



West Midlands

CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Mailing

July/August 2026



Premeditated – Nuclear Weapons Spending in 2025

This is the title of ICAN's new report, which reveals that in 2025, the nine nuclear-armed states spent just under \$119 billion, or \$3,768 per second, on their nuclear arsenals. The report, *Premeditated: Nuclear Weapons Spending in 2025*, shows that the combined spending of the nuclear armed states – China, France, India, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, UK and US increased 19% from the previous year (\$16.8 billion).

The United States again spent more than all of the other nuclear armed states combined: \$69.2 billion. Washington also had the largest annual increase at \$12.4 billion. China was the second largest spender at \$13.5 billion. The UK overtook Russia to become the third largest spender at \$12.6 billion to Russia's \$9.5 billion.

ICAN points out that over the past few years, the UN, along with the whole humanitarian and development sector, has had its funding cut by countries that are rearming themselves, both conventionally and in nuclear terms. The money spent on nuclear weapons in 2025 by the US alone could have covered the entire UN annual budget 19 times over.

ICAN's Director of Programmes co-author of the report, Susi Snyder, said: *"At a time when the cost of living is skyrocketing and food and fuel are unaffordable for so many, it is unthinkable that these nine countries are spending billions on a false promise of security. Nuclear weapons cannot be used without causing catastrophe, and the false logic of nuclear deterrence requires us to trust our enemies with our very survival."*

Download the report here: <https://tinyurl.com/6me3eam3>

(It's difficult to imagine the size of these numbers. One way of understanding the difference between one million and one billion is to realise that one million seconds is about 11.5 days; one billion seconds is 31.7 years.)



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BITS FROM ABROAD

The US is discussing whether to deploy nuclear weapons in additional **European NATO states**, in a move intended to reassure allies that reduced conventional military support does not weaken security guarantees. US officials have signalled openness to additional deployments beyond the existing six countries hosting nuclear-capable bombers, three people briefed on the discussions told the FT. The talks, which are highly confidential and may not lead to any changes in nuclear-sharing arrangements, come amid widespread concern in Europe over Donald Trump's aim to remove US troops and critical weapons systems from the continent. It would potentially allow more countries to host so-called US dual-capable aircraft (DCA), which are able to deliver nuclear strikes.

FT 2nd June 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/4rrk3xvf>

Kazakhstan has indicated that it is willing to take Iran's stockpile of uranium enriched close to weapons-grade levels if Washington and Tehran reach a deal over the Islamic republic's nuclear programme, the head of the UN's watchdog said.

FT 29th May 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/yckyju>

Norway became the ninth country to join the France-led nuclear deterrence scheme, the leaders of both countries said. President Emmanuel Macron announced in March that France - the only nuclear-armed country in the EU - would extend its nuclear deterrence scheme to willing European partners.

France24 27th May 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/yrwn7cf8>

The French president had just torn up 65 years of doctrine to offer French nuclear weapons to protect Europe from Russia; if necessary without the United States. "To be free, we must be feared, and to be feared, we must be powerful," Mr Macron declared ... France would strengthen and modernise its deterrent to make Vladimir Putin think twice about attacking Europe, he pledged. It would increase its arsenal and no longer reveal how many warheads it had nor where its nuclear-capable jets and submarines are located. This is just a small part of Mr Macron's vision of "forward deterrence" to create a European-controlled line of nuclear deterrence against Russia.

Telegraph 26th May 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/4yw8x2hy>

FROM THE MEDIA

Governments will be on the hook for the potentially unlimited liability created by a nuclear incident at sea, Core Power's annual nuclear conference was told. There are doubts they are keen to take such a burden on.

Lloyds List 19th June 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/bdbfhesc>

Finland has passed laws that lift a ban on nuclear weapons, in a huge blow to Vladimir Putin. The new legislation will allow nuclear arms to be imported, transported, supplied, and possessed on its territory as the Nordic nation confronts mounting security concerns over neighbouring Russia. The new law overturns a decade-old restriction dating back to the 1987 Nuclear Energy Act, which prohibited nuclear weapons from being brought onto Finnish soil.

Daily Mail 17th June 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/4wk9y8kf>

A nuclear war between India and Pakistan could destroy the ozone layer. Climate models suggest a small nuclear war in the tropics would do even more damage to the ozone layer than a larger nuclear war in more northerly latitudes, increasing exposure to dangerous ultraviolet radiation all over the world.

New Scientist 10th June 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/4nc57hd3>

The sister of Kim Jong-un has insisted that North Korea will never give up its nuclear weapons, setting back hopes of progress towards denuclearisation. Kim Yo-jong, a senior figure in the leadership who sometimes serves as spokeswoman for her brother, said North Korea's "status as a nuclear weapons state is the line of no retreat and it is a stark reality whether anyone recognises it or not".

Times 7th June 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/32anxaec>

Kim Jong Un vows to build nuclear-armed navy with 'secret underwater weapons'. State media reported Kim called for the rapid development of naval forces capable of playing a central role in the country's nuclear deterrent. He said the navy must be able to deliver 'a deadly blow at the enemy any moment under the water or on the water'.

