



West Midlands

CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Mailing

March/April 2025



CND is launching a [legal challenge](#) against both Suffolk County Council and the Secretary of State for Defence over the serious safety risks of siting US nukes at RAF Lakenheath.

Investigations by CND's legal team indicate that there are no emergency plans in place in the event of nuclear accidents involving these new US B61-12 bombs. This means the British government, without any public consultation or parliamentary debate, is making us all a target and putting us at risk from nuclear accidents without any emergency plans in place.

CND argues that if the UK government were to allow nuclear weapons to be stationed at Lakenheath without proper emergency plans, this could be in breach of statutory obligations which include a requirement to carry out a hazard evaluation and have plans prepared to limit the possibility of a radiation emergency, as well as a consequence assessment for if one should occur. If no such planning has taken place, on-site personnel, civilians and the environment will be in danger.

CND needs £6000 to cover the legal costs.

You can donate via the CND website at <https://tinyurl.com/ycyz59mv>. There is more information at <https://tinyurl.com/5n7896z8>.

CND demonstration at Barrow on 22nd March against project to build nuclear reactors for Dreadnought submarines – see page 4.

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BITS FROM ABROAD

Donald Trump said that he wants to restart nuclear arms control talks with Russia and China and that eventually he hopes all three countries could agree to cut their massive defence budgets in half. Speaking to reporters in the Oval Office, Trump lamented the hundreds of billions of dollars being invested in rebuilding the nation's nuclear deterrent and said he hopes to gain commitments from the US adversaries to cut their own spending. "There's no reason for us to be building brand-new nuclear weapons. We already have so many," Trump said. "You could destroy the world 50 times over, 100 times over. And here we are building new nuclear weapons, and they're building nuclear weapons."

Guardian 13th Feb 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/fu2cdkd7>

You may have never heard of the National Nuclear Security Administration, but its work is crucial to your safety—and to that of every other human being on the planet. If Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) hasn't yet come across the NNSA, it surely will before too long. What happens after that could be alarming. ... DOGE employees are bound to notice NNSA, an 1,800-person organization that sits inside the Department of Energy and burns through \$20 billion every year, much of it on classified work. But as they set out to discover exactly how the money is spent, they should proceed with care. Musk's incursions into other agencies have reportedly risked exposing sensitive information to unqualified personnel, and obstructing people's access to lifesaving medicine. According to several nuclear-security experts and a former senior department official, taking this same approach at the NNSA could make nuclear material at home and abroad less safe. The NNSA was created by Congress in 1999 in order to consolidate several Department of Energy functions under one bureaucratic roof: acquiring fissile material, manufacturing nuclear weapons, and preventing America's nuclear technology from leaking. It has all manner of sensitive information on hand, including nuclear-weapon designs and the blueprints for reactors that power Navy ships and submarines.

The Atlantic 5th Feb 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/bdeydpd28>

Donald Trump has said he wants a "verified nuclear peace agreement" with Iran and denied he wanted to blow Iran to smithereens, describing such reports as "greatly exaggerated". But he said it was essential that Iran did not have a nuclear weapon, adding "we should start working on it immediately". His remarks on his social media site represent the clearest sign that Trump is willing to hold talks with Iran to try to replace the nuclear deal signed in 2015, but from which Trump pulled the US out in 2018.

Guardian 5th Feb 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/35xbbe7v>

FROM THE MEDIA

CND Cymru warns against Starmer's 'anti-democratic' push for mini-nuclear reactors. CND Cymru national secretary Dylan Lewis-Rowlands said: "If the proposals from Westminster are to be believed, then not only could plans similar to this pop up anywhere in Wales or England, but could also be pushed through against community will from the UK government." CND Cymru vice-chairman Brian Jones added: "This is not just a question of nuclear development, but of democracy. The intention of this move by Starmer seems to be something that the nuclear power and weapons industry has only dreamt of before — the ability to ignore communities' wishes and focus their vast lobbying budgets on getting central government to allow them to build wherever they want, without opposition.

Morning Star 7th Feb 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/yc3j6hz2>

A nuclear power station worker was quizzed on suspicion of being a spy after he returned to the UK from Russia. Mario Zadra, a 67-year-old Italian national, worked at Hinkley Point C in Somerset from 2020 to 2023, and was questioned by counter-terrorism police after he flew into Heathrow airport on April 12, 2023. It was reported that potentially sensitive documents were found in his possession and were seized by the authorities to prevent them being 'used to carry out a hostile attack'.

Daily Mail 3rd Feb 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/52nb4cu2>

Scotland must keep Trident to help the people of Ukraine. Faslane is Nato's most important nuclear base — the SNP must rethink its policy to advocate for the withdrawal of nuclear weapons.

Times 28th Jan 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/22j76v85>

TRIDENT AND RELATED NEWS

Scottish Secretary Ian Murray has shocked campaigners after pledging to lobby his Government colleagues to get the UK to attend a key anti-nuclear summit. The government minister told anti-nuclear weapons campaigners in his Edinburgh South constituency he would lobby for Britain to attend a ban-the-bomb meeting in New York next month. In an email shared with The National, Murray said that the UK attending a meeting of countries signed up to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) would be a major boost for “global disarmament efforts”. Murray said: “I believe that nuclear disarmament is not only a global public good of the highest order but also an essential step towards ensuring peace and security for all nations.”

