The Meaning of Real Security
Voices from the ICAN Paris Forum
Why it Matters to Remember
The last six months have seen the world as we know it flipped on its head, our priorities have changed and we have really seen both what is of actual value in our lives (friends, family and loo roll!) and what actually keeps us safe (well-funded public health, secure housing and stable pay). Unsurprising to most, nuclear weapons and arms do not come into that equation.

As we enter three months of staying at home to save lives, Scottish CND have been faced with many challenges in our campaigning, how do we emphasise that the impact of this crisis may have been softened with redirected military spending and a change in our national priorities while still being respectful to the hundreds of thousands of people across our world who have tragically had their lives cut short? We have tried to bring light into our lives through the Windows for Peace campaign where children (and adults!) have been colouring in, cutting and sticking important messages to scrap paper to decorate their windows and show support for our NHS and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (page 22).

We have been interviewing our partners across the peace network about the TPNW, the ICAN Cities Appeal (and Scotland’s part in that), the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which has been postponed until early next year and the upcoming 75th anniversary of the attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (page 18). We also brought in some of our newest and youngest members to create a video ‘Let’s Talk About Trident’ where we looked at some of the biggest safety concerns for our country hosting the UK’s nuclear weapons so make sure you check out all that on our Youtube channel.

Earlier in the year, I and a dozen others, travelled to Paris to attend the ICAN Forum where we heard from survivors of the nuclear chain and activists from around the globe about the work they are doing which highlighted the intersections in our work and the power structures we are working against (page 15).

As always, our local groups have been the backbone of our campaign, going out into their communities and spreading the message of peace and even holding online screenings of short films followed by discussions. We are looking forward to coming together in the summer to ensure that the anniversary of the atomic bombings does not go past unnoticed in all the noise, so please get in touch with your local group if you would like to be involved (page 10).

I hope you have been keeping safe and well throughout this pandemic and now, more than ever, we are grateful for your continued support as we work against the patriarchal power structure that is the nuclear industry. Only by working together, regardless of distance, can we dismantle each nuclear warhead and ensure that the memory of the thousands who have died through use, testing or production lives on.

Emma Cockburn
The horrific humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons is known to us but the nuclear winter following an exchange of high yield weapons would extend the catastrophe around the globe for decades. This instant climate crisis can be averted if all nuclear weapons states disarm. The climate and ecological crisis resulting from human impact on our planet can also be stopped or at least slowed, and awareness about the part that the nuclear weapons industry, arms manufacturers and the military play in that is why XR Peace was formed.

It is estimated that the carbon footprint for the UK military is 13 million tonnes CO2e, 3% of national emissions. Globally, it is estimated at 5% with maybe another 1% from the impacts of war. Extractive industries, especially oil, rely on military protection as they exploit resources around the globe.

Droughts, floods and storms are already making parts of the planet uninhabitable. Desperate people fleeing from the resulting wars and famine have the right to peace and security. The solution is not to increasingly militarise our borders. We must instead address the root cause with dramatic systemic change that drastically reduces the greenhouse gas emissions of wealthier nations and increases the prosperity in the majority of the world.

XR Peace is a coalition of peace organisations, including Scottish CND, and a network of affinity groups prepared to take action during XR Rebellions and at military related sites. The Extinction Rebellion Summer Rebellion has been postponed due to COVID-19. However, we are preparing so that once things improve we are ready. Why not join a Scottish CND affinity group to connect your campaigning against nuclear weapons with your wider concern for the planet?

I write this as we are still trying to ‘flatten the curve’ of the pandemic. Amidst the tragic personal loss there are example of co-operation at community level and across borders as we scramble to learn more about this virus and slow its spread. One thing is clear. All the guns, bombs, fighter plans and nuclear submarines in the world are not going to help. In fact the “Swords into Ploughshares” initiatives of army field hospitals being set up in exhibition centres and arms companies producing respirators demonstrate what we really need for our security.

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Unready Scotland and the Current Emergency

David Mackenzie

In 2017, Nukewatch UK published ‘Unready Scotland’, its report on the preparedness or otherwise of the Scottish civil authorities for dealing with a serious accident involving the transport of nuclear weapons on public roads. In the current crisis, that report has acquired additional relevance.

Nuclear weapon convoys continue to travel on our roads, with their unique and dangerous payload of high explosive and plutonium, so the report remains chillingly pertinent to its core focus. After much-dogged pressure from Nukewatch, the good work of MSPs Mark Ruskell and Bill Kidd - and a parliamentary debate - the Scottish Government responded to the report by conducting and publishing its critically flawed Preparedness Review. ScotGov appears to hope (vainly) that the matter is now closed.

