



West Midlands

CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Mailing

March / April 2026

“Doomsday is not inevitable – we can change course.”

That was the message from the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) after the Doomsday clock was moved to 85 seconds to midnight at the end of January.

In a recent update, ICAN wrote:

“The path to the end of the world is not set in stone, and ICAN is actively working with governments, international organisations and individuals around the world to change course.

For example, in Accra we partnered with the governments of Ghana and Austria to bring over a dozen countries together from West and Central Africa. The meeting was an opportunity to bring countries that are already part of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, together with regional colleagues to raise awareness about the humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and about the TPNW itself, its importance for African States, and its place in the global and regional peace and security architecture in the current global and regional geo-strategic context.”

In January, ICAN celebrated five years of the Treaty with actions, lectures, film screenings, discussions and demonstrations, all round the world

Opinion pieces were published in many European countries, including Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and Norway.

The International Trade Union Federation released a video on 22nd January which you can find on their Facebook page here:

[International Trade Union Confederation | Facebook](#)

Find out more about ICAN's work at <https://www.icanw.org/>



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BITS FROM ABROAD

President Donald Trump has told Congress he is pursuing a civil nuclear pact with **Saudi Arabia** that does not include non-proliferation safeguards that the U.S. has long said would ensure the kingdom does not develop nuclear weapons, according to a copy of the document sent to Congress and reviewed by Reuters. ... The report "raises concerns that the Trump administration has not carefully considered the proliferation risks posed by its proposed nuclear cooperation agreement with Saudi Arabia or the precedent this agreement may set," Kelsey Davenport, the head of non-proliferation policy for ACA, said.

Reuters 19th Feb 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/429sh3y5>

Iranian leaders not only "intend" to rebuild their conventional military forces, but they are open to "the possibility" of trying to obtain a nuclear weapon, according to the Pentagon's newly released National Defense Strategy. *Washington Examiner 23rd Jan 2026*

<https://tinyurl.com/mrbed3z5>

Experts warn that rising sea levels are threatening the security of a nuclear waste crater in the **Marshall Islands**. ... Scientists said that the water could rise by two metres by 2100, according to The Mainichi. This will cause longer periods of flooding and more erosion along the coast. Rising sea levels also threaten the stability of the Runit Dome, a concrete dome that seals nuclear waste. The structure was created by the U.S. government after it performed nuclear weapons testing in the Marshall Islands in the mid-20th century. The ocean has been steadily encroaching on the dome over the years, and the problem is worsening. Residents fear nuclear contamination if the site were to collapse.

Yahoo 19th Jan 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/39hckfbf>

China and Russia are the primary suppliers of SMRs and microreactors, and they have become increasingly at odds with international institutions in recent years. ... While the safeguards-by-design framework generally addresses many of the technical concerns associated with the proliferation of fuel from advanced nuclear technologies, the broadened international scope of SMR deployment challenges the effectiveness of these measures and introduces additional proliferation risks.

International Relations 17th Jan 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/2prpc5x9>

FROM THE MEDIA

Workers that build and maintain the UK's nuclear weapons have voted to strike over a planned restructuring of the organisation. The union [Prospect] said in November 500 jobs were at risk, with another 750 posts recruited for. Last month it said potential redundancies had increased to 800. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) said it was "disappointed" by the result but was looking for a "constructive resolution"....

BBC 10th Feb 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/2ww5t8w7>

America's most sensitive nuclear sites have been secretly invaded by thousands of unidentified flying objects, a stunning new report has revealed. Crowdsourced platform Enigma revealed to the Daily Mail that there have been more than 2,800 'unidentified aerial sightings' over 90 US nuclear plants or nuclear weapons facilities over the last eight decades. The new report detailed sightings of objects often described as glowing orbs, disks, spheres, cylinders, or triangles hovering or flying in precise patterns within 25 miles of these nuclear sites.

Daily Mail 25th Jan 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/2jw2cwz4>

The UK Prime Minister confirmed this week something anti-nuclear campaigners have been trying to raise the alarm about for decades. At a press conference on Monday about whether the UK would respond in any meaningful way to Donald Trump's threats to conquer Greenland, the PM Keir Starmer said: "Our nuclear deterrent is our foremost weapon ... and that requires us to have a good relationship with the United States." Starmer was categorical. Operating the UK's sole nuclear weapons system requires good relations with the US. In other words, to remain a nuclear-armed state, the UK has no option but to design its foreign policy to stay onside the US. The reason for this, as Scottish CND and CND have emphasised for decades, is that the UK's submarine-launched nuclear weapons system uses American Trident II D5 ballistic missiles.

The National 24th Jan 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/49eh7mvz>

SNP opposition to nuclear weapons 'jeopardising' UK national security in era of 'rising threat'. The First Minister said he "completely and utterly" refuted the comments from Defence Secretary John Healey.

