



West Midlands

CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Mailing

September/October 2026

First ever Review Conference on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in November and December

Latest news from ICAN :

This Review needs to go beyond a bureaucratic assessment of unfulfilled rhetoric. It needs to show that we're delivering on the plan we agreed in Vienna – to increase the number of countries in the treaty and the campaign supporting it, to build evidence and understanding, and to deliver nuclear justice.



Working closely with governments, international organisations and colleagues across civil society we are planning a week-long conference and dozens of events creating opportunities to strengthen the opposition against nuclear weapons and move closer to their elimination. 100 States, representing the global majority of countries, have already become parties or signatories to the TPNW, with others set to join soon.

From 30 November to 4 December 2026, States Parties, international organisations and civil society representatives from all over the world will come together at the UN Headquarters in New York to plan the next steps towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

If you would like to donate to ICAN's work to prepare for the Review Conference, you can do so here: <https://the-ban-is-the-plan.raiselysite.com/>

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BITS FROM ABROAD

China has issued a chilling warning over **Japan's** nuclear potential, pointing to Tokyo's huge stockpile of separated plutonium. Japan held about 44.4 tonnes of separated plutonium at the end of 2025, according to Japanese figures. Beijing says the stockpile gives Japan the technical ability for a rapid nuclear breakout. But Japan remains a non-nuclear-weapon state under the NPT and says its plutonium is for peaceful civilian use.

WION 20th Aug 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/nha34d6r>

President Trump warned that **North Korea** has “57 very powerful nuclear weapons,” comments that come after he complimented the country a few days ago. “The fact that I get along with him, that’s a good thing, not a bad thing. He has 57 very powerful nuclear weapons,” Trump said during an event at the White House, referring to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

The Hill 19th Aug 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/ecfefns>

Nuclear material found at an undisclosed site in **Syria** was not dangerous and would remain in Syrian custody, subject to the International Atomic Energy Agency's guarantees, Syria's foreign minister said. ... Syria is not known to hold operational stockpiles of nuclear material for a weapons programme, but Israel bombed a suspected Syrian nuclear reactor in 2007 in the country's eastern province of Deir al-Zor.

Reuters 18th Aug 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/3xwf8feu>

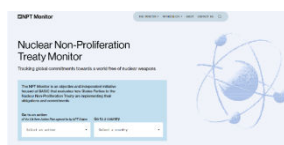
Germany is to take part in a French nuclear exercise later this year in the latest sign Macron is prepared to extend his country's deterrent to other European nations. Speaking alongside the French president near Cologne, Friedrich Merz, the German chancellor, said a “strategic steering group” created by the two countries would consider how to strengthen their shared deterrence.

Telegraph 17th July 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/ym56jzhf>

BASIC Launches NPT Monitor to Spur Transparency Around States' Nuclear Commitments

<https://nptmonitor.org/>



FROM THE MEDIA

Fears that Putin will deploy 'tactical nuclear weapons' against Ukraine are growing as Russia becomes increasingly frustrated and diplomatic hopes crumble. Voices in Moscow calling for nuclear warheads are becoming louder, and the President is surveying his options for escalation, according to sources. Ukraine and Russia have ramped up attacks against each other in recent months, with Kyiv landing significant strikes deep inside Russian territory against its oil infrastructure.

Daily Mail 27th Aug 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/yz3mrn5r>

Vladimir Putin may be about to test a nuclear-powered cruise missile – dubbed the Flying Chernobyl – that can fly for days, according to analysts. An influx of aircraft and shipping has converged in the Arctic in a telltale sign that a new experimental firing is expected of a weapon powered by its own atomic reactor, say analysts. The 'invincible' Burevestnik missile - with a nickname inspired by the nuclear catastrophe that could be inflicted, much like the Chernobyl power plant explosion in 1986 - carries a nuclear warhead with an 'unlimited range' and is designed to fly for days at a time before striking the West, according to the Russians.

Daily Mail 25th Aug 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/46t5da9e>

Nukes all around? A fraying U.S. nuclear umbrella is pushing allies to weigh defence options, raising risk of a proliferation cascade. More governments are reassessing whether to increase their own nuclear capabilities as Washington presses allies to spend more of their own money on defences. An “arms-race dynamic” is creating new risks of miscalculation amid escalating tensions, making the world a more dangerous place, analysts say.

CNBC 19th Aug 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/yfuedxys>

“Can our nuclear subs fire missiles from under the Arctic ice?” This was a question posed jokingly at a meeting of the House of Commons defence committee earlier this summer. It did not need an answer. The intent was to validate Britain's adoption of an additional airborne system for its nuclear strike force. It is with such levity that some of our legislators seem to frame the most deadly shifts in policy.

Morning Star 24th July 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/mu8nbt9n>

TRIDENT AND RELATED NEWS

Germany is in talks to invest in Britain's nuclear deterrent, The Telegraph understands. Berlin is considering offering financial support for Trident as it spearheads efforts to reinforce Europe's nuclear umbrella. One well-placed source said Germany wanted to better integrate itself into the existing British and French nuclear deterrents rather than pursue its own bomb because of the nation's wartime guilt. "We have a very strong interest that the existing nuclear powers in Europe extend their capabilities," the source said. The discussions between Paris, Berlin and London have accelerated in recent months amid fears the Trump administration will withdraw its military from Europe.

Telegraph 26th Aug 2026
<https://tinyurl.com/3hmv6kw8>

Kilmarnock and Loudoun's Labour MP has shown her support for an £8.4billion government investment in nuclear deterrent and skilled jobs. Lillian Jones MP has backed support for the UK's Dreadnought submarine programme, describing it as a commitment that will strengthen Britain's national security while supporting tens of thousands of highly skilled jobs across the country.

