The Bomb is Banned!

Breaking News: Global Ban on Nuclear Weapons

Submarines, Elections, Festivals, Local Group Reports
Chair’s report

Scottish CND continues to be a very active organisation.

As well as our regular campaigning via street stalls, meetings and media work we have been particularly focussed on the global ban on nuclear weapons treaty talks which took place between 15th June and 7th July at the UN in New York resulting in a Global Ban Treaty on Nuclear Weapons.

The treaty will greatly strengthen the global norms against using and possessing nuclear weapons. Experience shows that the prohibition of a particular type of weapon provides a solid legal and political basis for advancing its progressive elimination.

As well as work on the Global Ban Treaty I am pleased to report that there is now a Scottish CND Trade Union Network up and running which has already organised information stalls at recent trade union conferences and events.

I also take great pleasure in reminding readers that the Peace Education Scotland charity, formerly the Scottish CND Education committee, has recently been awarded a grant from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to assist with its educational and awareness raising work. The charity will have its admin base in the Scottish CND office and is supported by a group of people who have worked very conscientiously on peace education issues for a number of years.

Thanks to all our members and supporters who have helped to make Scottish CND an effective voice against the evils of nuclear weapons. Also thanks to our staff and executive committee for their commitment to our cause.

Arthur West

Editorial

Your tabloid-style Global Ban Special Pullout can be found in the centre of this magazine! Elsewhere you can read about the recent Hibakusha visit, what’s going on with submarines and festival activity as well as the usual features, local group news, etc. You will also find an insert debunking common myths about nuclear weapons which you might find useful for campaigning, especially when starting the work of making sure the UK government signs up and insists that Trident goes, and with it the daily danger it brings to our lives.

Veronika Tudhope
Global Ban on Nuclear weapons

On Friday 7th July 2017 in New York, as Setsuko Thurlow made the closing statement to the successful United Nations Conference to negotiate a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons leading to their elimination, the entire room applauded, rising to their feet. Tears were shed by long-term campaigners and youthful diplomats, experienced ambassadors and Plowshare sisters.

It did not take long for the US, the UK and France to be distracted from their G20 deliberations to announce that they will pay no heed - which they would hardly bother to do if it had as little meaning as they imply. When the treaty opens for signature on 20th September, there will be practical effects on upgrading and moving Trident. The treaty will also show up the so-called deterrence theory as the discredited bullying tactic that it truly is when threat of nuclear-weapon use has been outlawed in the majority of states.

The global treaty takes the argument that the Scottish Government has with Westminster far away from discussions about devolved or reserved matters when Westminster is preventing Scotland from participating in the global norm against its wishes. Insistence on enforcing the presence in Scotland of a deadly system that is prohibited by most states is an unacceptable imposition. The First Minister has already made it clear to the President of the Conference that Scotland supports the treaty.

Scotland must be allowed to sign the treaty in September and ratify it through our national legislative process as soon as possible, regardless of the UK Government's views.

Being at the conclusion of this treaty was a most wonderful experience for everyone there, and I will make sure that the treaty and its implications for us is shared with all of the Scottish MPs. Everyone can make sure that this historic event is understood and supported at Westminster and Holyrood.

One of the most moving parts of the President of the Conference's closing remarks was when she acknowledged the efforts of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and the essential part that civil society had played, both in bringing the negotiations about and also in bringing them to such a successful conclusion. Which leads me now to Coulport, to participate in the Disarmament Camp there this week. Now is the time to redouble our efforts, because the first of the nine nuclear weapons states to disarm is most likely to be the UK, if it gets the necessary push from Scotland.

Janet Fenton.
Recent elections and the Anti-nuclear campaign

The General election result has on the whole not been helpful for us. This may seem counter-intuitive given the strengthened position of the Labour Party led by a long-standing CND office-bearer but that is the depressing aspect. The Corbyn team were, in effect, not allowed to change Labour policy on Trident renewal at the 2016 conference because of the influence of the GMB union and Unite in England (the Scottish area is still anti-Trident). The Labour manifesto fully supported Trident, and Corbyn affirmed this policy during the campaign. Although clearly uncomfortable in doing so, he was left unable to use any arguments against the maintenance of nuclear weapons. Although Scottish Labour has an anti-Trident position, they made no attempt to stand their corner on this mainly because the current leader is pro-Trident. The Labour manifesto policy also supports new nuclear power. The dependence on big union money and votes makes it difficult to see any change coming in this position. Had Corbyn won could/would he have abandoned the manifesto position in the context of a defence review? Answer unknown. It might have been a real option if Labour had been a minority government dependent on SNP, Plaid and Green votes. This doesn’t mean that we give up putting pressure on for change and, in particular, that we challenge Labour in Scotland to maintain their opposition to Trident but if Corbyn as a leader can’t change policy, what can, given the existing Labour power structures?