Civil emergency planning is devolved and the key legislation is the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) which obliges civil authorities to be ready to respond to identified threats, to assess risks and to keep the public informed. The Act identifies several civil bodies as Category 1 Responders: Police Scotland, Fire and Rescue Services, the Scottish Ambulance Service, Local Authorities and the Health Service. Responsibility to ensure compliance with the Act rests with the Scottish Government, as exercised through its Resilience Division. The public face of all this is the website Ready Scotland, and three regional multi-agency Risk Registers produced by regional Resilience Partnerships.

Overall, the findings are disturbing. Indeed, one local authority, West Lothian, was unaware of the regular nuclear weapon convoy traffic through its area via the M9. Not one of the surveyed local authorities had made any effort to inform their public of this particular threat to community safety, despite the following guidance on public information given by the Resilience Division, which advises: 1. Public awareness of risk (pre-event), and preparedness steps where relevant 2. Public warning (at the time of the event of when one is imminent) 3. Informing, advising and engaging with the public (immediate and long-term post-event).

The authors of ‘Unready Scotland’ speculated whether this deficit also applied to other serious threats, such as pandemics. The fact that the main avenue of public information on civil emergencies is a website or two (of which most people have not even heard of) reminds one of the destruction of the Earth by the Vogons in the Hitchhikers Guide: ‘There’s no point acting all surprised about it. All the planning charts and demolition orders have been on display in your local planning department in Alpha Centauri for fifty of your Earth
years, so you’ve had plenty of time to lodge any formal complaint and it’s far too late to start making a fuss about it now’.

One Edinburgh Community Council asked the Police Scotland attendee what citizens should do in an emergency that required taking shelter. The answer? Knock on the jannie’s door at your local high school. One of the encouraging aspects of the current emergency is the way most folks have digested and acted responsibly on the advice and instructions that have been issued. One cannot help thinking that this process would have been useful accelerated with a proactive pre-event public information programme. Time to treat citizens as actual grown-ups.

A serious nuclear convoy accident leading to a release of plutonium at the junction of the M74 and the M8 in Tradeston, Glasgow would require evacuation and/or shelter in a radius of 5 kilometres (if you accept the Ministry of Defence conservative estimate). It would be up to Ministry of Defence personnel to deal with the immediate area of the accident and securing the weapons themselves would be their priority. The rest would be up to Police Scotland and the other civil agencies, including Glasgow City Council. Is there a plan for that scenario, do you think? And in the light of the scrambling right now to supply adequate stocks of protective equipment for front-line workers, our proactive preparations for a pandemic have been at the least seriously incomplete, so that those who are now working so hard and so effectively in response to the crisis are having to play catch-up.

“It is often said that their work is trimmed down to dealing with their statutory duties alone. Yet emergency readiness is a statutory duty, under the Civil Contingencies Act. A more likely distinction is that between those problems that are already clamouring for attention and those problems that may not happen, given a little luck. Hence the hoop-jumping, the bland reassurances, the fantastical acronym-infested bureaucratic structures.

There’s a better and more honest way. The International Committee of the Red Cross has given a fine example by admitting that in the case of even a regional nuclear exchange, such as between Pakistan and India, the international emergency services could offer nothing meaningful by way of a response. How about admitting in advance of the next emergency that we are a fairly unready Scotland, that emergency planning is currently well down the list of priorities and then let’s have a genuine public discussion of what has to be done about it. In the case of the nuclear weapon convoys the answer is pretty simple: just stop it now.
There are blue skies over Wuhan instead of air polluted by smog. You can see the fishes in the Venice canals. All the hand-washing has led to the lowest levels of death from flu in decades. The UN Secretary-General has called for a global ceasefire. Namibia is the thirty-sixth country to put the terms of the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) into its national legislation. When fourteen of the existing signatories follow suit, the Treaty will enter into force and could lead to the global elimination of nuclear weapons.

This ratification process means competing with other necessary legislation for Parliamentary time, and then governments must deposit the paperwork at the UN. Namibia wanted to do this in time for independence day. Co-operating with this spirit and despite COVID-19, the Office of Legal Affairs helped devise a new process while also respecting social distancing, even managing a small ‘ceremony’, via Zoom. Greenham women from the 1980’s Namibia Support Committee understand how important the TPNW is to Namibians because of the post-colonial uranium mining legacy.

The older 1970 Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT) cancelled its quinquennial Review, scheduled for this May with no opportunity to dust down its three pillars in light of the TPNW. Two pillars concern new states acquiring weapons, and the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. The third pillar, disarmament, has spectacularly failed in the ‘cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international’ All the nuclear-armed states not only oppose the TPNW but are abandoning their NPT obligations. Their latest ploy is called CEND. Rather than the previously favoured number reductions (but not to a level that could prevent nuclear war ending life on Earth) they expect to continue to modernise and upgrade. The Creating an Environment for Nuclear Disarmament initiative was launched by the US in 2019 and replaces mutually assured destruction (MAD) as the new form of patriarchal gaslighting.

