Nuclear Free Scotland

NPT PrepCom 2019
Roadmap for Trident Removal
Scotland Not Trident

SUMMER 2019
Greetings fellow peaceniks! This edition of Nuclear Free Scotland is jam-packed with all of the events and campaigning we have been doing for the past six months. It’s been a fantastic year so far at Scottish CND, with our amazing coordinator Flavia off on maternity leave taking care of the youngest peace activist, baby Rose everyone has stepped up to make sure we are campaigning in the same passionate and powerful way that we have done for the last sixty years.

We have launched Scotland Not Trident (PAGE X), a campaign in which we look at the financial aspect of renewing Trident and how the money Scotland is wasting could be used to tackle other issues facing our country. If there’s one thing I’ve learned in the past five years volunteering on stalls and speaking with hundreds of people at events it’s that our arguments against nuclear weapons needs to be simplified and linked to issues the public care about like our NHS or the housing crisis in Scotland.

The month of April saw Scotland reaffirm it’s support for scrapping Trident as the STUC Congress once again passed a motion put forward by our chair, Arthur West, in support of a Scottish defence diversification agency and the SNP Spring Conference unanimously passed a motion to create a ‘Roadmap for Trident Removal’ (PAGE X).

A Peace of History is still making its way around Scotland, over 200 people attended the event as part of the West End Festival and thanks to our new games including ‘Bin the Bomb’ and ‘Net the Nuke’ we have walked so many young people through the timeline and making their own ‘peace badges’. If you would like us to bring the exhibition to a venue near you please contact me: emma@banthebomb.org. Every summer we attend Scotland’s biggest festivals with a team of dedicated volunteers placing temporary tattoos of the necks, hands and arms of young people covered in glitter and camping out despite the wind and (torrential) rain, we have had some new volunteers this summer who have written about their experience at Eden Festival (PAGE X). One of these volunteers, Tara Drummie (TARA’S EMAIL) kindly sent us the amazing image we have on the cover of our peace rainbow flag which you can purchase on our online store (www.scottishcndshop.org).

We have also hosted visitors from across the globe in the last few months from guest speakers for our ‘Which Way Forrit Fur Scotland?’ series of discussions around NATO, PESCO and Brexit coming from across Europe and then a visitor from South Korea, Francis Daehoon Lee who was very interested in the campaigning work we do on the other side of the world. I do hope you enjoy this edition of NFS and please get in touch if you have any articles for future editions – we want to hear from our members and supporters.

Emma Cockburn
"The object of the exercise is to get some rocks which will remain ours; there will be no indigenous population except seagulls who have not yet got a committee. Unfortunately, along with the birds go some few Tarzan’s or Men Friday’s whose origins are obscure, and who are begin hopefully wished on to Mauritius etc."

The author of this is a fine example of racist colonial humour was one Denis Greenhill in a Foreign Office internal memo as the UK was preparing in 1967 to forcibly expel from their homeland the inhabitants of the Chagos Islands in the Indian Ocean. The back story was the upcoming de-colonisation of Mauritius, of which the islands were a part, and the US wish to establish a military base on one of the islands, Diego Garcia. The pay-off for the UK was US financial support for the development of the Polaris ICBM submarines. Between 1967 and 1973 all the inhabitants were moved to Mauritius or the Seychelles. Typifying the cynical brutality of the expulsion, the British, acting on a US instruction to “sanitise” the islands, gassed and burned all the inhabitants dogs.

The massive US base is, of course, still in operation and includes a Guantanamo-style prison facility far removed from any scrutiny. In the intervening years, the UK has carried on a dirty fight to prevent the return of the islanders to their homeland, invoking when required, special Privy Council orders above and beyond any democratic accountability. The resistance has, however, persisted and only this week the UN debated the case. A motion supporting the right to return was passed by 116 to 6.

This ongoing crime against humanity is a classic illustration of the cynical disregard of the UK state for international law, and of the lengths it will go to placate Big Brother in Washington. And yet, the UN vote hints at a change on the world stage as more and more states are willing to resist pressure from the big battalions to toe their line. We are also seeing this phenomenon in the progress of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which was adopted by an overwhelming vote by the UN in 2017 in the teeth of fierce opposition from the nuclear weapon states and in particular, the US, the UK and France.