The other main outcome - the decline in support for the SNP- is not good news for us since it, together with the Greens, are the strongly anti-nuclear parties. However there is still a clear anti-Trident majority in Holyrood and among Scottish Westminster MPs. What it does mean is that we must continually refresh our message and emphasise Scotland’s position as the prime target in Europe and the positive role Scotland has played in the UN Nuclear Ban Treaty and will play in promoting it now.

The results of the local government elections could be more helpful for us. Local councils can be involved in the international Mayors for Peace movement and the Nuclear Free Local Authorities organisation. They can also support peace-related community activities. We now have around half of councils who should be sympathetic and this does not include those that are not party controlled and who may be – Shetland, for example, was part of Mayors for Peace. We should get support from these councils (below) and there maybe others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SNP minority administrations</th>
<th>Glasgow, Clackmannanshire, East Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire, Falkirk, South Lanarkshire, East Ayrshire.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SNP/Labour coalitions</td>
<td>Dumfries and Galloway, East Renfrewshire, Fife, South Ayrshire, Stirling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNP with an independent</td>
<td>Dundee, West Dunbartonshire.</td>
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Isobel Lindsay
Trident Shambles Continues

In 2016 John Ainslie wrote about all the failings of Trident and Astute submarines, and associated missiles, in the Scottish CND booklet, ‘Trident Shambles’. Since then the shambles goes on. SavetheRoyalNavy.org recently said ‘CND, the SNP and the extreme left..... want to mislead the public into believing that nuclear submarines are unsafe, don't work and are too expensive in the hope they will be axed’. Are we misleading the public? Or is it true?

There has been enough going on for tabloids to regularly denounce the entire fleet as useless, which they do gleefully, as often as possible. But first a quick recap to ensure you win the pub quiz next time submarines come up. We have 3 kinds:

1. Trafalgar class
Hunter killer, nuclear powered but not nuclear armed. Ageing. To be replaced by astute. 4 Boats:
   - **Trenchant** - serious reactor fault Feb 2013 which might mean all Trafalgar class have to be scrapped. Refit and upgrade Devonport 2016
   - **Torbay** - busy 2016 , due to be decommissioned this year
   - **Triumph** – refitted at Faslane 2014-15, active around Plymouth 2016-7
   - **Talent**.

2. Astute class
Described as the best ever hunter-killer. Designed for a ‘range of key strategic and tactical roles’ including anti-ship and anti-submarine operations, surveillance and intelligence gathering and support for land forces. Will have women in the crew

   **Batch 1**
   - **Astute**
   - **Ambush**- crashed near Gibraltar last year, still in Faslane being repaired February this year
   - **Artful**

   **Batch 2** – including significant design changes and upgrades that rectify some of the issues with the first 3 boats
   - **Audacious** Expected to be ready August 2015 but now delayed to November 2018
   - **Anson**
   - **Agamemnon**.
   - **Ajax** (some debate about this name, may be changed).

3. Vanguard class
Carry Trident missiles. Provide ‘Continuous at sea deterrence’, oldest was built 1992, expected to extend life till 2028 as successor is awaited

   - **Vanguard**
   - **Victorious**
   - **Vigilant**
   - **Vengeance**.

In future there may also be **Successor submarines** to carry new trident missiles, named the Dreadnought class.
Problems
A year ago there were problems with a failure in test flight of a Trident missile shortly before the Trident vote at Westminster in June 2016. This was covered up at the time leading to accusations that MPs were asked to make a decision without knowing all the facts. In the past 3 months there have been problems with submarines; problems with staff; problems with health and safety; problems with site security at Faslane and problems with cyber security.

In December 2016 the Mirror believed ‘British submarines have been used covertly in the Mediterranean as part of Operation Sophia, an EU mission to curb the influx and catch the increasingly sophisticated people smugglers.’ However by February 2017 apparently there were no Astute submarines at sea at all, they were all either getting repairs, or in port for some other reason.

