



# **West Midlands**

CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

# **Mailing**

*May – June 2022*



## ***The dangers of nuclear war – CND national chair addresses meeting in Birmingham***

Tom Unterrainer, Chair of national CND, spoke at the joint WMCND/Stop The War meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March.

Tom spoke about the dangers of nuclear war and suggested that, because of the ongoing situation in Ukraine, people are more alert to the danger of nuclear war than has been the case for many years. As we know, the use of nuclear weapons would lead to the extermination of life on the planet. By threatening to use nuclear weapons and placing the nuclear system on high alert, Putin has shattered the taboo.

CND opposes Russia's actions in Ukraine. A military victory is unthinkable and would lead to tens of thousands of deaths and swathes of destruction. CND stands with anti-war movement in Russia. Ukraine is being turned into rubble, Russia is being turned into a prison. CND delivered letter to Russian ambassador in London arguing for the rights of protestors.

NATO is a nuclear-armed alliance which gives its members access to nuclear weaponry. After World War II, this so-called "defensive alliance" was (according to Lord Ismay, its first General Secretary) created to "keep the Soviet Union out, the Americans in, the Germans down". Keeping Americans in Europe was a priority and one of the main functions of NATO was to maintain US influence in Europe under the nuclear umbrella.

After 1990 many people wondered if there would be a genuine rethinking of security, a real peace dividend? The calls from the peace movement were ignored: NATO expanded, nuclear stockpiles grew. The 1999 aerial bombardment of Yugoslavia was launched by NATO alone without reference to the UN. NATO bombarded Yugoslavia, a country which was not threatening a NATO member state.

This is important to remember; when politicians appeal to "rules-based" approach, they are in fact appealing for the right to break the rules. We are supposed to believe that the USA is the ultimate guarantor of rules-based order – yet we see that the rules are broken regularly without embarrassment. Economic and military considerations routinely usurp the place of legality. As well as expanding geographically, NATO also expanded its field of operations and so-called "sphere of influence" while at the same time continuing to develop nuclear capabilities.

Tom was clear that we need to oppose this war and prevent escalation to use of nuclear weapons. CND's mission is to oppose all nuclear weapons in every country, but at the moment the urgent threat is linked to the ongoing war in Ukraine.

**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)  
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## **BITS FROM ABROAD**

The government of Austria announced the new dates for the first meeting of states parties the UN treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: 21-23 of June.

On 18th-19<sup>th</sup> June, ICAN will be organising a conference in Vienna for civil society and activists. Find out more here: <https://bit.ly/3jQL2vD>

Limited' Tactical Nuclear Weapons Would Be Catastrophic. Russia's invasion of Ukraine shows the limits of nuclear deterrence.

*Scientific American 10th March 2022*

<https://bit.ly/38Q9Wcq>

**Read the latest CND national magazine here:**

<https://bit.ly/3v4KkRN>



The US Department of Defense has added the UK to a list of NATO nuclear weapons storage locations in Europe being upgraded under a multi-million dollar infrastructure programme.

The return of US nuclear weapons to Britain – along with the upgrading of its nuclear weapons across Europe – constitutes a further undermining of prospects for global peace. The US is the only country to locate its nuclear weapons outside its own borders and this major increase in NATO's capacity to wage nuclear war in Europe is dangerously destabilising. Their return will increase global tensions and put Britain on the front line in a NATO/Russia war.

<https://cnduk.org/stop-us-nukes-coming-to-lakenheath/>

**Protest on Saturday, May 21st – assemble at 1pm outside RAF Lakenheath, Brandon Road, Suffolk, IP27 9BU. Coaches will be arranged. Check [cnduk.org](https://cnduk.org) for details.**

## **FROM THE MEDIA**

ANTI-NUCLEAR campaigners have won a victory for free expression after forcing Transport for London (TfL) to back down from refusing to consider a peace advert on the network. TfL initially refused an application from CND for advertising space across the capital but has been forced to reconsider following a threat of legal action by the Public Interest Law Centre. The application, originally submitted in 2021, asks: "Why are we getting more nuclear weapons when we could be investing in healthcare, renewable energy, education?"

*Morning Star 24th March 2022*

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

Andy Burnham has called for Britain to hold a fresh debate on worldwide nuclear disarmament in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It comes as the US rejects Zelensky's call for a no-fly zone, as well as a suggestion of giving Polish fighter jets to tackle Russian bombing raids, for fear it would escalate the conflict. The Mayor of Greater Manchester's words marked a split with the official Labour line of support for the UK's nuclear deterrent of Trident missiles, kept continuously at sea in Vanguard submarines.

*Mirror 9th March 2022*

<https://bit.ly/36pGE3x>

In news which tells us everything is Absolutely Fine, the Ministry of Defence has put out a job advert for a "warhead nuclear threat reduction programme manager". The posting, which went live in March, offers the prospective job holder £40,000 per year to help "deliver the UK's Nuclear Threat Reduction (NTR) objectives".

*Indy100 14th March 2022*

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

UK officials knew deadly radiation risks of nuclear weapons tests at the time. The Mirror has uncovered UK government documents showing how the weapons programme was aware of the 'serious biological risks' facing 22,000 men.

