“Integrated Review Call for Evidence 2020”

General Information

1. Full name (including title)

Professor Lynn Jamieson

2. Mark the statement below [X] as applicable.

   [x ] I have read the Integrated Review Call for Evidence Privacy Notice and understand that any responses submitted by organisations or representatives of organisations may be published in full.

2. Are you responding (please mark the relevant box [X]):

   [ ] as an individual (please complete 3 to 5 below)

   [x ] on behalf of an organisation / company (please complete 6 to 9 below)

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation / company:

6. Organisation / Company

   Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

7. Position within Company / Organisation

   Chair person

8. E-mail address

   chair@banthebomb.org
9. Address

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Please provide your response in the box below. Make sure to note the “Guidance for respondents” provided above before completing.

1. What are the key opportunities, challenges, threats and vulnerabilities facing the UK now?

Although the Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is a small organisation, multiple opinion polls have demonstrated that our aims and views reflect the opinions of a significant proportion of the Scottish population. Although the majority of people in Great Britain believe that nuclear weapons make the world a more dangerous place (YouGov Aug9th 2017), there has long been a clearer and sharper recognition in Scotland that the UK government’s current commitment to ‘modernising’ nuclear weapons and threatening their use is in itself a significant challenge to the security and wellbeing of the UK and the planet. The UK government cannot legitimately claim any mandate to host nuclear weapons in Scotland and the majority of residents of Scotland do not accept nuclear weapons as a defence and understand that their presence puts them at risk.

Attitudes to Trident: Britain vs Scotland

What do you think Britain should do when Trident reaches the end of its useful life? %

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NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

YouGov | yougov.com
July 20-25
2. What are the key global and domestic trends affecting UK international policy and national security out to 2030, and how should the government prioritise its efforts in response to these?

There is increasing recognition that the threat to human existence created by nuclear weapons is closely related to the key global challenge presented by the ecological crisis resulting from unsustainable levels of natural habitat destruction, unsustainable levels of consumption of resources and release of carbon into the atmosphere warming the planet. Key opportunities are presented by international collaborative moves to ban nuclear weapons, moves to create international law against ecocide and the possibilities of showing leadership in radically strengthening international responses to climate change at the next Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Climate Change (COP).

3. What are the key steps the UK should take to maximise its resilience to natural hazards and malicious threats? How can we build a whole of society approach to tackle these challenges?

A key step in maximising the UK’s resilience to natural hazards and malicious threats is to join the international community in signing the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. A related step is the redeployment of the skills and resources devoted to the nuclear industry towards carbon neutral and environmentally friendly industries that do not generate nuclear waste or material that can be used to make nuclear bombs. This will have popular support if the government has the courage to be honest with the public about the nuclear industry, its risks and costs and the real possibilities of international collaboration for a world without nuclear weapons.

4. What are the most effective ways for the UK to build alliances and soft power?

Building trust with the international community by honesty, transparently and consistently working for the common good is widely recognised as an effective way to build alliances and be in a position of influence. Respect for international law and actions that strengthen institutions of international law that work for a stable and equitable international order are key aspects of this. Claiming to wish for a world without nuclear weapons while refusing to give them up - fudging obligations under the Non-Proliferation treaty and attempting to sideline the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear weapons - is the antithesis of such honesty, transparency and consistency.

5. What changes are needed to Defence so that it can underpin the UK’s security and respond to the challenges and opportunities we face?

The UK needs to reorient the ethos and pattern of resource allocation of Defence away from the nuclear industry, the arms trade and towards conflict resolution and international collaboration to achieve climate justice and the reduction of the global
inequalities that create conflict. Scotland is implicated in the arms trade and the nuclear industry but there is significant opposition to both. There is political will in Scotland for a transition to a carbon neutral country that is not hosting a military industrial complex, that does not sells arms and is not supporting a nuclear industry. Scottish government is already more generous and open to economic migrants and more vigorous than the UK government in pursuing climate justice, genuine peace and security for all. Change is needed to a system of defence that seeks justice and security for people in Scotland and the UK while simultaneously supporting justice and security for all peoples which includes the protection of the natural world and its biodiversity of species other than humans.

Changes would include immediate engagement with the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, seeking to strengthen and implement the National Action Plan for the UN resolutions on Women Peace and Security, supporting reform of the UN to further strengthen a sense of fairness and equality among nations, and strengthening the capacities of the UN institutions for peace keeping, conflict resolution and fair international collaboration on climate justice, including supporting the development of international law of Ecocide. As the convenant that many or our supporter have signed says, Scotland wishes to be known for peace and not for the threat of nuclear weapons.

8. How should UK systems and capabilities be reformed to improve the development and delivery of national strategy?

The steps are indicated by the answers above but the first steps are to immediately decommission the current Trident nuclear system, abandon its planned replacement, issue a commitment to the Scottish people and government that no nuclear weapons will ever be sited in Scotland again, and the rapid signing by the UK government of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Polls cited

https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/survey-results/daily/2017/08/09/25dfa/1


Other polls consulted