Back on land at the end of March 2017 an overtime ban and a series of staggered strikes at Faslane may have caused delay in departure of one of the regular nuclear convoys back to Burghfield. There were also photos of pickets outside the gates – not the usual protestors. At the time of writing a further strike is threatened at Burghfield.

Newspapers took great pleasure in reporting a whole series of Health and Safety failures, large and small
- May 2017 - 6 sailors on a warship at Faslane accidentally inhaled nitrogen and were taken to hospital
- May 2017 - 18 workers at Barrow taken to hospital after breathing in carbon monoxide June 2017 – 4 injuries at Faslane in a day including
  - duct tape failure - equipment which was sticky taped to the side of a sub ...fell off heavy goods fell from a crane hurting someone.

Security at Faslane was also threatened. On the one hand December 2016 saw the revelation of a shoot to kill policy after break in at the base in 1988. By March 2017 plans to privatise military guards at Clyde bases – Faslane and Coulport - had both Labour and SNP up in arms. Conservative plans proposed that private security companies, like G4S and Mitie, would bid to run the service currently carried out by the Ministry of Defence Guard Service (MGS), including the protection of nuclear submarines at Faslane and the Trident warhead storage site at Coulport to make a saving of approximately £17m.

Remember the problems with the Astute nuclear reactor mentioned above? In Spring 2017 the BBC reported on plans to build a ‘small reactor’ in Wales at Trawsfynydd on the site of a larger decommissioned reactor. Coverage on the BBC website in February describes it as both the kind used on subs and, as experimental.

In early May 2017 most of the English NHS computer systems ground to a halt after a cyber attack. The attack was possible because the NHS uses outdated Windows XP system. Guess what subs use? Yes, a modified Windows XP, christened, ‘windows for submarines’. Though not connected to the internet while at sea they could be hacked and viruses or malware introduced while in port. Trident might be as vulnerable as the NHS.

None of which really fills you with confidence.

Veronika Tudhope
All Under One Banner

With just a couple of days to go the organisers were hoping for around 8000 people in spite of the wet weather forecast for Saturday June 3, but the day started off dry and thousands more arrived at the start point in Kelvingrove Park. Police and BBC estimates were 13000 and 17000 respectively, but it is generally agreed that around 25000 people turned up to march through Glasgow for Scottish Independence.

Among them anti-nuclear campaigners were well represented, with banners from Scottish CND, Helensburgh CND and Navy Not Nuclear attracting a lot of interest on the way. The march was cheerful, entertaining, colourful and highly vociferous, with many chants for Independence Now/Tories Out/Trident Out! On eventual arrival at Glasgow Green unfortunately the heavens finally opened in a tremendous downpour that sent many scurrying away to find shelter, but the rain cleared away and the rest of the afternoon events had a good audience.

Scottish CND was one of about a dozen stalls on the green and they were kept busy all afternoon, taking over £900

Keith Bovey 1927-2017

We heard with regret the death of Keith Bovey on 16th June. Keith was one of the founders of SCND and for many years was Chair. He was a well-known Glasgow solicitor and later moved to Edinburgh. Keith was initially a Labour Party supporter but later joined the SNP and became a parliamentary candidate. Keith played a major role in the development of the movement in Scotland and our thoughts are with his wife, Helen, and children Mungo and Jenny.
Hibakusha visit to Scotland

The ageing group of survivors of the 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (known as Hibakusha) are anxious to ensure that people worldwide do not forget the terrible destruction and long-lasting suffering experienced by every living thing, and especially human beings, near the site of the explosion.

In April 2017 two Japanese women Mrs Reika Yamada (Hiroshima Hibakusha), Ms. Midori Yamada (Second Generation Hibakusha) and their interpreter Mr Shigeo Kobayashi arrived in Scotland for a three-day visit, hosted by the Scottish Committee for Nuclear Disarmament (SCND) and the Scottish section of Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF).

Reika, who is 82 years old, spoke of her experiences of seeing mutilated and unrecognisable bodies of her living relatives. Midori has written a book for children telling the story of her badly burnt brother who was changed forever from being a happy cheerful child.

They gave presentations to volunteers at Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre, and to Members of Scottish Parliament (MSPs) at a well-attended meeting at the Scottish Parliament, hosted by Bill Kidd MSP.