An independent Scotland would surely have voted for the Chagossian motion this week but the fact that we could not is no excuse for sitting on our hands, on this issue and on so many others. A Scottish Government statement of solidarity with the people of Chagos islands would be so much more than a gesture, it would be a marking of our desire to be at one with the vulnerable and dispossessed, to show our present determination not be constrained by UK cynicism. It is high time for the end of our national childhood.
reta Thunberg, Extinction Rebellion and David Attenborough engage us all in addressing the threats that face all life on this planet, and they are right to do so. Scientists tell us that both the climate emergency and the threat from nuclear weapons require interrelated attention and urgent action. They tell us that carbon hefted into the atmosphere from a fireball hotter than the sun, and the consequent ash obscuring light and warmth would be such an assault on the physics of the planet that preventing the client emergency from going out of human control would be remote. They point out that the extreme and violent weathers of the climate emergency closing in on us make water and food shortages and human migration inevitable, causing conflicts and increasing the likelihood of nuclear weapons use. Can the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), adopted in 2017, eliminate one horn of this deadly double-edged dilemma?

UN member states gathered in New York in May to prepare for a review of the fifty-year-old Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which is predicated on a commitment from states to never develop or receive nuclear weapons, while the five first nuclear-armed states parties promise to eliminate their arsenals and facilitate access to nuclear technology. While some of these states have reduced the number of weapons in the 1980’s, none have eliminated them, and an additional four have acquired nukes. ‘Review Conferences’ happen every five years; this year’s meeting was in preparation for 2020, the first Review since the adoption of the TPNW, which has been boycotted by nuclear-armed states as ‘in conflict with the NPT’ and without consensus.

In the two years since the TPNW’s adoption, the US have been in volatile negotiations on the Korean peninsula, suspended the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty with Russia, withdrawn from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran and there is a ratcheting of tensions, particularly wherever the US sees its military dominance challenged, when national interest appears to ‘trump’ treaty agreements. All the nuclear-armed states – not least the UK, hell bent on its new Trident which is paid for with austerity – are undertaking significant aggressive nuclear modernisation. Meanwhile, the TPNW needs 27 more ratifications to enter into force, perhaps in 2020. Divestment from nuclear weapons and civil society support for the TPNW is impacting on the legitimacy of nuclear weapons and providing a robust challenge to nuclear-armed states.

The conference heard presentations from a majority of state parties welcoming the TPNW. Its opponents argued that disarmament is dangerous. US diplomats present this latest argument as ‘creating the environment for nuclear disarmament’ with its own acronym, CEND. The US argument seems to suggest that it is OK for one party to adjust the terms of a treaty unilaterally after they have signed it (nor fulfilled it after fifty years). CEND also manages to suggest that possessing nuclear...
weapons puts the world at less risk of their being used than getting rid of them would and even implies that the nuclear weapons just drew out of their ether, when actually the US Government developed and used them expressly for the mass annihilation of people in another state.

Despite the absurdity of this argument and hellish pressure upon them, the states that found their voices in the TPNW negotiations are now heard at the NPT. Two important lessons for Scotland: firstly, pressure exerted from the US to support their nuclear posture in all its manifestations requires stoic and far-sighted resistance from our efforts and we need to heed them. Credibility for the UK as a security council member is rickety, and their efforts to retain empire status and their power to veto some processes diminishes their status in the world.

“The transnational community created through participation really does change the world, and we need to be ready to ensure Scotland’s voice is heard”

Nuclear armed states (along with nuclear-sharing allies) expected but failed to block the TPNW from disrupting (nuclear-armed) business as usual. Many are the same states which are compromising on the climate emergency. The side events and briefings at the NPT (and other UN conferences) are an important part of how civil society and diplomats can be all heard and acquire new information, and ICAN and other campaigners used them too well in May to press their points. Diplomatic teams and NGOs hosted events and engaged with each other. Pressure from some states was felt here too. The UN Research Institute presented a new report on gender and diplomacy which confirmed that while women diplomats are significantly under-represented in multilateral forums dealing with weapons, success can be increased when they are, and cited the TPNW conference.

“It is important to note that women occupied prominent positions in those negotiations: the chairperson was Costa Rican Ambassador Elayne Whyte Gomez, and women were among the heads of delegations of some of the most active states in that setting (e.g. Ireland, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and Thailand). These women enjoyed greater levels of visibility and their voices were heard.” In addition to its focus on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, the TPNW is the first disarmament treaty to specifically mention the disproportionate impact of nuclear weapons on women and girls, and was referenced by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in his call to include gender parity in his Agenda for Disarmament (2018), arguing that “involving more women will help revitalise disarmament discussions”.

The transnational community created through participation really does change the world, and we need to be ready to ensure Scotland’s voice is heard at next year’s NPT review.
Roadmap for Trident Removal

Jean Anderson / SNP CND

The SNP CND group has had a busy and successful year giving talks to SNP branches and to Yes Groups all over Scotland. This last month we have been to Inverness, Coatbridge, Rutherglen and Pitlochry. Get in touch if you would like to arrange an event with us.

Our main campaign has been a political one, we want to persuade our Scottish Government to commit to disarmament with more than speeches of support.