The upgrading of the UK’s nuclear weapons programme is at a critical phase. Building the Dreadnought submarines is underway, but mounting technical difficulties, escalating costs and an inability to recruit engineers and submariners cast doubt that the project will be delivered on time or within the projected costs. The lack of public awareness of this state of affairs is only

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**THE MEANING OF REAL SECURITY**

Janet Fenton

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**THE UK AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS EXPENDITURE**

While thousands die from COVID-19 and our NHS workers lack both the PPE and equipment to save lives, the UK is still throwing billions at nuclear weapons. Each Trident warhead costs nearly £25 million. This money could be spent to save lives and protect the NHS.

**WHAT COULD THIS PAY FOR?**

- **507 AMBULANCES**
- **2,845 VENTILATORS**
- **8,419 ICU BEDS**
- **221,333 COVID TESTS**
- **16 MILLION MASKS**

**One Warhead = £25.0 million**

The UK currently possesses approx 160 of 15,865 nuclear warheads on Earth.

_Sources: MEET TROUBLE AHEAD, SEPI, AND NNS SCOTLAND_

Scottish CND

[www.banthebomb.org](http://www.banthebomb.org)

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matched by the lack of capacity or willingness by the Government to be subjected to scrutiny.

Obfuscation of the difficulties is facilitated by the highly technical nature of the documentation and changed procedures for budgeting and accounting further obscure what is happening. This important aspect of how Government reduces opposition to its plans can also affect a Scottish Government in owning that it cannot keep us safe either, despite the Scotland Act obliging it to do so.

In other news, a story broke in the Telegraph of a four-year-old ‘pandemic trial’ exercise Cygnus, which the UK Government avoided reporting at the time – or more importantly, acting on. The exercise had suggested that to be ready for any pandemic, investment in the NHS was critical, but instead, running down the NHS was deemed necessary in the belt-tightening policies of austerity. Meanwhile, people are learning to very quickly change their behaviour when they understand what’s needed.

**Glasgow University Arms Divestment Coalition**

Megan Farrimond

At the start of the university term in September, Glasgow University’s reputation was under threat after an article was published in the Glasgow Guardian revealing that the university had invested over £3 million in the arms trade and military service providers. These included BAE Systems (£385,451), General Electric (£760,303), Boeing (£247,166) and Lockheed Martin (£180,813), a list which shocked many due to their involvement in international atrocities including countless examples of human rights violations, including alleged war crimes in Yemen. The investment in the arms trade comes as a direct contrast to the values which Glasgow University claims to hold, including their aim to create ‘future world changers’, a claim which is riddled with hypocrisy due to its investment in destruction and conflict around the world, as well as their supposed opposition to the climate crisis, despite the damaging effects of war on the environment.

In the University’s policy there is an allowance set out which allows representations to be made to the University Secretary when concerns are raised as to the ethical standing of its investments. This allowance has resulted in the creation of the Glasgow University Arms Divestment coalition, a combined alliance of Glasgow University’s branches of Amnesty International, Extinction Rebellion and Student
Action for Refugees (STAR), as well as the Palestine Society, Glasgow Refugee and Asylum Seeker Solidarity (GRASS) and the Green Anti-Capitalist Front. During initial talks the coalition’s demands were laid out in October 2019.

“We demand full divestment from the arms trade in adherence with the University’s Policy on Socially Responsible Investment. We demand a pledge detailing a divestment time-frame of less than two years. We demand acknowledgement that investment in the arms trade will never comply with the University’s policy on Socially Responsible Investment. We demand a pledge to never again invest in companies that have any links to the arms trade, and to pursue greater accountability of fund managers and internal investment decisions. We demand a comprehensive and immediate ban of all arms companies from campus events and that the careers department and post-graduate schemes sever all ties with such companies.”

Since the article was published in the Glasgow Guardian, it has been a fast-moving process, due to the vast amounts of student support and the outreach from all of the societies involved. Shortly after the demands were put in place, banners and posters flooded the university grounds detailing a protest held in front of the Glasgow University Union, where an engineering fair was being held, including a key sponsor from BAE Systems. The turnout was incredible and noise was heard all the way to the University offices where they agreed to engage in a discussion with the coalition and working group was set up in order to work out a solution addressing the demands made.

Since then, there have been club nights, pub quizzes, film screenings, talks, more protesting and more awareness. Just before the university shut due to Coronavirus outbreak, a protest was held outside the University’s Main Building asking why the university have not yet divested. With talks from the Chilean community, Scottish CND and the upcoming university rector candidates, it was all clear to see that the coalition had support from many, shaming the university, especially due to its conjunction with the UCU strikes happening on the same day. The petition which details the demands has reached over 1,500 signatures, making clear the outcry for the spending of tuition fees to be matching the ethical values of the student body and that which the university claim to hold.
Paying the Price for Messed Up Priorities

Our health system is going through the toughest times these days. They are struggling to keep up with the demand and we are urged to stay home to buy some time and save lives. On 2nd March 2020, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) hosted a conference in Geneva to discuss the increasing risk from nuclear weapons, a decade after they declared that the ICRC would be unable to offer a meaningful response to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons. There is no way we can deal with the effects of a nuclear war.