After lunch they met the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon in her private office. Despite her busy schedule Ms Sturgeon found time to welcome the Japanese women and signed the Hibakusha petition. All who attended the meeting were pleased to hear Nicola Sturgeon reaffirm her commitment to nuclear disarmament.

The First Minister’s statement was particularly welcome in the week when SCND and WILPF member, Janet Fenton, was active in New York at the start of UN negotiations to prohibit nuclear weapons under international law.

Helen Kay
Global ban Special Report

Scottish Civic Society was well represented at the UN discussions for a global ban on nuclear weapons in New York, between 15 June - 7 July 2017. Scottish delegates attending were Janet Fenton, Flavia Tudoreanu, Amy Christison, Andy Hinton, Dagmar Topf Aguiar de Medeiros and Dr Michael Orgel. On their return each has written a report on one aspect of the talks.

Amy: Scotland can tip the balance to a nuclear free world

Whilst the ban treaty will undoubtedly strengthen international law surrounding the topic of nuclear weapons and will build social pressure on Weapon States to sign and disarm, there is a strong belief amongst all parties at the negotiations, that it will only take one Weapon State to sign the treaty, before it becomes a catalyst for all others. From lobbying and networking with other civil society groups, academics and diplomats, there was a real sense that Scotland could well be in the most powerful position to take on this task. Given the UK’s weak stance of holding these weapons in Scotland, combined with both a Scottish public opinion and local Government consensus of being pro Ban Treaty, there is real opportunity to push and influence the UK further, and lead the process of global disarmament. There was a shared feeling amongst all civil society groups that their home countries were failing to give the
negotiations the national media coverage they deserved. Educating the public on the UK’s position on nuclear weapons and what the treaty aims to achieve, will be so crucial in putting public pressure on the UK Government and influencing their decision making when it comes to nuclear ‘deterrence’. We have witnessed many public actions and movements by the public in past years, where the Government has been forced to listen to civilians as a result of their mass objection to a ruling or Parliamentary decision. On the 7th July, we will most likely have a Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty that will have been signed by the majority of the World’s Nations. This day has the potential to be momentous, and we must act on it, publicising to the UK public, as well as the global population that this treaty has been signed, and whilst there is no signature from the UK, Scotland most certainly supports it.

**Andy: The way forward locally after UN Nuclear Ban**

Some inspirations I brought back from our trip;

- The enthusiasm of youth, illustrated by the amazing activists at the UN. We need to get our schoolchildren, students and young as enthused as the super self-confident leaders of civil society at the negotiations (including our SCND team).

- We must get politicians of all colours involved, we can’t assume that because they belong to a right wing party (or Labour!) they cannot be persuaded / shamed into listening to good sense.

- Read and repeat Tim Wallis’s book “Disarming The Nuclear Argument”, it has a rebuttal to every supposed reason for nuclear weapons and deterrence.

- What didn’t happen at the UN and is not happening here is publicity. We must increase our efforts to get our story into the mainstream media. Plus social media has to be encouraged to spread the word directly, bypassing the guardians of the traditional

**Flavia: The Scottish Delegation made an impression:**

While the UK’s seat remained empty at the final session of the Ban Treaty Discussions, Scotland’s civil society team shifted the power balance. We did our utmost to ensure a strong treaty would be delivered and made sure that the rest of the world knew about Scotland’s aspirations to become nuclear weapons free. Our group made a strong impression both at the New York march and at the
negotiations. The thunderstorm and torrential rain that accompanied us all the way through the march awakened our Scottish spirits and fuelled us to walk, cheer and sing more than ever.

We took notes, monitored statements, counted participants, used social media to raise awareness of the talks, produced a daily blog post, talked at various side events and distributed Tim Wallis's book “Disarming the Nuclear Arguments” to ambassadors. We lobbied UN missions including the UK’s, where we had the chance to express our disappointment at our government's refusal to participate in the talks. We were also interviewed by Swedish media.

The highlight of our time there was our side event entitled “Scotland can disarm the UK”. This was a great occasion to offer a clearer view of Scotland’s opposition to nuclear weapons. The event was well attended and we had a lively discussion. Video contributions from Scottish MPs and MSPs with statements on the nuclear weapons ban treaty were shown as well as education videos and footage with resistance to nuclear weapons convoys.