Cumnock Chronicle 2nd Aug 2026
<https://tinyurl.com/4845fnna>

What would happen if Faslane was hit in a nuclear strike? While many strategic military facilities are located in highly remote areas to avoid civilian casualties in the case of an attack, these bases are only roughly 40 kilometres from Glasgow and surrounded by other population centres such as Greenock and Helensburgh. Both the effect of the initial blast and the fallout dispersed from two 100-kiloton ground-burst strikes on Coulport's storage bunkers were simulated across 100 historical weather conditions. ... The total predicted fatalities ranged from 1603 to 138,827 people, with an average of 22,798 people. This wide variation is due to the strong influence of wind on the dispersion of fallout. For instance, winds blowing to the west or north result in far fewer casualties, due to the much sparser populations in these directions. By contrast, winds blowing to the east or southeast were found to disperse significant fallout over major population centres such as Glasgow and Edinburgh.

The National 25th July 2026
<https://tinyurl.com/mr266m2w>

NUCLEAR POWER

The new Sizewell C nuclear project that forms part of the government's strategy to reduce gas imports could be delayed after a falling-out over road building. The contractor that had been due to build a link road and bypass has been replaced after Sizewell bosses reportedly wanted changes that pushed up the bill. The two sides failed to agree on costs, and it is feared the resulting delay will set back work on the £38bn nuclear plant, as well as prolonging misery for nearby villagers putting up with construction traffic going past their homes.

Independent 26th Aug 2026
<https://tinyurl.com/4tk9zejj>

Preparatory works worth up to £1.1bn are being lined up as part of plans to build the UK's first small modular nuclear reactors at Wylfa on Ynys Môn. Great British Energy – Nuclear (GBE-N) has begun sounding out contractors for a major package of work including site clearance, earthworks, infrastructure and utilities.

Nation Cymru 22nd Aug 2026
<https://tinyurl.com/5t3e63y8>

An anglers' pressure group has won a landmark legal ruling confirming that the company building Hinkley Point C cannot refuse to answer environmental information requests simply because it is privately owned.

West Somerset Free Press 18th Aug 2026
<https://tinyurl.com/4d384st8>

An MSP bidding to become the next leader of Scottish Labour has said "workers must come first" when deciding Scotland's energy future. Michael Marra said "for too long ideology has come before workers, whether it's windfarms or oil fields" as he backed a new generation of nuclear power plants to open north of the Border. He is also calling for the UK Government to grant approval to the proposed Rosebank and Jackdaw oil and gas developments.

Daily Record 10th Aug 2026
<https://tinyurl.com/4pacfnzt>

Moves to keep Scotland's increasingly cracked reactors at Torness in East Lothian generating electricity until 2030 or 2032 have prompted formal action from the UK government's nuclear safety watchdog, according to internal files obtained by The Ferret.

The Ferret 23rd July 2026
<https://tinyurl.com/2we27s2f>

What's On

September/October 2026

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

The next meeting will be online on **Tuesday 15th September at 19.30**, on zoom. Please e-mail wmcndall@gmail.com for the zoom link.



Join CND, Yorkshire CND and the Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign for a [day of action](#) on **Saturday, 24 October**

12 noon public meeting in Harrogate
2 pm break (bring sandwiches)
2.30 pm transport to Menwith Hill
4 pm transport back to Harrogate
Registration is essential :
<https://tinyurl.com/bhv36kds>

AUKUS submarine deal – webinar
Thursday 24th September 5 – 6 pm

The AUKUS pact between the UK, Australia and the US breaches the NPT. Join CND for the latest updates.
<https://tinyurl.com/43ctuzsd>

This year's Keep Space for Peace week will take place 3rd-11th October. In previous years there have been demonstrations at Croughton but to date nothing has been announced. You can check for updates at the website <https://spacewatch.uk/space-for-peace-week/> or contact the CND e-mail address in September for further details.

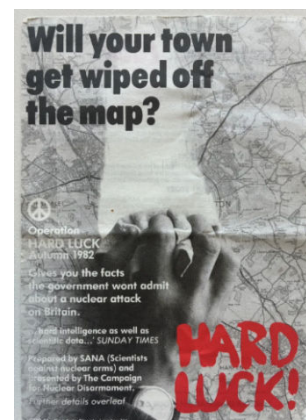
Don't forget to check our website:
<https://wmcnd.org.uk/>

Diverse

From the archives of the Library of Birmingham:

In the early autumn months of 1982, the British government planned a civil defence exercise called 'Operation Hard Rock' which was designed to test emergency capabilities in the event of a nuclear war. The operation

aimed to assess the country's preparedness for fallout, housing and protection of the civilian population. Read more about this Operation (which ended up being cancelled) and the response from CND here:
<https://tinyurl.com/sderub8y>



From IFLScience:

Uranium-Chomping Bacteria Found In Bowels Of Mine That Once Supplied Soviet Nuclear Weapons. Could these mine-dwelling microbes be used to clear up radioactive junk? In the heady days of the Cold War, the USSR extracted vast amounts of uranium from a mine in East Germany, much of it destined for nuclear warheads. Unbeknownst to the bigwigs back in Moscow, strange and potentially useful microbes were quietly lurking in the mine's backwaters. Those microbes were discovered in untreated water flowing from the Wismut GmbH Schlema-Alberoda mine in Saxony, Germany. Between 1946 and 1990, when Germany reunified, around 80,000 tons of uranium were extracted from the site, one of the largest uranium ore deposits in the world. ... Just as their previous experiments had hinted, the [research] team found this gang of bacteria was able to utilize the highly radioactive uranium, as long as they had glycerol, a basic building block of plant and animal fats, to feed on.

IFL Science 16th July 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/psz3yrmm>