The National 11th Feb 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/bde5t6a8>

A £4bn project to help replace nuclear-armed Trident submarines on the Clyde has been branded as “unachievable” for the third year running by a UK government watchdog. The Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA) has again given the manufacture of new reactors to power replacement submarines its lowest rating of “red” for 2023-24..There are “major issues” that do not seem to be “manageable or resolvable”, it said. The IPA has badged eight other major UK nuclear weapons projects, with a combined overall cost of over £55bn, as “amber”. This means they are facing “significant issues” which require “management attention”. These include building new facilities at the Faslane nuclear base, near Helensburgh, and dismantling nuclear submarines at Rosyth in Fife. The construction of the entire future nuclear-powered fleets of submarines – Astute, Dreadnought and Aukus – was also rated amber.

The Ferret 10th Feb 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/4z398fmv>

The Ministry of Defence's Unity contract with Rolls-Royce is expected to create at least 200 new jobs in Cardiff and Glasgow. The eight-year agreement, valued at around £9 billion, consolidates research, design, manufacturing, and in-service support for the nuclear reactors powering the Royal Navy's submarine fleet.

UK Defence Journal 3rd Feb 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/r957eada>

NUCLEAR POWER

Great British Nuclear (GBN) is making the step forward from start-up to a permanent organisation, marking a pivotal moment in its mission to deliver growth from nuclear and help deliver the Government's Plan for Change and clean energy superpower mission. Since its inception, GBN has rapidly established itself as the Government's delivery body for new nuclear, focusing initially on the Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Technology Partner selection process

Mirage News 13th Feb 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/ym6w8z7s>

The Office for Nuclear Regulation has served an improvement notice on Sellafeld Ltd following a shunting accident on the rail system at the Cumbria site. The enforcement action was taken after a railway wagon that hadn't been properly secured rolled about 60 metres along the track before colliding with a stationary wagon. The incident occurred during shunting activities when several other railway wagons were being moved on the same stretch of track.

Carlisle News & Star 2nd Feb 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/4u8y24xf>

The nuclear sector's professional membership body, the Nuclear Institute, has launched its new *Strategy: 2025 and Beyond* brochure. ... Huge change is underway in the nuclear sector, with particularly strong activity in civil nuclear energy, but also defence nuclear - covering power and weapons. ... In defence nuclear, AWE announced a multi-billion-pound contract would be put to market soon for construction of a new warhead manufacturing facility, and Rolls-Royce is investing more in its submarine nuclear propulsion facility.

New Civil Engineer 31st Jan 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/ymjd89a2>

17 groups including the West Country Rivers Trust and CPRE have joined forces to call on the Energy Secretary to ensure that an acoustic fish deterrent is installed at Hinkley Point C, with ‘comprehensive mitigation and compensation’ for all species. It follows comments made by the Prime Minister, Sir Kier Starmer, in an article for Mail Online, which lambasted efforts to block major infrastructure projects, singling out opposition to the acoustic fish deterrent which EDF had originally proposed for Hinkley Point C.

Bridgwater Mercury 29th Jan 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/53rbkumx>

What's On

March/April 2025

The next **Mailing** is due to be sent out at the beginning of May 2025.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 18th March at 19.30 via zoom**. Please e-mail wmcndall@gmail.com for the zoom link.

Hereford Peace Council – Meetings at 10 – 11.30 on the second Monday of the months of January, April, June and September, at Friends Meeting 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.

LAKENHEATH ALLIANCE FOR PEACE PEACE CAMP

Friday 18th April – making the links between militarism and climate change. For transport from Birmingham please contact gillcox@myphone.coop

Showing of Film **Dr Strangelove** followed by speakers and questions on preventing nuclear war. Free but contact gillcox@myphone.coop to see if ticket required - 2pm Sunday 23rd March Stirchley Baths, corner of Bournville Lane and Pershore Rd, B30 2JT.

Read the latest CND Magazine here: <https://tinyurl.com/48dd8xcv>

Follow us on X/twitter:
[@westmidlandscnd](https://twitter.com/westmidlandscnd)

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:

March: **War is a defeat for humanity.** - Pope John Paul II.

April: **Violence never brings permanent peace.** - Martin Luther King Jnr

Please contact jennywmcnd@gp.apc.org if you would like to use these posters.



The project to build nuclear reactors for the Dreadnought submarines – the next generation of Britain's nuclear weapons - has been graded as 'unachievable' by a [recent watchdog report](#) (see p.3)

More information about the demonstration here:

<https://tinyurl.com/3hf8chm3>

There will be a car going from Birmingham – for more information, please contact gillcox@myphone.coop

Don't bank on the bomb

The 2024 Don't Bank on the Bomb analysis identifies 260 banks, pension funds, insurance companies and other financial institutions with significant finance or investment relations with the 24 main nuclear weapons producers.

Read the details here:

<https://tinyurl.com/yrse38wt>