“Nuclear weapons and climate change are the two biggest threats to survival of the planet, disarmament is going backwards and not forwards, with extra billions being spent on upgrading the nuclear weapons systems.”

An independent Scotland could make a truly significant contribution to nuclear de-acceleration in the UK. We need a very clear and definite roadmap to make this happen. We need to have practical steps written down and agreed – this is not a subject for vague aspiration – this is a call to action. What we need is work to be done to spell out the details of all the processes required – the technical and social as well as the political. The work needs to be co-ordinated – and funded. Experts from the various areas will willingly work together – but they need leadership. SNP CND wrote a resolution for the SNP conference in April to get the process started and it was put for-ward by Kelvin and Maryhill and Springburn SNP branches. The exact wording of the resolution can be found on the SNP CND website, it was passed unanimously and it is now SNP policy.

It is agreed that the SNP CND committee will consult with Scottish CND and the STUC and will work with the SNP Policy Development Committees to ensure the Roadmap is progressed. There has been work done on the technical aspects, and a timetable to do this safely already exists – in 2012, Scottish CND and Scotland’s for Peace together published the report Disarming Trident. It was peer reviewed work, done by the late John Ainslie, co-ordinator of Scottish CND. In October 2012 the House of Commons Scottish Affairs Committee published a report which acknowledged that Scottish independence could lead to nuclear disarmament for Britain and said that the timetable in the Disarming Trident report is realistic. The Committee was a cross-party committee and they took expert advice. So, don’t let anyone say we are being over optimistic and under-estimating the time needed to get rid of the bombs.

The first step would be getting rid of the nuclear warheads that the submarines contain. It will then take a few years to gradually transfer the 200 warheads at Coulport to whatever facility the rest of the UK chooses and several years after that to repurpose the bases. The details of each of these phases been to worked out and costed.

The dismantling work will, of course, be done by the highest skilled workers and it will guarantee them employment for a few years while the jobs diversification process takes place simultaneously. The work re-purposing the bases for their future
use as conventional defence force bases will create jobs at every skill level, and they will be jobs that last a lifetime. More information is available in the Disarming Trident report available on www.banthebomb.org

SNP CND are in talks with Scottish CND and the SNP Policy Development Committee members now and we are arranging an event which will include anti-nuclear campaigners, politicians, science and technology experts, and members of the SNP Policy Development Committee. The event will be publicised on our websites and on social media. We are consulting widely and doing everything we can to make the Roadmap a real, detailed description of the procedures needed to get rid of the weapons of mass destruction on our West coast.

Stop Funding the End of the World
Linda Pearson

The Don’t Bank on the Bomb Scotland network has been busy working for nuclear weapons divestment since the release of our report, Stop Funding the End of the World, in 2018. The campaign is gaining momentum and we are calling on all those who oppose nuclear weapons to get involved.

Our report found that Scottish financial institutions, Royal Bank of Scotland Group, Standard Life Aberdeen and Lloyds Banking Group, have together made financing worth at least £4.7 billion available to nuclear weapons companies since 2014. That means that if you have an account with RBS or Bank of Scotland (a subsidiary of Lloyds) there’s a good chance that your money is supporting the production of nuclear weapons.

We met with representatives of RBS to discuss divestment in March 2019 and the following month we protested at the company’s Annual General Meeting with Friends of the Earth Scotland and BankTrack. The action called on the bank to ‘Stop Funding the End of the World’ by divesting from nuclear weapons producers and fossil fuels.

Our report also found that Scottish local authority pension funds hold shares worth nearly £300 million in nuclear weapons companies, while the Scottish Parliamentary Pension Scheme holds shares in Rolls Royce, one of the key contractors involved in Britain’s Trident renewal programme.

We have met with Members of the Scottish Parliament and local councillors to discuss these investments. We also worked with Nuclear Free Local Authorities to devise a model resolution for local councils that calls on their pension fund to eliminate financial exposure to companies that are involved in the production or maintenance of nuclear weapons. Renfrewshire Council become the first in the UK to pass this resolution on 9th May 2019, marking a significant step forward for our campaign.

Three recent reports have highlighted the importance of the international nuclear weapons divestment campaign. Trouble Ahead by the Nuclear Information Service details the mounting problems facing the Trident renewal programme and estimates that the total cost of the programme will at least be £172 billion, which is four times more than official estimates.
We have recently relaunched the Scottish Greens CND Network at our Spring Conference in Edinburgh. We face not only a climate emergency but also increased nuclear insecurity in our world today, the Scottish Greens have a consistent and recognised history of campaigning on both across Scotland, in Holyrood and internationally.

