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This year began with the long-awaited moment when the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force, on 22 January 2021, banning nuclear weapons around the world. The Treaty has been an extraordinary accomplishment, in the face of strong resistance from nuclear-armed states. It reflects a reversal in the world’s approach to nuclear weapons: from one dominated by the nuclear-armed states, and their dangerous ideas of ‘security’; to one shaped by the experiences of nuclear survivors, recognising the human and planetary cost of nuclear weapons.

We are delighted to see support for the Treaty continue to grow, with new countries acceding, and evidence of a positive shift even from some countries within NATO. With the First Meeting of States Parties due in March 2022, we now have a great opportunity to ensure Scotland’s voice is heard in support of nuclear disarmament.

The urgency has not gone away. In the same week as the Treaty entered into force, the Doomsday Clock announcement revealed that humanity is as close to midnight as we have ever been. This is not just due to the existence of serious threats to our survival, but because the pandemic has shown us just how unprepared our governments are to cope with those threats, and how much additional unnecessary suffering will follow as a result.

Despite all this, and despite a clear need to prioritise climate change and recovery from the impact of COVID-19, the UK government is blindly pulling in the wrong direction. A shock announcement earlier this year, that the UK intends to increase its nuclear stockpile, has roused anger across the country – especially here, in Scotland, where any additional nuclear warheads will be stockpiled.

We are supporting the petition led by CND UK, to report the UK to the UN for a flagrant breach of its international obligations. You will find a copy of the petition at the back of this magazine – you can help us by gathering signatures and building support. As well as taking action now, you can also help us shape our plans for 2022 by joining our Action Planning Workshop on the evening of Thursday 16 September (register now via Eventbrite).

Everyone who takes action helps to move us towards a nuclear-free future. As we mark the 40th anniversary of the March to Greenham Common this month, we recall the power of ordinary people working in solidarity, to achieve extraordinary things. We continue our work with the same urgency – and the same hope – that has brought us this far.

Lynn Jamieson
Chair, Scottish CND
What's happening?

At the very start of November, world leaders will descend on Glasgow for a major environmental conference known as COP26. This summer we have seen how destructive the heavy hand of climate change can be. Yet the extreme heat and devastating rains experienced around the world are just a hint of what will happen if we do not take urgent and substantial steps to manage humankind’s impact on the planet. So it is vital that national governments make full use of the opportunity provided by COP26, to agree rapid action on climate change, for the sake of all our survival.

But what does this have to do with nuclear disarmament?

The links between nuclear weapons and climate change are obscured by governments who do not wish to acknowledge that their unhealthy ‘security’ policies and their massive military investments are one of the most serious obstacles to real action on climate change.

At best, nuclear weapons are portrayed as “sleeping monsters” – capable, if used, of plunging the world into a nuclear winter that would end the world as we know it, destroying most human life and ravaging planetary ecosystems; but benign and inert until then. This misguided belief helps to prop up nuclear-armed states’ argument for a nuclear “deterrent”. It is wholly wrong.

The reality is that nuclear weapons contribute to climate change on an ongoing basis, and that the risk of damage and destruction that we will see, as the climate changes around us, is made a thousand times worse because of the existence of nuclear weapons. That is why we are campaigning to ensure that action on nuclear disarmament is a central outcome from COP26.

Check out our COP26 and Peace resources on www.banthebomb.org
How are Nuclear Weapons and Climate Change Linked?

#1

The **military is a major emitter** of greenhouse gases. The UK’s estimated carbon footprint is equivalent to 11 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. The US figure is 205 million. Atmospheric nuclear tests covered the planet in a **sediment of radioactivity** now permanently in the environment, and temporarily modified the weather.

#2

Processes related to nuclear weapons (mining uranium, transporting weapons, attempting to dispose of waste) go on at all times. These **cause environmental and ecosystem damage**: poisoning waters, killing animals, and endangering human health.

#3

Nuclear weapons **multiply the risks** of climate change. The concrete dome which stores radioactive waste from US nuclear tests in the Marshall Islands is in danger of collapse due to rising sea levels – further harming the Islands and leaching out into our oceans.

#4

Nuclear weapons are a **waste of urgently-needed resources**. The UK spends £40bn per year on the military, with a promised £24bn increase in the next 4 years, vs only £12bn on climate change – a fraction of the amount needed to make a real difference.

#5

Climate change and nuclear weapons **hurt the same communities**. The front lines of climate change are in countries scarred by nuclear tests, and harmed by centuries of colonialism and imperialism.
Disarm for Our Planet Die-In

FASLANE - 26 SEPTEMBER

The North Gate at Faslane will be the site of a die-in at 3pm on Sunday 26 September, to call on the Government to "Disarm for Our Planet" ahead of COP26. The die-in will be marine / wildlife themed, drawing attention to the environmental cost of nuclear weapons. Come dressed as a sea creature of your choosing, and/or bring posters and banners to share the message!