Scotland had a large civil society team and I was extremely proud to receive compliments on how cohesive, dedicated and consistent our group was in New York. Our efforts to facilitate young people’s participation were also commended and I want to thank all our supporters and donors.

Dagmar: On writing a strong treaty

Neither the importance of banning nuclear weapons, nor the need for a strong text, are things that need explaining. But what constitutes a strong text?

A good starting point for a strong text is to give it the title of ‘Treaty’. Although the original draft spoke of a ‘Convention’ the tireless efforts of international campaigners convinced the negotiators to reconsider and we now have, a nuclear weapons ban treaty. Secondly, a strong text uses clear and unambiguous language. References to existing rules, such as international humanitarian law, human rights law and environmental law are helpful because these treaties have already been subject to interpretation activities which have led to predictable and usable norms. Rather than reinventing the wheel for similar terms in the Ban Treaty, the text becomes stronger as a result of specific references, which make it more predictable in advance what states can or cannot do.

When speaking of references to other international laws it is impossible not to mention the ban treaty’s relationship to the Non Proliferation Treaty. This treaty was a previous effort at preventing nuclear escalation. Nuclear weapon states claim that a nuclear weapons ban treaty would undermine the existing regime. Advocates of the ban treaty, however, point out that
they are fulfilling their obligations under article 6 of the NPT to work towards disarmament. My analysis of the situation is that nuclear weapon states resist the ban treaty, because it will stigmatize and delegitimize nuclear weapons, while the NPT has provided them with a comfortable position in which they can pursue deterrence policies, without having to worry about other states doing the same. Objectors to the ban treaty have provided no insight into why or how the ban treaty would de facto undermine the NPT. Additionally, we witnessed that the negotiators in the room have been working very hard to ensure the ban treaty provides the same level of safeguards as the NPT and does not contradict it. Perhaps if the nuclear weapon states had attended and listened, they would know better.

**Michael: Investment in Nuclear weapons is also illegal**

Representing Medact Scotland I spoke briefly at the Scottish side event at the UN about the public health implications of Trident for Scotland and the UK.

I was also able to briefly mention the work of the Scotland Don’t Bank on the Bomb campaign which is working for divestment by banks, financial institutions, and pension funds from their investments in nuclear weapons.

Big Banks and financial institutions like the Royal Bank of Scotland have massive investments in nuclear weapons companies like BAE Systems and Lockheed which build or operate the components for Trident.

By lending money to nuclear weapons companies and purchasing their shares and bonds, banks and other financial institutions are indirectly facilitating the build-up and modernization of nuclear forces. They heighten the risk that one day these ultimate weapons of terror will be used again – with unacceptable catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences. The campaign has long felt that investment in these weapons is immoral.

Now the Ban Treaty adopted at the UN also makes this investment illegal under international humanitarian law. The treaty includes a prohibition of ‘assistance’ in developing nuclear weapons. There is a growing understanding that ‘financing’ constitutes a form of assistance with prohibited acts. This is an historic step forward.

To join the campaign or for more information, contact Scotland DBOTB by email at coordinator@peaceandjustice.org.uk
If it wisny for your wellies....

In recent years, classic, reggae, indie, folk, chill, trad, trance, rock and pop music festivals, have sprung up all over the country, from Moffat to Milngavie, Largs to Linlithgow, and plenty of places in between.

Scottish CND’s team of volunteers have been out again this year to be part of some of the festivals with our leaflets, T-shirts, new thistle CND tattoos, jewellery, hats, badges, and sunglasses to help raise funds and to spread our message. Our first big outing this year was the return to Eden. Down a Dumfriesshire fairytale glen, near the new folksy grass-roofed Mountain Stage, with a halo of blinking pinks, oranges and neon blue, we pitched up just short of what became a mud pond from the thousands of feet meandering through the torrents of rain! We didn’t let it stop us and neither did the hundreds of visitors who called in to say hi. Many wanted to share their thoughts about the snap general election, which had coincided with Eden Festival this year. We found that our stall became a place people came by to speak about the increasingly uncertain and confusing political landscape in which we find ourselves. With the vote to replace Trident, and the Tory Government commitment to a nuclear first strike, it’s...
clear that nuclear weapons have cast an even longer shadow since last year. In such a cheerful place it was hard to imagine we were only 87 miles from 200 nuclear weapons. I felt reminded of the ethos of music festivals, when Glastonbury, the Daddy of all UK festivals, was organised by Michael Eavis in conjunction with the CND in 1981. Together they cheekily constructed the Pyramid Stage from metal sheeting and telegraph poles repurposed from materials belonging to the MOD! All the festival profits of about £20k were donated to CND, and in future years to OXFAM, Greenpeace, Water Aid and other charities as a profit share to help bring positive changes.