Scottish Greens CND is a network of party activists campaigning for peace and disarmament, we need to act now on these critical threats we face together and so:
- We will support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and rid Scotland of Trident.
- We will campaign for an independent Scotland not to join NATO.
- We call for a divestment of all public funds in nuclear weapons and military spending.
- We know a sustainable future has no

Production Mass Destruction, published by PAX and ICAN, profiles the companies that are making millions from a new international nuclear arms race and in April, a report by the House of Lords International Relations Committee found that the risk of nuclear weapons use is greater now than it has been since the Cold War.

Scottish banks and pension funds should stop investing in an industry that is drawing vast sums of public money away from socially beneficial projects, like healthcare and renewable energy, and putting the future of humanity at risk. The Don’t Bank on the Bomb Scotland network includes Scottish CND, Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre and MEDACT Scotland. We believe that Scottish organisations can be persuaded to change their investment policies if enough people urge them to stop funding nuclear weapons.

Our report is intended to be a resource for anyone who wishes to get involved and is available in full on our website: www.nukedivestmentscotland.org. The resources pages contains briefing sheets, template letters and a copy of the model resolution for local authorities.

We encourage anyone who opposes nuclear weapons to write to their bank, pension fund, university, MSP and local councillor about divestment and seek a meeting to discuss the issues. Please let us know how you get on: nukedivestmentscotland@gmail.com and you can follow us on Twitter for updates on the campaign: @NukeDivestScot.

Scottish Greens CND Network
Gordon Dickson / SGP CND

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need for nuclear energy, which is an essential part of the support system for nuclear weapons.

Claire Miller, Scottish Greens councillor and member of Scottish CND, welcomed the relaunch of the group: “It’s important for Greens across Scotland to work together on these vital issues. In the capital city’s council, I am often asked if we will take a stance against nuclear weapons and state our support for disarmament. I am pleased to report that fellow Edinburgh Green Councillor Steve Burgess was successful with his motion to secure backing of the council to write in support of the ICAN Cities Appeal.”

The network will build stronger links between the Scottish Greens and SCND, encouraging more party members to join both organisations, take part in campaigning, especially at a local level such as pension divestment and nuclear convoys. We will strengthen connections with the wider peace movement and support lobbying efforts by SCND with Greens elected in local communities, at Holyrood and worldwide with the Global Greens. “The struggle for peace and nuclear disarmament has been a guiding mission of the Green Party throughout our 40-year history. The need for us to mobilise around the threats posed by Trident in the UK have never been greater. That’s why at Holyrood I have worked with Nukewatch in exposing the threat to communities from warhead convoys on our roads and the unpreparedness of civil authorities to cope with incidents. It’s time to focus our campaigning work now as a whole movement, building public awareness of the ever-present dangers on the ground, that’s why this network is so important.” - Mark Ruskell, MSP

We are keen to speak at all local Scottish Green Party branches in the coming months to spread the word of what the network can achieve and invite branches to pass a motion in support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and then campaign to have their local authority pass a similar motion to join those Scottish councils who have already done so.

For further information and ways you can help please contact Scottish Greens CND Network co-convenors Gordon Dickson and Erin Crawley at scnd@scottishgreens.org.uk or on social media: @ScotGreenCND
Although we live in one of the most affluent countries on Earth, many are struggling to eat and keep warm. Hundreds of thousands of people across Scotland rely on food banks while we will spend £5 billion* renewing Trident over the next ten years, a damning indictment of the UK government’s priorities.

‘Austerity measures’ have meant spending on housing, health, education and welfare have been cut and even pay, pensions and disabled people have fallen victim. The only exception is Westminster’s commitment to the replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons system, despite its enormous cost.

UK CND estimate that new submarine procurement, missile leasing costs, extension of the current warheads’ lives, servicing and decommissioning will cost at least £205 billion. The nuclear weapons system itself has no useful function and does not address the threats we face today, such as cyberterrorism, and unlike spending on housing or schools, spending on nuclear weapons has no ultimate economic benefit.

With this in mind, we have organised days of action in 2019 to highlight the ways money saved by scrapping Trident could be better spent on essential public services in Scotland. Local groups across the country have held street stalls, gatherings, vigils and have written letters to their local papers and elected representatives.

Starting with Housing Not Trident in March 2019 we focused on the serious shortage of affordable homes to rent and buy in Scotland and we discovered that a share of the Scottish money spent renewing Trident could build over 50,000 affordable homes. This year has seen a lot of activism around climate change and in April we looked at this issue and how additional funds could make Scotland a world leader in renewable technologies instead of renewing a morally indefensible waste of public funds.

For May Day this year we focused on Jobs Not Trident in the month of May, one of the most contentious issues surrounding nuclear disarmament looking at previous research by SCND and STUC with the Jimmy Reid Foundation and noted that an imaginative programme of arms conversion could use many of the skills and resources currently tied up in the military to create new jobs.