On 23rd March 2020, the World Health Organisation said: “Our greatest concern is the impact this virus could have if it gains a foothold in countries with weaker health systems or with vulnerable populations. That concern has now become very real and urgent. We know that if this disease takes hold in these countries there could be significant sickness and loss of life but that’s not inevitable. Unlike any pandemic in history, we have the power to change the way this goes.” So the Government is appealing to us to take COVID-19 very seriously. If flattening the curve is the strategy to reduce demand on our precious services while folk develop some medicine or build more vital equipment how would that compare to a nuclear attack?

On the brink of disaster, we put our NHS first and call them heroes for working flat out to make a horrible situation more bearable. The rest have to stay home to delay the effects, stop lives or lose jobs and not get much needed, but not so urgent treatments. In light of that, is it not hypocritical and ironic when the same politicians who decide to invest in nuclear weapons come and speak about how important our NHS is?

In all this madness where so many people have to pull together to survive, I wonder what Trident is doing. Playing darts, as usual, with no practical sense or utility with some of its staff affected by the virus. If this were to be a biological weapon what would our prestigious and money-eating machine, Trident, do?

If our NHS is the hero, along with all the other key workers keeping us safe in our houses, how on Earth can we prioritise Trident? Or maybe this is what really makes them heroes.

Scotland will spend £180 million this year on Trident, this could pay for
5,000 ventilators

#ScrapTrident #NHSNotTrident #nuclearban #covid19

Scottish CND

NFS S/S 20
Forthcoming Events

**June 2020**
23rd - ICAN Scottish Roundtable. Contact hello@nuclearban.scot to hear what the Scottish partners are planning for the 75th Hiroshima and Nagasaki anniversaries.

**July 2020**
7th - Third anniversary of the TPNW being supported by 122 UN states. There will be online celebrations and more.

**August 2020**
6th/9th - 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, check our website for further details as events will be taking place across the country and online.

**October 2020**
24th - Nominations for SCND Executive Committee and deadline for AGM Resolutions
31st - Deadline for Constitutional Changes for AGM

**November 2020**
14th - Deadline for Resolution Amendments for AGM
21st - Scottish CND AGM at Community Central Hall (304 Maryhill Rd, Glasgow, G20 7YE) from 9:00am

Faslane Vigil every Wednesday at the North Gate of Faslane Nuclear Base from 4:00pm

Local Group Reports

**Aberdeen Uni CND**

The academic year has been a busy one for Aberdeen University CND. After being officially linked with our student association we were finally able to have a more stable voice on campus. We were lucky enough to host the ‘Peace of History’ exhibition in Aberdeen’s Central Library as our members decided to focus on fundraising for the Faslane Peace Camp. This culminated in bake sales, banner making, and a screening of HBO’s ‘Chernobyl’. This summer we aim to return to Glastonbury to fundraise for CND (last year we made over £1000!) and come back to the university refreshed, and ready to take on the next academic year!

**Aberdeen and District CND**

We have developed close links with the climate movement, Mike has spoken at the September, December and February strike rally. Both making the link between the climate and nuclear crises. Jonathan is involved with both XR Aberdeen and Aberdeen Climate Action. Both Gillian and Jonathan have been to visit the Faslane Peace Camp and attend the weekly vigil and are both keeping in touch by phone and Jonathan on Facebook. We have instigated the need for contact by phone and Facebook within the wider movement. Jonathan continues his involvement with a Consortium of Environmental and Anti-War groups who have been pressurising the North East Pension Fund to divest from nuclear, arms, coal, oil and gas investments. Felix has at-
tended meetings of the Fraserburgh based Christian CND group and has replaced Andy as part of the ICAN working group. Five of us attended the Scottish CND AGM. As a result of the AGM, Jonathan has been involved in a sub-committee looking at organisational change. We have organised for a potential rally re: the tensions between Iran and the United States if the situation escalates. We had planned to have our AGM on 21st April with Linda Pearson from Don’t Bank on the Bomb as our guest speaker but due to Covid-19 this, as with our other activities, has been delayed.

Stirling CND

On 20th February 2020, Stirling CND representatives Kenneth Wardrop and Eric Smith, supported by Janet Fenton (Vice-Chair of Scottish CND) and David Mackenzie (Ass. Secretary of Scottish CND) met with Alyn Smith MP, Stirling’s new Westminster Parliament representative and his staff to discuss issues relating to the UK Government’s renewal of Trident, the nuclear weapons convoys that regularly travel on Stirling District’s roads, and his potential attendance at the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference. At the meeting, Alyn was delighted to formally support Stirling CND the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) by signing the ICAN Parliamentarian’s Pledge. It was agreed to continue our dialogue on issues relating to nuclear disarmament going forward.