*Mirror 18th April 2022*

<https://bit.ly/37m6INL>

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## **TRIDENT AND RELATED NEWS**

An unmarked military convoy carrying 'up to six' nuclear warheads passed through Glasgow in mid-March amid heightened tensions over Russia's invasion of Ukraine. .... **Nukewatch UK** tracks and monitors the convoys that transport the UK's Trident nuclear warheads by road from Atomic Weapons Establishment Burghfield near Reading to Coulport.  
*GlasgowLive 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022*  
<https://bit.ly/3vrH1TQ>

### ***And from The Herald:***

On the northern shore of Gare Loch, washed by salt waters that merge into the Firth of Clyde, is the naval base, Faslane, home to Vanguard-class submarines. The UK has four such Trident-carrying submarines, each armed with eight missiles, each of which carries three warheads. All together, currently, the UK holds a stockpile of 225 such warheads. This sea loch, and the wildlife it sustains, knows little of the destructive capacity contained within it. Each warhead is said to be eight times as destructive as the bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945, which killed over 140,000 civilians. They are dark pearls of latent horror; symbols of humanity's power and folly.  
<https://bit.ly/3rXBC6b>

Residents react after huge military convoy spotted travelling through Preston. An unmarked military convoy was spotted passing through Preston, sparking lots of speculation about what it was for. Residents reported seeing the convoy travelling along Eastway in Fulwood at around 4.25pm on Wednesday (March 23). Footage of the convoy showed the fleet of dark green military vehicles was escorted by police and fire crews.  
*Lancashire Post 24th March 2022*  
<https://bit.ly/3JYhSoS>

A TORY MP has said she thanks God that nuclear weapons are kept in Scotland, claiming they make her feel "a lot safer". The comments, made by Kent MP Laura Trott, came during a discussion on BBC Politics Live about weapons of mass destruction in an independent Scotland.  
*The National 8th March 2022*  
<https://bit.ly/3k8SSRD>

## **NUCLEAR POWER**

The energy crisis gripping Britain following the Russian invasion of Ukraine could see the UK Government move rapidly to get Wylfa B back on track. Energy prices were already spiralling in Europe and have now been further exacerbated by the war and moves to cut reliance on Russian oil and gas. This crisis has highlighted the risk of relying heavily on imports to power the country and increased the urgency to move to additional renewables and low carbon alternatives like nuclear. Rolls-Royce is appealing to the UK government to speed up the rollout of small modular reactors (SMRs) with Wylfa on Anglesey and Trawsfynydd in Gwynedd prime potential sites.

*Daily Post 16th March 2022*  
<https://bit.ly/3uUcWxd>

GMB, the energy union, has welcomed the new nuclear funding model receiving royal assent today (Friday) – guaranteeing a new phase of nuclear for the UK. The Nuclear Energy (funding act) paths the way for a Regulated Asset Base (RAB) funding model for new nuclear plants – a key step in ensuring that projects can be delivered in a timely and affordable manner.

*GMB 1st April 2022*  
<https://bit.ly/3xJ1gPM>

The global nuclear industry is lobbying in overdrive, evidently with great success at No.10, the major European incumbent, EDF, well to the fore. Unfortunately for the French firm its failings advertise themselves loudly. At home France is suffering the highest electricity prices in Europe. EDF's efforts to build Hinkley Point C are coming unstuck with more delays and cost increases. Blaming Covid and Ukraine, in fact EDF has badly misjudged the size of the workforce it needs. Financial disclosures in France suggest EDF fears its Chinese partner may not stump up its share of the cost overruns, and also that EDF has run out of funds on its Sizewell project.  
*Private Eye 15th April 2022*  
<https://www.private-eye.co.uk/current-issue>

# What's On

March - April 2022

The next **Mailing** is due to be sent out at the end of June

The next ACG meeting will be held by Zoom on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May.  
Please e-mail [wmcndall@gmail.com](mailto:wmcndall@gmail.com) for the zoom link.

**Regular Events in the Midlands (to the best of our knowledge). Please let us know if there is anything you would like to be included here.**

**Hereford** Peace Council –second Monday of the month, 11.00 – 12.30 at Friends House, King Street, Hereford

**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.

*In March, Coventry Lord Mayor's Peace committee organised a meeting on the Nuclear Threat which included a presentation by the Bishop of Coventry which you can watch online here:*  
<https://coventrycityofpeace.uk/the-nuclear-threat-in-the-21st-century/>

**Latest Global Network Video:  
Space Force Becomes More Lethal**



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

# 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 say:

**U.S. Military bases in Britain don't make us safer; they make us a target.** *John Meaford, Former manager of military equipment manufacturer*

**Those who love peace must learn to organise as effectively as those who love war.** *Martin Luther King Jr*

## WMCND Stall on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

We will have a stall at the CoCoMad festival in Cotteridge park, Birmingham.

This runs from 12 midday to 7pm so stall volunteers are required. Ideas for any children/family CND engagement activities welcome (especially from anybody who can do paper-folding) - please contact [wmcndall@gmail.com](mailto:wmcndall@gmail.com) if you can offer to help on the day.

## Hiroshima Day event on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August

*More information about this in the next mailing!*

## New Report from BASIC

**Applying a Systematic Approach to NATO–Russia Risk Reduction**



<https://bit.ly/3KXjn8g>

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