Scottish roads are considered to be amongst the worst in the UK which is why in June we looked at transport in Scotland and how additional funding could help improve the roads, cycle paths and public transport that connects our country. We discovered that public transport users have seen 18 – 26% increase in fares over the last five years which is environmentally
unsustainable, especially considering the Scottish Government has recently declared a climate emergency. In terms of funding, all of Scotland’s roads could be repaired for £2.25 billion, just under half of what Scotland will send to renew Trident over the next ten years.

July is the anniversary of the NHS so we looked at the NHS in Scotland, while most of the world’s government’s support the 2017 UN Global Ban Treaty, the UK is sinking the funding for additionally nurses, carers and hospital equipment into weapons that cannot ever be legally used.

Although we have been focusing on a different issue each month, we hope the points made will last far longer until Trident in Scotland is no more. Please get in contact if you would like some of these materials available for your local area.

*Trident replacement is extremely controversial, meaning the MoD and UK Government ministers make identifying the actual costs difficult, it is possible that £5 billion over the next ten years is an underestimate.

### Forthcoming Events

**July 2019**
- NHS Not Trident
  - 29th July – 21st August: Peace of History at the Secret Bunker, Fife

**August 2019**
- Education Not Trident
  - Hiroshima Day

**September 2019**
- 6th – Peace of History at Troon Library from X AM
- 7th – Helensburgh Conference

**October 2019**
- 19th October – Nominations for Executive Committee and Deadline for AGM Resolutions
- 26th October – Deadline for Constitutional Changes for AGM

**November 2019**
- 2nd November – 1st December: Peace of History exhibition at Summerlee Museum in Coatbridge
- 9th November – Deadline for Resolution Amendments for AGM
- 16th October – Scottish CND AGM at Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House from 10:00am
- Faslane Vigil every Wednesday at the North Gate of Faslane Nuclear Base @ 4:00pm

Scottish Peace Network vigil every fourth Thursday of the month at Buchanan Street steps @ 5:00pm

Scottish CND stall every fourth Thursday of the month at Buchanan Street steps @ 3:00pm

Peace Education Scotland are organising training events across campus’ in Scotland for later in the year and also film screenings so keep an eye on our website for further details.
In the early 1960’s Ellsberg worked for the RAND Corporation on how to avert a nuclear exchange between the Soviet Union and the United States, was a consultant to the United States Department of Defence and the White House, and drafted Secretary Robert McNamara’s plans for nuclear war. He had access to top secret documents, senior military personnel and other senior officials. He writes and lectures about the dangers of the nuclear era. The Doomsday Machine is an enthralling read for anyone who is concerned about the danger of nuclear weapons, and wants to know how we got to where we are now. Ellsberg draws obvious parallels with the film Dr. Strangelove; the truth is his book is much more frightening than any film could be. There are many insights, for example, into the almost unimaginably horrific effects of the British and American bombing of Hamburg and Dresden, and how that bombing contributed to the way the rules of war were changed so that it become ‘acceptable’ to deliberately bomb civilian populations. The main theme however is the utter madness of nuclear war planning.

“The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything save our modes of thinking, and thus, we drift toward unparalleled catastrophe.”
- Albert Einstein

The number of warheads has declined, mainly because of the INF Treaty (which the US and Russia have now suspended participation). Yet the most recent scientific calculations show that a first strike with even a fraction of these smaller – but more powerful – arsenals would be enough to cause nuclear winter and kill almost all humans on Earth. President Gorbachev of the then USSR is reported to have said he was strongly influenced by Soviet studies of this phenomena and that this underlay his desire to seek massive reductions and even the elimination of nuclear weapons in his discussions with President Reagan. No subsequent American or Russian leader seems to have shared his concern to the same extent. Ellsberg of course isn’t a lone voice in warning about the danger of nuclear winter. In 2013, a report by the IPPNW concluded that even a limited, regional, nuclear war between India and Pakistan would cause climate disruption, lower temperatures and less precipitation resulting in widespread famine and disease. The number of people affected, as stated in the report, would be well over two billion. The calculation was based on the assumption that weapons used would have the same destructive power as those dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Despite knowledge of nuclear winter, the nuclear states are still increasing the power of their nuclear arsenals and still plan for fallout, that would do it worldwide: smoke and soot lofted by fierce fire storms in hundreds of burning cities into the stratosphere where it would remain in-dispersed for a decade or longer, enveloping the globe, blocking most sunlight, lowering temperatures to the level of the last ice age and killing all harvests worldwide, causing near-worldwide starvation within a year or two.

