ENVIRONMENT
New evidence shows that even a ‘small’ nuclear exchange at a great distance would have devastating impact, accelerating climate change and shortening the growing season. Immediate food shortage would cause famine and quickly impact food supplies and increase resource conflict everywhere. Radiation poisoning would last indefinitely, there is no method yet developed for decontaminating or disposing of the nuclear waste we already have.

MORALITY
The threat or use of nuclear weapons, with their capacity for irreversible and global destruction of innocent victims and the irredeemable poisoning of the land upon which all life depends, is not acceptable from an ethical viewpoint. Taking the risk of an accident is almost equally irresponsible. Each of the warheads deployed from Scotland is at least five times more powerful than used at Hiroshima, which caused 140,000 deaths and still affects people today. Other countries have already disarmed and so could Scotland within four years.

MILITARY IRRELEVANCE
Senior military figures have spoken out against Trident and its replacement, stating that nuclear weapons do not meet the UK’s security needs. Resources should instead be invested in addressing actual contemporary threats, such as terrorism and cyber warfare. Trident gives a false sense of security.

WOMEN AND WAR
Risk of a nuclear catastrophe from regional war, or by misadventure through accident or malice is now greater than it was even during the Cold War, with the Doomsday clock even closer to midnight (2 minutes). It warns us that the Government must find peaceful solution. Last year’s Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons states that we must engage women in disarmament negotiations, not only because the radiation has double the impact on their bodies, but because their experience and education in conflict resolution and negotiation is desperately needed to reduce tensions.

INTERNATIONAL LAW
International humanitarian law forbids indiscriminate attacks on civilians. Treaties are binding on states that sign them. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons already prevents those who sign from developing new nuclear weapons, and commits states in possession to disarm as soon as possible. The new Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) will forbid countries to possess, use, threaten, or assist other countries with nuclear weapons. Trident cannot be used legally.