Ayrshire CND

Ayrshire CND run regular monthly meetings. The group also runs regular street stalls and uses Facebook and Twitter to push out messages arguing the case for scrapping Trident. Our social media presence is particularly important during the COVID-19 crisis, as it compensates for not being able to undertake public work such as street stalls. The group are concerned that two reactors at the Hunterston nuclear power station remain closed amidst reports of an increased number of cracks in these reactors. We have written to management at the plant expressing concern about this issue.

Ayrshire CND also undertake work to highlight the cost of Trident and the importance of the Global Ban Treaty to bringing about a nuclear-weapons-free world. Anyone who wishes to become involved should phone or text via the number listed.

SNP CND

SNP CND have a new article on Human Security v Military Security, this topic has been brought to the fore even more by the current crisis and the lack of preparation for a health crisis by many governments. They are also launching a YouTube channel which you can find on their website: https://snpcnd.scot/
**Glasgow CND**

We were able to have only two of the street stalls we had planned in March and April; the community festivals we hoped to take part in beginning in May were all either cancelled or postponed.

We were represented at meetings of the Scottish Peace Network and contributed to its campaign against grant being given by Scottish Enterprise to arms manufacturers in Scotland. We started having our monthly meetings online and will do so at least as long as lockdown lasts.

**SCND Trade Union Network**

Scottish CND established its trade union network in 2016 and has many unions on board with the central aim of ridding Scotland and ultimately the world of nuclear weapons and any company that feels it appropriate to make weapons of mass destruction.

We hold regular meetings and are looking to produce a union specific newsletter, we are also keen to get more unions and more importantly union members involved in the peace movement. We are in the process of contacting unions and union branches and informing them how they can affiliate and get involved.

If this current dreadful pandemic is showing us anything it is that we must establish a new world, a new world where people and peace is paramount and as with most movements that will mean having trade unions at the heart of it. Just think of what the country can do with the astronomical cost of replacing the deterrent they call Trident, in protecting lives and livelihoods rather than something designed to destroy the very fabric of what we aim to protect.

So if your trade union branch is wanting to get involved, request a speaker to your meetings, wanting more information about affiliating or if you are wanting to attend a SCND trade union network meeting – which may be online or a hybrid of online and in-person – this pandemic has also opened up new normalised ways of communicating – then please get in touch and we can arrange this.

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Please remember Scottish CND in your will

We may not all live to see the day when the last nuclear warhead is dismantled, but by leaving a legacy to Scottish CND it is possible to help ensure that future generations are free from the nuclear threat.

For further information contact us scnd@banthebomb.org or call 0141 357 1529.
They Didn’t Start the Fire

Emma Cockburn

The International Committee of the Red Cross in the UK and Ireland released a report titled ‘Millennial Views on War and Peace’ which surveyed over 16,000 people aged 20 - 35 from over 16 countries, half of the respondents experiencing conflict while the other half are reported to be living in peace. The results from this study make for interesting reading and should be given careful attention as people within this age bracket are the future leaders of our world. Almost half of those surveyed believed that it is more likely than not that there will be a third world war in their lifetime and 54% believing that it is likely a nuclear attack will occur in the next decade, unsurprising results given the fact that we have been moved just 100 seconds away from Doomsday. Some say we are living in the most dangerous times yet.

"War should have limits, people should get medical aid regardless because there are just some humanitarian standards that we have to uphold."

It is clear that millennials are living with such a significant level of fear about their future compounded by the acceptance of dehumanising language towards our so-called ‘enemies’ and the constant barrage of ‘fake news’. Overall, across the 16 countries surveyed, three in five agree that nuclear weapon states should dismantle their warheads and that no other countries should develop or obtain them. It is clear to see how the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is so well favoured by younger people who campaigned tirelessly for the legislation at the United Nations.

This report is a snapshot of perspectives on human rights, warfare and international law from a demographic that is often overlooked when it comes to these issues. This is despite us, millennials, being the most affected by decisions made on societal issues. When it comes to matters of humanity and basic human rights, those who are caught in war are more willing to stand up for humanity. Syrians showed the highest levels of disapproval for the use of WMDs while in the US, Israel and South Africa people surveyed felt the strongest about nuclear weapons being acceptable under some circumstances.

"Civilian casualties are not a necessary by-product of war; they are an inevitable by-product of war that uses WMD”

However, nuclear weapons came last in a list of twelve priorities and it is not that millennials are oblivious to the harm they can have, some think it is just not that big of a deal. When poverty, corruption and unemployment are competing for our attention and we are bombarded with headlines from Cambridge Analytica to the Windrush Scandal, how often do you see a headline that grips the nation about nuclear weapons? It’s clear to see how they have fallen down the agenda. Millennials have grown up with nuclear weapons as ‘the norm’, here in Scotland Trident has plagued the Clyde my whole life. It’s more important now than ever that we come together and challenge that narrative.