“Madness in individuals is something rare; but in groups, parties, nations and epochs, it is the norm.”
- Friedrich Nietzsche
nuclear war. More weapons, more powerful weapons, more risk of Armageddon! Madness is indeed the norm.

The basic elements of American readiness for nuclear war remain today what they were nearly sixty years ago. The US policy has always been for a first-strike, pre-emptive launch either on tactical warning of an incoming attack or strategic warning that nuclear escalation is probably impending, and to limit damage to the United States from retaliation to an American first-strike. President Obama continued the first-strike policy in 2010 and again in his last term in office; President Trump has not ruled it out either.

The first-strike policy has always precluded an effective non-proliferation campaign, nullifies the American advice to most other states that they have no need to produce nuclear weapons, and has encouraged proliferation. It is further noted that strategic nuclear systems have always been prone to false alarms, a few serious events in the late 70s through to early 90s. The chance that warheads could explode by mistake or unauthorised action (Doctor Strangelove!) taking much of the world with it has always been an unconscionable risk imposed by the superpowers upon the population of the world. The risk is even greater now.

The United States and Russia both have a ‘Doomsday Machine’, a “system of people, machines, electronics, communications, institutions, plans, training, disciplines, practices and doctrines which, under conditions of electronic warning, external conflict or expectations of attack, would with unknowingly but possible high probability bring about the global destruction of civilisation and of nearly all human life on Earth.” Ellsberg notes that both are on hair-trigger alert and that this makes their join existence unstable, and that they are susceptible to being triggered by a false alarm, a terrorist action, unauthorised launch or a desperate decision to escalate. Ellsberg asks the question “Does any nation on Earth have a right to possess such a capability, a right to threaten... the continued existence of all other nations and their populations, their cities and civilisations?” Surely the answer must be no. It has never been just the American President who could, and can, authorise a nuclear attack. President Eisenhower had delegated authority to his theatre commanders in various circumstances, and they in turn had delegated it to subordinate commanders. Russia, Ellsberg says, has a similar policy of delegation and it is virtually certain that every nuclear state has one.

There are now nine countries with nuclear weapons. How many fingers are on the nuclear button? How many people, including terrorists, who might launch a cyber-attack, could start nuclear Armageddon, deliberately or in error? The answer is that no-one knows. With no international disarmament talks taking place and countries increasing the power of their nuclear arsenals, the TPNW offers our only hope of global disarmament. The campaign for it was led by, ICAN with the support of civil society. Civil society brought it about and it is civil society which must demand of our politicians that it can be implemented. Scottish CND is a partner organisation of ICAN and is doing everything it can to support it. We all must.
Scottish CND at Eden Festival
Tara Drummie / Calum Ferguson

Our involvement with the Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament started back in 2018, attending the informative and thought provoking ‘Scotland: A Peace of History’ launch at the Mitchell Library. Being pro-peace, we were eager to learn more about the history of SCND and how it operates today. Hearing songs from ‘Protest in Harmony’ and getting to know some of the invaluable members of the wider peace movement, was a moving experience for both of us. Having taken photos at the event, we happily discovered that our involvement with SCND was only just beginning, soon meeting up with Emma to discuss volunteering and photographing at upcoming events and festivals.

Thinking this would be a great opportunity to help out and expand our knowledge, we agreed to head along to Eden Festival without hesitation, soon finding ourselves travelling South along the M74 towards Moffat in the peace-motif covered van. Before we knew it, we were being directed between marshals to the site for our gazebo and home for the weekend. We wandered around the amazing and eccentric rabbit warren of stages, stalls and performance areas, marvelling at the organised chaos as every added finishing touches to the site. As the general public began to filter in, the festival came alive with a great buzz of people ready for a fantastic weekend. It was quiet to begin with but a trickle of pro-peaceers picking up leaflets, badges and signing our petition kept us on our toes, as well as the repeat custom of children playing Bin the Bomb, designing their own badges and getting temporary tattoos. Saturday began with rain but even the midges couldn’t stop the revellers.

It was fantastic to observe Emma whose immense knowledge quickly became apparent during lengthy discussions with festival goers about everything from the dangers of Trident to the history of the first nuclear reactors. We absorbed what we could and enjoyed great conversations with people keen to learn more about SCND. The vast majority who visited the stall were supportive; however, there were one or two cases of people being undecided or outright pro-Trident. We were inspired by Emma’s detailed responses that clarified why the abolition of nuclear weapons is so crucial to
us all. T-shirts, badges and flags were being bought in quick succession, as well as keen festival goers signing up for, or renewing, their memberships.

As the weekend began to draw in, we made one final push and obtained well over one-hundred signatures for our petition in just a few hours. It was great to see so many people unanimous in their opinions for the need to rid Scotland (and the world!) of weapons of mass destruction.