I can’t help but wonder if the message of collective effort, peace and love, not war, brought to us originally by the hippie festivals of the 1960s, as a direct dichotomy to the amassing of nuclear weapons during the cold war and the then raging Vietnam War hasn’t found its renaissance now in the 21st Century.

Now that the United Nations has voted for a Global Ban Treaty on Nuclear Weapons, you could say that the world has got together to say No More. The next thing is to make certain the world’s wishes come true and after that end to war.

As for our team of dedicated volunteers who are willing to give up their free time to come and help spread the message that another world is possible – that there can be a world without nuclear weapons, I feel so grateful. Also to everyone who stopped by to say hello. If you are at any of the festivals still to be held this summer, look for us, or if you are hosting an event, this year or next, do get in touch with us and we will try to come along and be part of it.

Gwen Sinclair
SCND Events and Festivals Convenor

Other Festival Dates

- **Mugstock**  Friday 28th – Monday 31st July at Mugdock Country Park, Glasgow
- **Butefest**  Friday 28th-Saturday 30th July, Isle of Bute
- **Clamjamfry**  Saturday 12th-Sunday 13th August, Irvine
- **Electric Fields**  Friday 1st – Saturday 2nd September, Drumlanrig Castle
CND group reports

Aberdeen & District

We’ve had a busy few months. Continuing our series of meetings on the Middle East we had speakers from the Kurdish Solidarity Campaign. Steve Bell, treasurer of Stop the War, spoke separately on UK involvement in the Middle East. Both were well attended with a lot of discussion. In July there will be a further meeting on Afghanistan.

At our AGM Jonathan Russell gave a talk about the links between the potential use of Nuclear Weapons and Climate Change, as part of climate week. We also held a meeting on ‘The challenges of diversification from oil, arms and nuclear weapons to alternative energy’. We showed a film about the Lucas Plan and had four speakers including Veronika Tudhope from Scottish CND. All the talks were filmed and are available through our local online newspaper, Aberdeen voice, and on YouTube.

We visited Faslane peace camp (pictured) where we held a vigil and brought supplies. Two of us stayed a few days.

Andy Hinton, our vice chair, was one of the Scottish delegation at the Treaty Ban negotiations in New York. To help publicise the event we held a stall with an empty chair representing the UK government’s absence from talks.

Jonathan Russell
Ayrshire

We continue to meet on the third Monday of the month in the Vineburgh Community Centre, Quarry Road, Irvine at 7.30 pm. In June we held a successful and well attended solidarity event for the Women’s March to Ban the Bomb in New York. Any Scottish CND members and supporters living in Ayrshire are very welcome to come along to any of our events. Arthur West

Edinburgh

Spring and early summer saw our group members leafleting, doing stalls, public meetings, joining demonstrations, and supporting the international campaign for a Global Nuclear Ban and direct local action by Faslane Peace Camp.

A bright Saturday May 6th saw us out for the annual May Day demo and rally (which we sponsor). Good weather also made our Meadows festival stall in early June a success. Big thanks to all who’ve contributed in any way with our campaign and a big invite to those who’re thinking of joining in!

On 6th August all our supporters are invited to our Hiroshima Commemoration 6-7pm at Mound Precinct, Princes Street.

You can keep in touch with our events on our website: edinburghcnd.org and our Facebook page: EdinburghCND.

Eileen Cook
Helensburgh CND Conference Life after Trident took place on Saturday 11 February 2017 at Helensburgh Parish Church Halls, which was a great venue! Our speakers were:

- Brendan O’Hara (MP for Argyll & Bute) - Faslane as Scottish Conventional Defence Force HQ
- Ronnie Cowan (MP for Inverclyde) – Coulport
- Mike Danson (Professor of Enterprise Policy at Heriot-Watt) - Opening up the Clyde Estuary to Alternative Forms of Development
- Janet Fenton (Vice-Chair of Scottish CND) - Wealth Beyond Measure

After a short opening speech by Helensburgh CND Chair Ellen Renton, each speaker gave an initial input and took questions from the floor, then after the break each speaker also led a workshop on his/her own subject. This was followed by a feedback session to the main conference, and finally a closing speech by Arthur West Chair of SCND. The conference was chaired by Alannah Maurer from Navy Not Nuclear.