Daily Mail 6th June 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/m6ta4c8p>

TRIDENT AND RELATED NEWS

“This is the third consecutive RevCon in a row – 16 years – where diplomats have failed to agree on a consensus.” After a month of negotiations, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference ended last Friday without a consensus outcome document that would strengthen the treaty amid growing nuclear risks and threats. Entering into force in 1970, the NPT aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, advance nuclear disarmament efforts, and promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy. It recognises five Nuclear Weapons States – the US, Russia, Britain, France, and China – who under Article VI of the treaty must pursue disarmament in good faith. The NPT Review Conference takes place every five years and is an opportunity for states to assess the treaty, its progress, and make suggestions on how it can be improved.

Labour Outlook 5th June 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/fvf29wy5>

The Government has agreed to seek to establish a new House of Commons-only Committee, appointed by the Prime Minister, to conduct scrutiny of Defence Nuclear Enterprise (DNE) expenditure and programmes. This follows a recommendation from the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in its 2024 report ‘Scrutiny of sound financial practice across Government’.

Defence Nuclear Enterprise 4th June 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/2u4zpdso>

The nuclear industry will become “more dangerous” and regulation of the sector has been captured by “vested interests,” campaigners and experts have told the Canary, after the Nuclear Regulation Bill was put forward in the 2026 King’s Speech. The Labour Government had already said in March 2026 that it was committed to implementing the recommendations of the Nuclear Regulatory Review, which was led by John Fingleton – sometimes referred to as the Fingleton Review. CND general secretary Sophie Bolt told the Canary: When you think of nuclear accidents like at Windscale in 1957, Chernobyl in 1986, or Fukushima in 2011, it’s easy to see that Britain’s current nuclear regulatory procedures and rules are in place for a simple reason – that nuclear power is inherently dangerous. ... Rather than strengthening our security, these proposals will instead weaken it and put us all at even greater risks from the nuclear industry.

Canary 14th May 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/yyp3r679>

NUCLEAR POWER

Rolls-Royce SMR has been selected by the Swedish development company Videberg Kraft to build small modular reactors (SMRs) in Sweden, marking a major multibillion-pound export win for the UK and a breakthrough moment for British nuclear.

DESNZ 15th June 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/3ebecaj6>

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has approved the installation of the Unit 2 Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) at Hinkley Point C (HPC) in a much quicker time through its flexible permissioning approach. The RPV is one of the most critical components in a nuclear power station, serving as the high-strength steel container that houses the reactor core, nuclear fuel and coolant. As a high integrity component, its safe installation requires rigorous oversight — making the speed and efficiency of the approvals process particularly important.

Nuclear Engineering International 26th May 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/5dzjhy8u>

France's EDF and UK-based Centrica (CNA.L), are prepared to invest about £800 million (\$1.07 billion) to extend the lifespan of Britain's Sizewell B nuclear power station to 2055 from 2035/

Reuters 10th June 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/bddxs6tm>

The UK has today become the first country in the world to publish specific planning policy for nuclear fusion projects, hailing the move as a crucial step towards the delivery of commercial scale fusion.

Business Green 8th June 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/2f7zvks2>

The Hinkley Point C Socio-economic and Environmental Impact Report 2026 shows its three local training centres, operated in partnership with the UCS College Group, have given 19,500 people the skills they need to be part of the nuclear power industry. Nearly 70% of the 1,740 apprentices trained at Hinkley C were from the Westcountry, while others included youngsters from Suffolk who have learned skills they can take to Sizewell C, the twin nuclear project in the East of England. The number of apprentices trained easily topped the station’s target of 1,000.

West Somerset Free Press 26th May 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/yc3czk69>

What's On

July/August 2026

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

The next meeting will be online on Tuesday 7th July at 19.30, on zoom. Please e-mail wmcndall@gmail.com for the zoom link.

We are sorry to hear that Hereford Peace Council has decided to lay itself down due to lack of new members who would be able to continue the work. We thank all those who have worked steadfastly over the years to maintain the peace witness in and around Hereford.

New Report from BASIC:
Envisioning Pathways for the Future of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
<https://tinyurl.com/mr48ctzh>

The latest newsletter from Global Network is now available online – this edition includes:

Stop the offshore rocket launch in Jeju!
Message from the coordinator – tough times ahead

<https://tinyurl.com/yd35neh6>



Read the latest CND Campaign magazine here:

<https://tinyurl.com/2b6xxzpv>



Noticeboard

Upcoming events

Saturday 4th July West Midlands CND stall at Co-Comad festival Cotteridge Park South Birmingham 12 pm to approx 6pm. Helpers needed - No need to stay all day but please e-mail wmcndall@gmail.com if you can come for a couple of hours.

Monday 6th July East Midlands CND webinar on Rolls Royce Derby producing small modular reactors. More information and link to join: <https://tinyurl.com/5n8df7w9>

Saturday 1st August

Hiroshima commemoration in St Philip's Cathedral churchyard.
11am -12 noon

If you have a poem or piece of prose you would like to read let Gill know (they need to be submitted to the cathedral in advance). Volunteers are also needed to read other poems.
wmcndall@gmail.com

A long-term project at Bella Caledonia is **charting the toxic legacy of the British State.** Our map, Scotland the Dump, produced by the wonderful Magnificent Octopus Illustration is being prepared for shipping right now. The map details the weapons ranges, munitions dumps, biological and chemical weapons dumps and nuclear waste scattered around Scotland.
Bella Caledonia 18th May 2026
<https://tinyurl.com/mrxkwsjr>