“Leaving the festival site, we had a great sense of fulfilment. We began the festival slightly anxious, being far from experts on nuclear disarmament but left feeling much more informed and confident to speak about what SCND meant to us, having met some inspiring people.”

We couldn’t recommend getting involved with Scottish CND enough, our experience at Eden Festival is definitely the beginning of many more SCND adventures.

Local Group Reports

Edinburgh CND

Edinburgh CND meets on the first Tuesday of the month and we have a core group of activists (growing!), a huge email list, and a solid support base of local SCND members. Being part of SCND gives us a profile and strength we value.

In the last three months we have leafleted, demonstrated, marched, hosted speakers, networked with sister groups (including Stop the War, CAAT, ICAN, Peace and Justice), shown films, supported climate activities (including school student’s strikes), celebrated May Day, visited/donated to Faslane Peace Camp, run stalls, attended local festivals, watched for convoys, lobbied politicians, fund raised and opposed nuclear power, NATO and Trump.

We have seen opportunity to relate nuclear weapons to the debates over climate breakdown, membership of the EU and an independent Scotland. In particular, we seek to show that the cost and potential damage of nuclear weapons are the ultimate threat to both our climate and survival.
Aberdeen and District CND

We have enhanced our involvement over the year with the Faslane Peace Camp. Gillian and Fiona have become regular visitors at the Peace Camp and Doug, Kevin and Jonathan have also attended. Fiona, Gillian and Jonathan took part in a meeting which re-established a ‘Friends of Faslane Peace Camp’ group. Coming out of this meeting was the idea for a weekend of workshops which Fiona, Gillian and Kevin attended in May.

In January we held a Peace Rally with speakers, poetry and music. The two headline speakers were Kirsty Blackman MP and Tommy Campbell Regional Organiser with Unite. Eric Chester spoke about NATO, Helia Rahbarikorryeh spoke about the situation around Iran, Myshele Haywood spoke for the Scottish Green Party, Andy spoke about the Test ban treaty and Jonathan who also chaired the rally spoke about the situation in Korea. Doug Haywood read a poem by Robbie Burns and Iona Macdonald sang and we had music from Melting Pot. Thanks to Duncan Hart for filming and Doug for editing.

In April, Jonathan attended the NATO rally in Glasgow and has been involved in a grouping made up from folk from the Green and Palestinian movement who are involved in campaigning to get the North-East Pension fund to disinvest from the arms trade, nuclear and fossil fuel investments.

Felix and Jonathan attended the Spring Conference of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities group. The conference primarily concentrated on climate change as well as divestment from nuclear and fossil fuels.

In May we had our yearly fundraising Ceilidh with the fabulous Iron Broo which was tremendous fun. Our AGM this year featured SCND vice-chair Janet Fenton as guest speaker and Jonathan gave a talk to a lively group of the Workers Educational Association.

Aberdeen University CND

Since September 2018 we have had several meetings and events including attending the Nae Nukes Rally, which was for many their first ever rally. We began leafleting and getting attention through our fundraising bake sales and give-aways. People on campus have shown interest in what we have to say so we are encouraged. By the end of the academic year (2018/2019) we have garnered enough interest in our group to apply to affiliate to our universities’ student union, which was our main goal for this year! Overall, we have had a great year and we are looking to coming back to campus after summer to do it all again!
**Arran CND**

Arran CND were very pleased to host Scotland: A Peace of History exhibition which was on the island in June. It was displayed in Lamlash and Brodick across three venues, including the High School and Arran Youth Foundations, enabling people of all ages to see it.

The main venue for the exhibition was in the Community Space of Arran Active in Brodick, where it was available the full weekend. There was also a smaller display which illustrated the ways in which local people on Arran have campaigned since the 1980’s. Local CND members were there to answer questions and take part in discussions about the content. The exhibition was well attended by local people and visitors alike. Feedback about the information in it, the way in which it was displayed and cause itself was generally very positive. Arran CND group meet monthly in Brodick.

**Glasgow CND**

Members supported monthly Scottish CND stalls, peace vigils in Glasgow and Paisley and supported the Scotland Not Trident campaign which highlights the ways money saved by scrapping Trident could be better spent on public services in Scotland. We attended venues hosting the ‘Peace of History’ exhibition and built three games including ‘Bin the Bomb’ and ‘Net the Nukes’ for children to play at events.