Nuclear weapons are not the status quo and we are not the majority.

Only nine countries possess and terrorise the world with these warheads, there are another 178 countries that do not. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is just 14 countries away from entering into force and it was millennials who led that campaign and it will be them who do not rest until the last warhead is dismantled and every country has ratified.
Voices from the ICAN Paris Forum

February 2020, fourteen people travelled from Scotland to take part in the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapon’s forum in Paris. Here are some of their thoughts after the forum.

Emma Cockburn is a Scottish anti-nuclear campaigner who works for Scottish CND. “In a world on the edge of a nuclear catastrophe, two hundred campaigners from around the world meeting to strategise and listen to survivors and activists from other movements was not a conference that should happen but one that needed to happen.

“I knew it was my moral imperative that I keep talking and warning the world about the dangers of nuclear weapons”
– Setsuko Thurlow

Setsuko Thurlow, Hiroshima survivor and ICAN Campaigner, opened the weekend with a testimony that should be played in every school across the world, her story will stay with me for as long as nuclear weapons are a plague on this Earth. We listened to the horrors she faced as a child and the burden she carries as an adult. Setsuko brought our a piece of beautifully bright yellow fabric, metres long, with three hundred and fifty painted names of her classmates who did not survive the bomb. As she put it herself, each of these children had a name, and every single one of them was loved by someone. That is the reason she was in front of us, telling us her story.

This year marks seventy-five years since the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and it’s important we remember the hundreds of thousands of people that have had and continue to have their communities devastated by the nuclear chain. Unless we all take the responsibility to push our governments to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, that will continue for another seventy-five years. We so often overlook the humanitarian impact of the nuclear industry and while there are still nine nuclear-armed states who threaten our very existence, there is still hope.

Those two hundred campaigners who gathered in France are just a small segment of the thousands of activists around the world who have fought to bring the TPNW to the UN and will continue to fight until the last warhead is dismantled. We are the closest we have ever been to Doomsday and it is only by working together and recognising each other’s struggle that we can save humanity and create the world we deserve.”

Anna Karisto is from Finland and is currently pursuing a nuclear disarmament internship with Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre and described the ICAN Paris Forum as a powerful experience. “I got to hear and learn about nuclear disarmament directly from activists and scholars who I have watched speaking through my laptop screen for years now and cited in my own
research. I find it especially important how ICAN places the experiences of individuals and communities impacted by nuclear weapons at the centre of the disarmament debate and it was remarkable to hear Indigenous Community Organiser Leona Morgan share her experience and talk about activism. The forum also stressed how nuclear disarmament requires cooperation between generations. I am thankful for the opportunity to meet numerous activists with years of experience in humanitarian disarmament work. Their ambition and commitment keep inspiring me.”

*Flavia Tudoreanu* is from Romania and is the coordinator of Scottish CND. “One of the parts I’ve enjoyed most at the 2020 Paris ICAN forum was the input from Leona Morgan - a Navajo indigenous campaigner from New Mexico (USA). It was very inspiring to hear about her people and their struggles with the effects of the uranium mining and nuclear testing on their lands and lives. I was also moved by how heartbroken they felt about the fact that minerals extracted from their Sacred Mountain have contributed to the suffering of so many people and continue to be used for the purpose of war. New Mexico has become the USA’s nuclear cemetery with the first nuclear weapon in the world tested there in 1945, the uranium mines, uranium enrichment plant, plutonium-contaminated waste dump and plans for opening a new waste dump for all the nuclear reactors in the US. She’s reminded us all that uranium mining takes place on indigenous lands, that this is the first step in producing nuclear weapons and that her people are at the frontline and need support and encouragement.”

*Dagmar Schwitzgebel* is a German-born Plymouth-based performance artists and activist who integrates her art and her activism in every aspect of her life. “The ICAN forum discussed aspects of campaigning, such as challenging dated perceptions of ‘deterrence’ and the patriarchal endeavour to dominate. The facts of a nuclear bomb attack became explicit through a lived reality and imagined scenarios based on the explosive yield of an average nuclear bomb. Further, the importance of infinite dignity was expressed, especially that of indigenous peoples that are poisoned and violated by uranium mining, and the need to join forces with those oppressed by white supremacy. Grassroots movements highlighted the links to climate change, and aimed to educate people in power. Art in activism makes issues visually accessible and affects other bodies, the
media and governmental forces. Creatively, we need to enact the change, be kind with each other and enable a room for dialogue.”