Daily Record 22nd Jan 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/5dwm7xjr>

TRIDENT AND RELATED NEWS

Claims echoed by local media that Rosyth Dockyard could be set to “host nuclear weapons” are, frankly, nonsense. The assertion appears to stem from confusion over separate issues: contingency planning for nuclear-powered submarine activity and the permanent basing of nuclear warheads. Recent commentary has cited local political discussion reporting suggesting that Rosyth could be considered as a temporary contingency location for the Royal Navy’s future Dreadnought-class ballistic missile submarines, which is true. Those submarines form the backbone of the UK’s nuclear deterrent. However, this does not equate to a decision to base nuclear weapons at Rosyth as claimed by some.... The UK’s nuclear warheads remain based at Coulport, and any shift away from that model would be a significant strategic decision that would likely leave a clear policy and financial footprint. discussions.

UK Defence Journal 7th Feb 2026
<https://tinyurl.com/3269tf7x>

A Rosyth councillor has slammed what he described as an “underhanded and pathetic” attempt to undermine the democratic process. Brian Goodall ... said enquiries had been made about committee members’ membership of the Scottish CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament). ...Cllr Goodall said: “This motion is not about the pros and cons about nuclear weapons ...It is not about that. Although others have tried to pretend it is by asking the council’s legal officer to make enquiries about some councillors’ membership of the Scottish CND in what I can only describe as an underhanded and pathetic attempt to try and undermine the democratic process and stop every member of this committee expressing their view and voting on the motion.”

Dunfermline Press 5th Feb 2026
<https://tinyurl.com/bdcufw46>

The government has rejected calls to explore a second sovereign method of delivering UK nuclear weapons... In its report, the Defence Committee said it was “clear that the nuclear threat has increased in the recent past” and noted that while the UK already assigns its nuclear deterrent to NATO, it had not received sufficient evidence to justify investment in an alternative delivery method.

UK Defence Journal 2nd Feb 2026
<https://tinyurl.com/mpe3ene2>

The government has reiterated that investment in the UK’s nuclear deterrent and warhead programmes is progressing as planned, while also stressing the importance of personnel welfare within the submarine service. During a House of Lords exchange, Baroness Stuart of Edgbaston asked about progress on the sovereign warhead programme, following the 2025 Strategic Defence and Security Review commitment to £15 billion of investment by the end of the current Parliament. Responding, Defence Minister Lord Coaker said he was unable to go into precise figures but reassured peers that delivery remained on track. “... I can reassure the noble Baroness that the programme is going ahead according to schedule and will deliver what we need for our deterrent programme,” he said.

UK Defence Review 21st Jan 2026
<https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/ministers-reaffirm-nuclear-deterrent-investment-and-welfare/>

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Testing of a £50m ultrasound system designed to stop fish being sucked into the cooling pipes of Britain’s new nuclear power station has gone “really well”. ...Dubbed the underwater fish disco, for six months a network of speakers has played sounds that deter fish in the Severn Estuary from swimming close to the plant’s pipes. The success of the test means project leaders are considering scrapping plans to flood 900 acres (364 hectares) of farmland in Gloucestershire, which was initially proposed to provide a compensating habitat for fish.

BBC 10th Feb 2026
<https://tinyurl.com/2ym23y3r>

Sir Keir Starmer’s plan for a nuclear renaissance faces a rearguard action from Labour MPs and wildlife charities over claims it will be a “catastrophe” for nature. As many as 40 backbenchers are rallying against the Prime Minister’s proposal to overhaul environmental regulations after an independent review said red tape was frustrating the construction of new power stations..

Telegraph 2nd Feb 2026
<https://tinyurl.com/2yvcxb3h>

What's On

March/April 2026

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

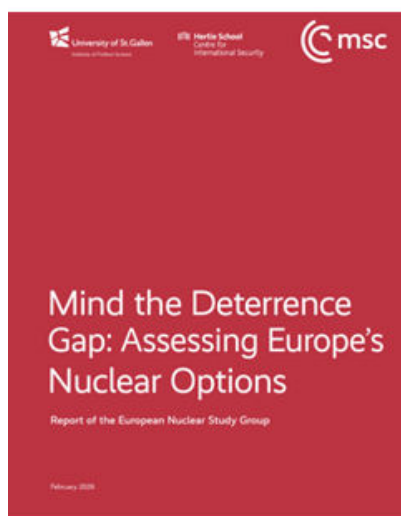
The next meeting will be online on Tuesday 17th March, 19.30, on zoom.
Please e-mail wmcndall@gmail.com for the zoom link.

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.

European Leaders move towards a home-grown nuclear deterrent

European political leaders meeting in Munich in February were open in their discussions about a European nuclear weapons system. At the same time, the European Nuclear Study Group released its new report, which you can find here: <https://tinyurl.com/4ftvc8y>



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: ***We will be known forever by the tracks we leave.*** Dakota tribe)

April: ***Europe's security . . . starts with a stable climate.*** We Don't Have Time (media platform for climate action)

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

Upcoming events

Saturday 14th March – demonstration at Faslane – details from Scottish CND
<https://www.banthebomb.org/whats-on/>

Wednesday 18th March Next meeting of **West Midlands Pension Fund committee** - Please look out for email a week before this with text of possible letter to send to councillors.

1st – 6th April Lakenheath Peace Camp
<https://lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk/international-peace-camp-2026/>

Monday 13th April 10.00 – 12.30
Hereford Peace Council - For details, please phone 01981 510223 or email carolanson@yahoo.co.uk



Secretary of War Hegseth calls for U.S. space dominance

Find out more at <https://tinyurl.com/4w6ukwym>