



West Midlands

CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Mailing

November – December 2022

LAKENHEATH DEMONSTRATION NOW ON SATURDAY 19th NOVEMBER 1pm – 3pm

The demonstration, which was postponed because of rail strikes, has been rescheduled.



110 nuclear bombs were stored at the airbase until they were removed in 2008 following persistent popular protest, and they must not be allowed back. Find out the details of the demonstration at <https://bit.ly/3Fkj4UQ> and contact the WMCND office if you are planning to be there.

Meanwhile, West Midlands CND took part in the demonstration in Birmingham on 2nd October on the occasion of the Conservative Party conference, and we found ourselves in good company when Mick Lynch proved to be only too happy to be photographed with one of our placards.



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Follow us on Twitter : @westmidlandscnd

BITS FROM ABROAD

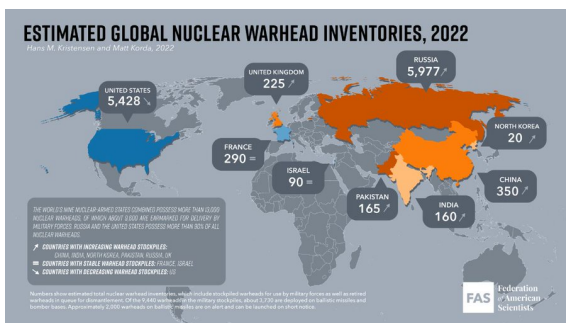
As anti-nuclear activists prepared to mark the UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (on Monday 26 September), the Nuclear Free Local Authorities were delighted to hear that in New York seven nations had signed or ratified a ground-breaking treaty to make the world nuclear weapon free. In defiance of the pervading pessimism generated by the failure of the Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference in New York, the recent nuclear threats by President Putin, and the minute hand of the Doomsday Clock pointing almost at midnight, the 'Magnificent Seven', as NFLA Chair Councillor David Blackburn has called them, purposefully chose to make a pledge to peace by meeting at the United Nations headquarters to affirm their support for the **UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** (the Ban Treaty). The latest signings means that 91 states have signed the Treaty and 68 have ratified it.

NFLA 23rd Sept 2022

<https://bit.ly/3TuFx5p>

For up-to-date information and comment about the situation relating to the nuclear power station in **Ukraine**, have a look at the **Bellona** website: <https://bellona.org/work-areas/nuclear-issues>

The Federation of American Scientists provides details on the number of nuclear warheads across the world. Their "Nuclear Notebook" is an online resource which is regularly updated for each relevant country and which is freely available at <https://fas.org/issues/nuclear-weapons/nuclear-notebook/>



Nawaz Sharif, former Prime Minister of **Pakistan**, has said:

Pakistan is a responsible nuclear state that is perfectly capable of safeguarding its national interest whilst respecting international law and practices. Our nuclear program is in no way a threat to any country. Like all independent states, Pakistan reserves the right to protect its autonomy, sovereign statehood and territorial integrity.

Via Twitter, 15th October 2022

A **French** nuclear submarine was spotted arriving at the **Faslane** Naval Base near Glasgow. Read more here:

<https://bit.ly/3zl21hE>

Daily Record, 23rd Sep 2022

North Korea says that it has tested two nuclear-capable cruise missiles. State media says that the tests were supervised by leader Kim Jong Un, who has made acquiring tactical nuclear weapons a priority.

Al Jazeera 13th Oct 2022

<https://bit.ly/3yPCwF1>

In response to the Korean tests, the **Japan** Institute for National Fundamentals published an article with the opinion that non-nuclear principles are no longer viable.

JINF, 13th October 2022

<https://en.jinf.jp/weekly/archives/9922>

Radioactive contamination was discovered at an elementary school in a St. Louis, **Missouri**, suburb located near a site where nuclear weapons were made during World War II, according to a new report by environmental consultants. The report was completed by Boston Chemical Data Corp, an environmental investigations firm, in October. Samples of soil, dust, and plant materials at the Jana Elementary School in the town of Florissant were collected in August for testing.

Business Insider 17th Oct 2022

<https://bit.ly/3ezqyZp>

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TRIDENT AND RELATED NEWS

CND its urging people to write to their MP about the increasing risk of nuclear war.

Find details, and a template letter, at <https://cnd.eaction.org.uk/risknuclearwar>

NATO's annual nuclear exercise went ahead as scheduled in late October. Read about it here:

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_208399.htm

Staff maintaining the UK's nuclear weapons are to vote on **strike action** as firefighters who claim they are using food banks because of the cost of living crisis are set to reject a pay offer. Prospect, the union, said it would ballot members working at the **Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE)** in a dispute over pay. AWE, based in Aldermaston, Berkshire, supports and maintains Trident, the UK's nuclear programme which is based at HMNB Clyde in Faslane, Argyll and Bute. The union said the atomic weapons company recently became "an arm's-length body" of the Ministry of Defence with the associated freedoms on pay awards, but had offered a rise of 5 per cent, which members rejected. An additional lump sum payment averaging £780 has also been offered.