Janet Fenton is a Scottish feminist, Quaker and Scottish CND vice-chair. “The Paris Forum was exciting, fast-moving and lively. It was dominated by youthful, well-educated and energetic individuals from many different campaigning and academic disciplines. About 200 participants were there, mostly young or new to the ICAN work, joined by the ICAN staff who moderated the various workshops, panels and other sessions. ICAN Steering Group organisations were able to sponsor panellists with a diverse range of expertise in related campaigns, and everyone was there in good time and highly focuses throughout. The participants were not people who thought that nuclear weapons are powerful and necessary, and there were not many (if any) supporters of deterrence theory, but it seemed that while the need for getting rid of nuclear weapons was a given, many participants were campaigners who were active and articulate on other issues. This meant that the nature of nuclear weapons had to set firmly in the context of the urgent climate emergency, and the crises around racism and the patriarchy, and the struggles faced by people experiencing austerity and displacement. The interconnectedness between these threats was unpicked, explored and shared. ICAN staff moderated panels to encourage conversation and dialogue across a wide age and experience spectrum. There was thorough exploration of intersectionality in relation to the need for social and economic justice, especially to do with race and gender. Putting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) into this much wider content meant listening to many awe-inspiring and harrowing accounts of peoples’ experiences as well as the positive lessons from across the nuclear chain and around the world from survivors and winners. Questioning, networking and building alliances was encouraged and facilitated socially and through discussion, questions, exercises and challenges.

The best way to learn more about the Forum and get a flavour of it is by checking out the video, ‘This is How You Can Change the World’ on YouTube that compresses both days into a short and inspiring story. Or you can read more in the Spring Peace News, or start making arrangements for a meeting, (post–coronavirus or virtual) where one of the folk who were there can come and talk to your group (email: hello@nuclearban.scot).”
August 6th will be the 75th anniversary of the dropping of the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima followed three days later by the bombing of Nagasaki. Why does it matter that we keep remembering?

One of the hardest things to do in campaigning against nuclear weapons is to get the public to imagine the reality of a nuclear explosion whether by accident or design. This is understandable. We don’t want to think about the horror. Too much depressing information can make people feel helpless rather than energises them into action... So we need to find a careful balance between explaining the reality but also giving people some hope.

“It will never happen” How often have you heard this? It is an understandable defence mechanism to try to convince yourself that bad things won’t happen. It is also a very common response to climate change. It was the response of many to the current pandemic when information first came from China. We need to explain that it has happened.

“Our leaders will take the right decisions. They know more about things.” There is still a deferential element in many people’s approach to political leaders especially in relation to war and peace issues, although, since the Iraq war there is a higher proportion of the sceptical. We still have to convince many that life and death decisions are too important just to leave to leaders.

The story of Hiroshima and Nagasaki remind us of the answer to these questions. The US, with the consent of the UK, dropped the first atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The bomb was ironically called ‘Little Boy’. Around seventy thousand were killed immediately and another seventy thousand died from severe burns and nausea and bleeding from radiation sickness. The choice of Hiroshima was made by the Target Committee which was made up of top US military and political figures. Their decisions (made before the bomb had been successfully tested) was to choose a large urban centre to ensure that the psychological impact would be spectacular and would result in international recognition of the new weapon.

Using a low population area to demonstrate the power of the bomb was considered insufficient to create a big enough sensation. McGeorge Bundy (who later become President Kennedy’s Secretary of State) said they should drop the bomb right in the centre because ‘the true object of the attack was the city itself’. Hiroshima residents had wondered why they were so fortunate not to have had any of the massive conventional bombing attacks that most other Japanese cities had experienced. This was because the US wanted a target that was not already badly damaged so they could better test the effects of the A-Bomb. A supporter of using
the bomb, James Byrne, Secretary of State, persuaded President Truman that it would not only end the war with Japan but put the US in a dominant position to determine the course of the post-war world. There was also the concern that the Soviet Union was close to invading Japan and that would give them an important strategic position. So nuclear weapons from the very start were about power politics rather than defence.

There were two types of bombs. The other one was called ‘Fat Boy’ and there was a very strong interest in taking the opportunity to test both. The next target selected was the city of Kokura. Whatever justification there was for the first attack, there was absolutely none of the second just three days later. Kokura was cloudy on the 9th so they just moved on to Nagasaki. The altitude of the bomb was set to ensure that the drop would maximise the destruction of the light wooden buildings. Just about eighty thousand people were killed between instant deaths and those in the following months. The geography stopped it being worse. It has been suggested that even President Truman was surprised to hear of the second attack. Reading about the discussions in the Target Committee brings to mind Hannah Arendt’s phrase about ‘the banality of evil’.

Kyoto, the old capital with many ancient temples, was considered as a target but one of the committee had visited it on holiday in 1926 and thought it would be a pity for aesthetic reasons to select it for destruction.

In his 1963 memoir, President Eisenhower who had been Supreme Allied Commander in Europe criticised the use of the atomic bombs and said it was not necessary to get Japanese surrender.

