



West Midlands

CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Mailing

January/February 2026



Sunday 14 January 19.30 – 20.30
Webinar – Making your Council your ally

Join the Lakenheath Alliance for Peace and Nuclear Free Local Authorities for this online meeting to find out how to get your council to support the campaign for a world without nuclear weapons.

<https://lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk/webinar-making-your-council-an-ally-in-the-campaign-for-nuclear-disarmament/>

Saturday 28th February

National demonstration at RAF Marham

WMCND will be running a coach so please contact the e-mail address below if you would like a seat.



WMCND, 54, Allison Street, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 5TH
e-mail: wmcndlall@gmail.com; website: www.wmcnd.org.uk
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BITS FROM ABROAD

At the UK-France Summit in July 2025, Prime Minister Keir Starmer and President Emmanuel Macron affirmed their commitment to strengthening the UK-France nuclear relationship. They signed the Northwood Declaration, which established the UK-France Nuclear Steering Group in order to provide political direction and coordinate bilateral work across nuclear policy, capability and operations. On 10 December, the Nuclear Steering Group met for the first time in Paris ... They discussed their approach to strengthening deterrence in Europe and confirmed their ambition for bilateral co-operation on nuclear deterrence. They also observed Operation POKER which was the first time foreign officials were given access to this demonstration of France's strategic nuclear airborne component.

Cabinet Office 18th Dec 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/b6tuww97>

Iranian military scientists that the US accuses of leading research that could be applicable to nuclear weapons say their products incorporate UK-made radiation-detection equipment from a company based in the south London borough of Croydon, a Financial Times investigation has found. A Tehran-based nuclear-testing and diagnostics ... advertises that it uses radiation-detection tubes made by Centronic in equipment it offers for sale.

FT 25th Nov 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/yhnft72m>

Australia's naval nuclear propulsion: AUKUS update to IAEA Board of Governors, November 2025. Update by Australia, the UK and the US (AUKUS) to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors on Australia's naval nuclear propulsion programme.

FCO 20th Nov 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/nhjdv6bu>

In November, **ICAN** (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) joined a diverse group of investors and advocates for an informal dialogue on ways and means to deal with efforts to undermine existing controversial weapons and defence sector investment policies on the margins of the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights.

Read more here: <https://tinyurl.com/2ddt7wfp>

FROM THE MEDIA

A massive \$264 million plan to overhaul a Royal Air Force base in the English countryside includes knocking down at least half a dozen existing buildings, setting up secure intelligence facilities, protecting the surrounding area against enemy electronic pulse attacks, and sending over 200 American personnel, according to Pentagon funding proposals. It represents confirmation that American nuclear weapons will return to Britain for the first time since President Barack Obama withdrew them 17 years ago.

However, despite widespread speculation that U.S. nuclear weapons have already arrived in the U.K., the documents indicate it will not happen for several years. The idea that they had already been sent gained steam on July 17 when a massive U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III arrived at RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk.

Daily Mail 21st Dec 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/4j84vbjw>

The fragile global legal framework for nuclear weapons control faces further setbacks in 2026, eroding guardrails to avoid a nuclear crisis. The first half of the year will see two key events: the US-Russia bilateral treaty, New START, expires on February 5, and in April, New York hosts the Review Conference (RevCon) of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) -- the cornerstone of global nuclear security frameworks. The RevCon, held every four to five years, is meant to keep the NPT alive. But during the last two sessions, the 191 signatory states failed to agree on a final document, and experts expect the same outcome in April.

Daily Mail 22nd Dec 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/aw5sjwat>

North Korea's relentless nuclear march revealed by new photos. Kim Jong-un's expanding weapons factory has the capabilities to fulfil its leader's nuclear dream, yet Donald Trump had the chance to shut it down.

Times 25th Nov 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/kwnwmchb>

Why nuclear war is closer than ever: That's the chilling verdict of historian SERHII PLOKHY who reveals the FORTY countries which could blow the world apart... and the timebomb that could trigger ash-flecked annihilation.

Daily Mail 21st Nov 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/ytkuej33>

TRIDENT AND RELATED NEWS

Work has been carried out on land opposite the Atomic Weapons Establishment's (AWE) Aldermaston campus despite a temporary stop notice, West Berkshire Council said. Hundreds of people have signed an online petition that states the work has left others feeling "unsafe, anxious and unprotected", according to the Local Democracy Reporting Service.