Life after Trident sold 120 tickets, and roughly 100 people attended on the day. Independence Live had over 68,000 views on their Facebook post, and almost 16,000 people viewed at least part of the conference on Livestream. We made around £450 from the conference, which cost £350 to stage - the profit paid for most of our new banner and placards.

A follow-up leaflet from Life after Trident is currently being produced.

In March 2017 we held our most successful regular Helensburgh CND meeting so far, with 21 people attending. Our speaker was Graeme McCormick, a local SNP conveyance solicitor who gave an insider’s view of construction inside the Faslane Naval Base. This was quite timely given the recent ‘memorandum of understanding’ signed between the MOD and Argyll & Bute Council, and an excellent discussion went on till about 9.30!. At our April meeting we showed the hard-hitting Panorama documentary on Sellafield (shown by the BBC in Autumn 2016) - and again this was followed by a lively discussion. Helensburgh CND did not meet in May or June, taking an early break to allow people to campaign in the local and general elections.

Ellen Renton
SNP CND

SNPCND has had a busy time this year so far. So many elections and therefore so many candidates, councillors and MPs to contact. We asked all candidates to include an anti-nuclear convoy statement in their campaign literature and some of them did so. It is SNP policy to get rid of Trident. We are strengthening that position by putting forward a resolution to the SNP Council this year that would enshrine an anti-nuclear weapons stance in the constitution of an independent Scotland.

We have taken part in rallies and marches and run stalls at the Scottish National Party Council (December 2016) and both Conferences (October 2016 & March 2017). Gwen Sinclair, our Vice Convener, gave several international media interviews on Trident at the March conference. The picture opposite shows SNPCND Committee member, Drew Kyle, with Derek Mackay MSP at our stall drawing the winning raffle ticket. Derek is Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution.

In March Gwen was also a speaker in The Hague, talking about Scotland and Trident at the first International Conference on Scottish Independence. The next SNPCND autumn conference will be on defence.

In April the SNPCND Secretary, Jean Anderson, with Gwen Sinclair and Gavin MacGilvray, spoke about Trident at a political meeting in Hawick. The title was ‘Debunking Common Myths about Nuclear Weapons’. Using a paper prepared by the Education Group of Scottish CND we discussed whether nuclear weapons protect us, if they are safe and secure, if we did away with Trident would we lose 11,000 jobs, and other common myths. It was a lively discussion and the paper is recommended for use on similar occasions.

SNPCND believe that the only way for us to achieve the removal of nuclear weapons here is independence. But we are not just thinking of Scotland - we want to be part of the international campaign to ban nuclear weapons. We are proud that our Scottish CND friends were in New York at the Nuclear Ban Treaty discussions.

Jean Anderson
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Tel: 0131 629 1058
Change of Address
If you are moving home please let us know your new address:
Name ________________________________________________________________
Old address ____________________________________________________________
New address & postcode _________________________________________________

I would like to join Scottish CND
Membership rates: Adult £24 □ Youth £10 □ Household £36 □ Low waged £16 □
Unwaged £10 □ Student £10 □ Pensioner £10 □ (Please tick )
Name __________________________________________ Address _______________________
Email __________________________________________ ___________________________________
Tel ___________________________ Postcode __________________________

Help us keep our costs down by paying with the Standing Order below.

Standing Order
Please pay from the account below £ (insert amount) once every year starting on ___________ (date*) until further notice to cover my annual membership fee and a regular donation to Scottish CND. *Please make this date at least one month from now.
Name of bank __________________________________________________________
Address of bank _________________________________________________________
Postcode __________________________
Account No ______________________________________________________________
Sort Code _________________________________________________________________
Account name ____________________________________________________________
Signature __________________________________________________________________
(Bank: Pay to Scottish CND, Ac No 00970363, Code 80-07-67)

Alternatively, I enclose a cheque of £____ for my annual membership fee / as a donation to Scottish CND (delete as appropriate).
Make cheques out to Scottish CND and return this form to:
Scottish CND, 77 Southpark Ave., Glasgow G12 8LE.
Tel: 0141 3571529.
You can also join Scottish CND online at www.banthebomb.org