The games and leafleting by members outside Hillhead Library helped bring over 100 people in to see the exhibition and video; the exhibition is now available for use by branches and groups hosting the exhibition in their own areas. The next exhibition viewing we will be supporting is Rutherglen Town Hall at the end of July. We will also be taking part in the Govanhill Carnival Parade in August.
War School: The Battle for Britain’s Children

John Page

“This is not about remembrance: it is all about concealment”

These are very challenging times for everyone in Scotland, especially our young people who face uncertainties around Europe, climate breakdown and rapid employment and educational change brought on by technology. While the skills of creativity, collaboration, communication and especially critical thinking are urgently needed, much official mainstream culture in the UK seems to be backward looking and focused on perpetrating outdated myths.

Peace Education Scotland organised a very successful film screening on Tuesday 11th June 2019 at Edinburgh’s Grassmarket Picturehouse. The main feature of the evening was War School: The Battle for Britain’s Children by Mic Dixon. Set against the backdrop of Remembrance, this 82 minute film gave a powerful and disturbing insight into how the British Government, faced with unprecedented opposition to its wars, is using a series of new and target-ed strategies to promote support for the military. Featuring testimony from members of Veterans for Peace and thoughtful and high-quality input from Quakers UK, this excellent film makes four key points:

1. There is a clear taxpayer-funded strategy by the Ministry of Defence to drip feed a positive attitude to the military on the part of children starting with the exciting demonstrations of parachutists etc., through the funding of activities for cash-strapped schools, normalisation of machine gyms and other weapons in Armed Forces Open Days, to active support for Cadet Forces.

2. The use of language to conceal the purpose of weaponry: “guns are the tools needed by soldiers to do their job”, “precision”, “bombing” etc.

3. Creating the myth that Britain is a peace-loving nation, whilst concealing the fact that British Forces have been deployed in conflict in every one of the last 100 years.

4. Conflating the obvious and natural public sympathy for veterans with support for British Government military policy: of course, you’ve got to support our involvement in Iraq or Afghanistan because you have to support “oor boys”.

There isn’t a family in Scotland un-marked by the horrors of the two 20th century world wars. My own father, uncles and grandfathers returned from the Somme, Sulva, Dunkirk and El Alamein with bullet wounds, malaria, frost bite and the enduring effects of trauma. Rather than “Homes for Heroes”, they faced grinding poverty and slum housing. In the context of Westminster’s enduring austerity policies, the mismanagement of Scotland’s undoubted resources and the obvious democratic deficit faced by Scots today, this British military myth–reinforcing industry should be subjected to the above–mentioned critical thinking. In this connection, schools in Scotland might pause for careful reflection before inviting the British Army into their place of learning to celebrate this year’s 4th October “Red, White and Blue Day”.

What is the most respectful way to honour the sacrifices in terrible conflicts made by our Scots forebears? Is it to have their “glorious” war service retrospectively co-opted to reinforce British establishment myth–making to provide legitimacy for wasting money on weapons of war. Perhaps it is time to say “enough, already!” Our young people should be invited to honour their great grandfathers by making Scotland a welcoming and socially just place that collaborates internationally to tackle the environmental challenges ahead.
Local Group Contact Details

Aberdeen and District CND
Jonathan Russell
jhamiltonrussell@hotmail.co.uk

Aberdeen University CND
Iona Hancock
aberdeenuniCND@gmail.com

Isle of Arran CND
Elizabeth Wilkinson
elizabetharomatherapy@gmail.com

Ayrshire CND
Arthur West
arthurwest7@hotmail.co.uk

Clydebank CND
Ben Rapson
bennrapson@gmail.com

Dumfries and Galloway CND
Sandy Rogerson
sandyrogerson69@aol.com

East Kilbride
Cathy Pedersen
cathypedersen@live.co.uk

Edinburgh CND
edinburghcnd@yahoo.com

Faslane Peace Camp
faslanepeacecamp@protonmail.com

Fife CND
Rob Nicolson
fifecnd@naenuclear.co.uk

Glasgow CND
David Peutherer
david.peutherer4@ntlworld.com

Helensburgh CND
Ellen Renton
ellen.renton@sky.com

Nukewatch Scotland
03454588365

Renfrewshire CND
Duncan MacIntosh
duncanmac2609@gmail.com

Rutherglen CND
Susan Martin
susanmartin2000@yahoo.co.uk

Stirling CND
Kenneth Wardrop
kennethmwardrop@gmail.com

Tayside CND
Alan Cowan
alancowan2@hotmail.co.uk

SNP CND
Jean Anderson
snpcndsecretary@gmail.com

Scottish Green CND
Gordon Dickson
scnd@scottishgreens.org.uk
The Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is at the forefront of campaigning for the abolition of nuclear weapons. The last year has seen the success of the Scotland Not Trident campaign, hosting guests to speak on peacekeeping around the world from far and wide, continuing our opposition to NATO and taking Scotland: A Peace of History across Scotland speaking with hundreds of young people. CHANGE THIS!!!!!!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR MEMBERS:
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