BBC 17th Dec 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/59xy8med>

Work is underway to design an emergency planning zone as plans progress for Rosyth to be the temporary repair base for the UK's new fleet of nuclear deterrent submarines.
Grant Reekie, head of radioactive waste and health physics at Babcock International in Rosyth, told councillors: "The next generation of submarines is going to be launched from Barrow towards the end of this decade. The intention is these will be maintained at the HM Naval base Clyde however the Clyde facilities will not be available until mid-2030s."

Herald 11th Dec 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/45rkvuhk>

The Ministry of Defence says it will not reveal if nuclear weapons will be aboard submarines being repaired at Rosyth in future, and confirmed residents would be given potassium iodate tablets to block radiation in the event of an emergency. The revelations came as members of Fife Council's South and West Fife area committee were given an update on plans for Rosyth to be the temporary repair base for the UK's new fleet of nuclear deterrent submarines.

Dunfermline Press 11th Dec 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/4wvz3tc>

Britain is "no longer capable" of running a nuclear submarine programme after "catastrophic" failures pushed it to the brink, a former Navy chief has warned..... [Rear Admiral Philip Mathias], who led the Trident value for money review in 2010, called for Britain to pull out of the multi-billion "Aukus" defence deal with America and Australia to build 12 new nuclear submarines. "The UK is no longer capable of managing a nuclear submarine programme," he said. ... He added not a single of the UK's 23 decommissioned nuclear boats had been dismantled since the first, HMS Dreadnought, left service in 1980 .

Telegraph 6th Dec 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/4xc3bhb>

The Royal Navy threatened legal action as part of a fierce, high-level, behind-the-scenes battle to block publication of information about radioactive pollution at the Coulport nuclear bomb base on the Clyde. Files released to The Ferret reveal that over nine days in July and August, the navy sent 130 emails, held five meetings and made numerous phone calls urging the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa) to keep details of the pollution secret.

The National 23rd Nov 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/m99v8pdm>

Britain will have to obey US orders on nuclear jets, CND conference hears. Britain would need permission from the United States in order to use its nuclear deterrent, experts say, as the government goes forward with a £71 billion purchase of nuke-carrying US jets. And increasing Britain's nuclear arms stock will tie the country to President Donald Trump's foreign policy goals, which disarmament campaigners say could bring us closer to the brink of disaster.

Morning Star 23rd Nov 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/muuwud7v>

NUCLEAR ENERGY

The UK has safely processed a can of plutonium residue into a stable waste form for the first time. The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) group achieved the milestone at Sellafield, marking progress in long-term efforts to dispose of the UK's plutonium stockpile.

Carlisle News & Star 21st Dec 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/2tnev3va>

Rushing to Deregulation – the report of the Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce. 'Nuclear plants should be built closer to urban areas and should be allowed to harm the local environment' so concluded The Times, 24 November 2025 on reporting on the findings of the Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce in its final report to the UK Government. Many of the other 46 recommendations made by the NRTs were equally disquieting, representing a manifesto of deregulation – a 'radical reset' - in the vain hope that this will spark a renaissance in the nuclear industry, with new nuclear plants thrown up more quickly and more cheaply.

NFLA 18th Dec 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/yhz7vbxz>

What's On

January/February 2026

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

The next meeting will be online on Wednesday 7th January, 19.30, on zoom. Please e-mail wmcndl@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.

You can have war or you can have social democracy - but you can't have both

This document, presented at CND Council, sets out recent developments relevant to our campaigning and includes the fact that the recent budget allowed for twice the expenditure on defence that it did on the NHS and social care combined.

<https://therestisbullshit.substack.com/p/you-can-have-war-or-you-can-social>

#Follow us on X/twitter:
@westmidlandsnd

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:

January: *Disarmament is an essential tool to secure the world and our future.* Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General

February: *Security is...built through cooperation, resilience and shared prosperity.* Ellie Chowns MP

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

Bill Kidd MSP: Thanks to the publication of a new Nuclear Education Trust report, **Stepping Back From The Brink: The Myths Of Tactical Nuclear Weapons And Limited Nuclear War**, we have additional detail on how the Ministry of Defence is to spend billions reintroducing tactical nuclear weapons into the RAF. We also know that these are weapons the RAF will not own or control. Re-nuclearising the RAF requires much more than the purchase of an additional squadron of F-35A jets at around £1 billion. Creating the logistical and command and control infrastructure will be 10 times the cost of just the aircraft.

The National 13th Dec 2025
<https://tinyurl.com/2w8p3756>

Read the report here:
<https://tinyurl.com/4ad3fyh9>

