous at-sea deterrent. "Submarine building is a vital UK industry, sustaining thousands of jobs and apprenticeships up and down the country, all while continuing to keep the country safe around the clock," said Healey. ... The event coincided with the commissioning of HMS Agamemnon, the Royal Navy's newest Astute-class attack submarine, by King Charles III. The King also formally conferred the title of Royal Port on Barrow, recognising the town's role as the hub of UK submarine construction.

*UK Defence Journal 22nd Sept 2025*

<https://tinyurl.com/2ffrceh>

## **NUCLEAR POWER**



***Linda Pentz Gunter: No To Nuclear: Why Nuclear Power Destroys Lives, Derails Climate Progress, and Provokes War.***

There is no silver bullet for the climate crisis—but that hasn't stopped people searching. Seizing its chance, the nuclear power industry wants us to believe that theirs is the only technical fix for our deliverance. The public, politicians and the media have been easily swayed. This should come as no surprise. After all, the pro-nuclear PR campaign is richly funded and has an army of lobbyists sowing myths while the industry reaps the rewards of taxpayer-funded subsidies. No To Nuclear calls the industry's bluff. Blasting aside its claims to be safe and green, Linda Pentz Gunter makes the irresistible case that nuclear power is too slow, too expensive, too dangerous and too integrally connected to the nuclear weapons complex, to serve as a rational energy choice.

**Pluto Books 7th Oct 2025**

<https://www.plutobooks.com/product/no-to-nuclear/>



## What's On

### November/December 2025

The next **Mailing** is due to be sent out at the beginning of January 2026.

The next meeting will be online on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 19.30. This will include the AGM and election of officers.** Current officers are: Chair, Eric Harley; Treasurer, Gill Cox; Minutes secretary, Patrick Hare; Website coordinator, Pam Bishop. They are all willing to stand again, but please let the office know if you would be interested in taking on one of these roles. Please e-mail [wmcndall@gmail.com](mailto:wmcndall@gmail.com) for the zoom link.

### West Midlands Pension Fund update

WMCND has been lobbying the West Midlands Pension Fund committee with regard to investment in nuclear armaments for several years, and has recently been joined by WM Palestine Solidarity with regard to human rights. This lobbying has now caused the WMPF committee to take account of our disinvestment campaign.

Following its meeting on 24 September, the committee issued a statement regarding responsible investment. It has been uploaded to the WMCND website at <https://tinyurl.com/4zfitju2>

It includes the following statement:  
*"We expect to provide key stakeholders with a short briefing paper in the next two weeks, following discussion with our advisors. This will include an initial view on the arguments raised and further information on actions and the next steps."*

See <https://wmcnd.org.uk/disinvesting-in-nuclear-weapons-manufacture/> for the latest news on this campaign.

## Noticeboard

**Peace posters:** Hereford Peace Council produces monthly posters on peace topics, to be displayed as widely as possible. The posters are not dated.

The current posters are:

November: ***The only way to defeat darkness . . . is with goodness*** – Rabbi Walker, December:

***Peace is its own reward*** - Mahatma Ghandi

Please contact [jennywmcnd@gn.apc.org](mailto:jennywmcnd@gn.apc.org) if you would like to use these posters.

**The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA)**, a partner organisation in the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), has signed up to an appeal to world leaders calling for concrete action on advancing nuclear disarmament. On September 26, the UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, the appeal's initiators, the Nuclear Abolition Day Working Group, will present the Appeal to the United Nations, and also send it to leaders, legislators and government officials around the world.

NFLA 24th Sept 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/39dba6rn>

### GLOBAL NETWORK "KEEP SPACE FOR PEACE" ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 33rd GN annual conference took place on zoom on 17<sup>th</sup> September and can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iIC5KXecXw>

The presentations were by GN board convenor Dr. Dave Webb from Leeds, England and Asia-Pacific activist K. J. Noh and the webinar includes a question and answer session.

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