To those who want to believe that nuclear weapons will never be used, we have to tell them that they have been used – just little bombs in comparison to those stored at Coulport. We have to tell them that this was done to ordinary people, civilians who had no protection. And we have to tell them that leaders do the wrong things and no-one should ever have the power to destroy human civilisation.
A

At the request of my granddaughters, I am preparing a family tree. So far I have traced it back to the 1690s, a time when Scotland was stricken by famine and disease and when one family of my ancestors, in less than ten years, buried six of their children who were under a year old and another one who was only eight. It was when I got that far back that I realised how much had happened during the subsequent 330 years identifiable existence of my family. But it was only then when I was recording the death of one of my Mother's brothers in the First World War that I thought about how many wars there were during that time and why we still have them.

It seems to be that most of the reasons for previous wars still apply today, these including territorial and trade gain, access to and control over resources, suppression of perceived threats real or otherwise e.g. Iraq, religion and politics. The fact that you can’t make war without arms is something else that hasn’t changed. What has is the nature of the arms, their cost and the huge profits which countries and arms companies can make from selling them, particularly if you are not fussy about who you sell them to. And being fussy, as you will see below, is something neither can be accused of.

In March 2020, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) reported that in 2015 – 2019 the volume, not the financial value, of international deliveries of arms, increased by 5.5% compared with 2010 – 2014. Exports of major arms from the USA increased by 23%, half of it going to the Middle East, particularly Saudi Arabia. Total arms exports by the USA were 76% higher than the second-largest arms exporter, Russia. French exports were at their highest since 1990, a 72% increase compared with 2010 – 2014, and benefited from increased demand from Egypt, Qatar and India. Russian exports decreased overall but increased to Egypt and Iraq. Germany’s arms exports were 17% higher, South Korea’s 143% and Israel’s 77%. India and Pakistan attacked each other using arms from many of the world’s largest arms exporters, which often supplied arms to both countries.

Arms imports to countries in the Middle East increased by 61%, but to Saudi Arabia by 130%. Despite stated concerns by both countries about Saudi Arabia’s involvement in Yemen, the USA supplied 73% and the UK 13% of the total. The United Arab Emirates has been militarily involved in Libya and Yemen. Two-thirds of its arms came from the USA. In 2019, when foreign military involvement in Libya was condemned by the UN Security Council, the UAE had arms import deals ongoing with thirteen countries, including the UK, Russia and the USA. There were armed clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan; Russia was selling arms to both. Russia accounted for almost all of Armenia’s arms imports. Turkish imports were lower even though it was fighting Turkish ‘rebels’ and involved in conflicts in Libya and Syria. SIPRI says this was partly because of a cancelled contract with the USA, delayed deliveries and of developments in Turkey’s own arms industry.

Another SIPRI report in January 2020 said that arms sales of the top twenty arms companies totalled $284 billion in 2017. Five of these foreign-owned companies have manufacturing bases in Scotland, Lockheed Martin, Leonardo, BAE Systems, Raytheon and Thales; three of them have received grants from Scottish Enterprise, allegedly to
enable them to ‘diversify’. Scottish CND has been involved in the Scottish Peace Network campaign against these grants being given to arms companies in Scotland.

It’s obvious that one reason we have so many wars and more particularly why no real efforts are being made to stop them is that so many countries and companies are making so much money from them. Morality and human suffering are of no concern to them; it’s all about money.

In 2007, Scotland’s for Peace produced ‘The Scottish Peace Covenant’. It stated that “We want Scotland known for peace and justice: not for making war”. We, and the rest of the world, have a long way to go.

**SCND Video Series**

During this lockdown our campaigning tactics have obviously had to shift dramatically, we cannot be out on the streets every weekend speaking with the public and holding vigils/demos. Instead, we have created some important videos:

**Let’s Talk About Trident** is a five-minute long video split into smaller sections with homemade videos from our members and supporters talking about the reasons why we campaign against nuclear weapons and some basic information about Trident. This video is an introduction and we would urge you to share with all the young people and those new to our campaign.

**Let’s Talk About Treaties** is a fifty-minute long interview with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapon’s Campaign Coordinator Daniel Högsta where we talk about everything to do with treaties, does the TPNW conflict with the NPT? Will there ever be a time when the nuclear-states join the TPNW? Is divestment important? How can Scotland support international disarmament?
WELFARE NOT WARFARE
+NHS
FUND the
NHS

Peace

BIN the BOMB

NUKE

THE BONNE BRAUKT
BAIRN

OMBS AWA

NHS not TRIDENT

NUKE
Across Scotland people have been spreading the message of peace and decorating their windows. You can join too!

#WindowsForPeace
Support Scottish CND

The Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is at the forefront of campaigning for the abolition of nuclear weapons in Scotland. The last six months has seen the release of four new reports on Trident and the implications for renewal, our sixtieth anniversary exhibition touring the country and important discussions with hundreds of people at various events too.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR MEMBERS:
If you are moving home please let us know your new address by emailing scnd@banthebomb.org with your name, old address and new address.

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Adults: £24    Students: £10    Household: £36
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