Times 20th Oct 2022

<https://bit.ly/3MPsJ7I>

ICAN has produced a guide to how you can help others handle information about nuclear weapons and how to deal with your own anxiety and worry around nuclear war:

<https://bit.ly/3sfJZtj>

Greenham Women Everywhere are organising a weekend at Aldermaston on 9th-11th December to mark the first encirclement of Greenham Common 40 years. More information here: <https://bit.ly/3DC0O8v>

At the national People's Assembly march on 5th November, the CND block will be under the banner WAGES NOT WEAPONS. Assemble 12 noon at Embankment Place.



NUCLEAR POWER

The UK's next proposed nuclear plant has received the joint backing of both (former) Prime Minister Liz Truss and French President Emmanuel Macron. The two leaders issued a joint statement in which they said they were keen to advance cooperation, on energy in particular. This included a pledge of "full support" for Sizewell C on Suffolk's coast, which will be developed by French energy company EDF.

City AM 8th Oct 2022

<https://bit.ly/3VR4071>

Workers at Dounreay in Scotland, UK, have carried out the first in a series of campaigns to seal waste containers into place within the two near-surface low-level waste (LLW) disposal vaults at the site.

World Nuclear News 6th Oct 2022

<https://bit.ly/3syKwqF>

New YouGov tracker data reveals that Britons are increasingly supportive of nuclear energy, even though perceptions of its safety remain unchanged. From late 2019 to summer 2021, Britons were divided on using nuclear power. Around four in ten over that time period supported doing so, while a similar number opposed it. Since then, support has been on the rise. Almost half (48%) of Britons now back the use of nuclear energy, compared to 31% who are opposed.

You Gov 4th Oct 2022

<https://bit.ly/3siVTCR>

A proposed nuclear waste dump in Lincolnshire would create 4000 jobs but campaigners worry about the effect on tourism. Nuclear Waste Services is exploring whether the former Theddlethorpe Gas Terminal could be used to store the waste underground.

Lincolnshire Live 19th Oct 2022

<https://bit.ly/3Sg6KYM>

The President of Engineers Ireland has suggested it could be time to reawaken discussion about the use of nuclear energy here. John Power said the debate would have to take place in an informed, mature and balanced manner: "We, as engineers, need to be innovative in relation to the provision of energy while keeping climate change, and its effects, to the forefront of our minds." *RTE 19th Oct 2022*

<https://bit.ly/3MR4xSs>

What's On

November - December 2022

The next **Mailing** is due to be sent out at the beginning of January 2023.

The next meeting will be at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 7th December. Please e-mail wmcndall@gmail.com for the zoom link.

At the AGM on 26th October, Eric Harley was re-elected as Chair, Gill Cox as Secretary and Patrick Hare as Minute Secretary.

At the meeting, the Bishop of Coventry, the Right Reverend Christopher Cocksworth, gave a very moving and thoughtful talk followed by lots of discussion. Watch it here: <https://bit.ly/3f6kZSy>

Hereford Peace Council – AGM to be held on Monday, September 5th, 11.00, Friends Meeting House, King Street, Hereford.

Leominster Community Centre – weeks beginning 12th and 19th September: exhibition on the development of nuclear weapons and the protests against them.

Malvern Churches Justice and Peace group Prayers for Peace, 12 noon on 2nd and 4th Monday of the month (except Bank Holidays), Lyttleton Well Prayer Room, Church Street, Great Malvern.

For all current CND campaigns and activities, go to <https://cnduk.org/>

Read the latest CND Campaign magazine here:
<https://cnduk.org/resources/campaign-magazine-october-2022/>

The CND National Conference was held in London in October. Tom Cuthbert of St Alban's CND has written a report which you can ask for via wmcndall@gmail.com

Noticeboard

Peace Posters

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

This month's poster:

There's no honorable way to kill, no gentle way to destroy. There is nothing good in war except its ending. (Abraham Lincoln)

If you think you could put one up, please contact Jenny, jennywmcnd@gn.apc.org

BASIC's new executive director is Sebastian Brixey-Williams who for three years was Co-Director alongside Marion Messmer who is now taking on a new role in the International Security Programme at Chatham House.

BASIC recently produced a report on **NATO-Russia Relationship: Perspectives from Russia**. Read about it at <https://bit.ly/3NgTkLi>



Brum Climate Justice Coalition
Climate Change COP 27 demonstration
Join WMCND at 14.00 on 12th November
in Victoria Square.
Meet outside the Post Office on Pinfold Street.

Our WMCND website has been re-vamped and updated! Have a look here:
<https://wmcnd.org.uk/>

The Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign
Keep informed about what is going on at Menwith Hill via the website
<https://www.themhac.uk/>