This will offer a photo opportunity for a visual and peaceful expression of the links between Faslane's nukes, militarism and the climate emergency. All are welcome to join, while observing the COVID-19 restrictions in force at the time, and respecting the choices and personal safety of others who may be taking additional precautions for their own safety. Participants will not disrupt north/south traffic at the roundabout, or prevent access by emergency vehicles if required.

If you are not able to join us at Faslane, consider organising a die-in at a local site of significance: whether that's an important environmental site, a site likely to be affected by climate change, or a site where you can draw attention to the impact of the military or the responsibility of governments to take action. Contact campaigns@banthebomb.org to let us know what you're planning, and we'll promote the event to other supporters near you!

Day of Action on Militarism and Climate Change

GLASGOW - 4 NOVEMBER

COP26 takes place from 1-12 November 2021. We expect it to take place in person in Glasgow, but Covid restrictions may change again before then, so events may need to move online or take place in small groups, and plans may be adjusted at short notice.

Peace organisations across Scotland – and beyond – are planning events to raise awareness of the links between climate change, conflict and militarism on 4 November, during the COP summit. We are looking for volunteers to help set up a central event in Glasgow – can you help? Please get in touch with campaigns@banthebomb.org if so.

We are also encouraging people to organise events in their own local area on the same date. Could you help organise something in your town, or perhaps an online event? Please let us know your plans and we will help you to promote them!

Find resources, petitions, events and more related to peace and climate justice on our dedicated page on www.banthebomb.org
Experts have warned that two of the most likely global problems that threaten humanity are nuclear war and catastrophic climate change. Our project aims to raise awareness amongst our elected representatives and the wider public of the environmental impact and risks of the mining, manufacture, testing, processing, usage and disposal of nuclear weapons.

Other aims of the project include: Raising awareness of all the environmental implications of nuclear weapons and their contribution to environmental emergency. Highlighting the ongoing collateral damage on the environment; the ecocide and the radiation produced by the nuclear weapons industry. Encouraging elected representatives and policy makers to become more thoughtful and thorough in analysing the environmental implications of nuclear weapons.

Ultimately the project aims to leave a long-lasting impression of the environmental cost of nuclear weapons.

This autumn (October), Peace Education Scotland will deliver a project in two parts:

Part 1. Launch of "The Environmental Cost of Nuclear Weapons" booklet aimed at Parliamentarians and their researchers, and showing of a virtual reality (VR) film called "Collisions" with the moving story of Nyarri, a Martu elder who witnessed a British atomic test in the 50s. The remote immersive screening of the VR, Emmy-award-winning film (www.barbican.org.uk/collisions) will be available through specially issued VR glasses and links. There will be a stall and photo opportunity to promote the launch outside the Scottish Parliament.

Part 2. "The Environmental Impact of Nuclear Weapons" is a proposed online/hybrid conference at the Scottish Parliament for COP 26. This would be a panel event, aimed at Parliamentarians and other interested parties, hosted in the Scottish Parliament and open to the general public. The panel would include Indigenous community activist Leona Morgan (New Mexico) on Uranium Mining & Nuclear Waste, with other high profile Global South organisers as well as UK test veterans. The conference would precede the COP26 Day of Action on Climate Change and Militarism (Thursday 4th of November).

More details about times, dates and resources will be shared in due course.
The recent scandalous decision by the UK government to increase its stockpile of nuclear weapons has caused widespread national outrage. Announced in March 2021 as part of the so-called “Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy”, the move could see the UK hoarding up to 260 nuclear warheads at Faslane. In fact, a recent report from NukeWatch suggests that this increase has been happening by stealth for years already, without any regard for democracy or for the UK’s Treaty commitments.

The UK, which attempts to portray itself as a ‘responsible’ nuclear-armed state, is a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). This requires a commitment to reducing nuclear weapons and eventual disarmament. The UK’s decision to increase its nuclear stockpile openly undermines this, and our friends at CND-UK are leading a petition to report the UK to the UN for such a flagrant breach of its international obligations.

We are asking all supporters in Scotland to sign the petition and to share it widely, to ensure that a strong Scottish condemnation of the UK’s actions is clearly heard. The petition offers us the opportunity to have our voices heard in an important forum, at the United Nations, by diplomats who are sincere in their nuclear disarmament efforts. It is available at the back of this magazine, or you can sign it and request paper copies on the CND-UK website (cnduk.org).

The petition states:

“The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, on behalf of the undersigned, is reporting the UK government for breaching its obligations as a state party to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

By signing and ratifying the NPT, which came into force in 1970, the UK committed to “pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament” (as per Article VI).

Instead of taking the necessary steps towards getting rid of its nuclear weapons, the British government is not only replacing and upgrading its nuclear weapon system but deciding to widen the circumstances in which British nuclear weapons could be used and increase the number of nuclear warheads in the UK arsenal by over 40%. These policies are not compatible with the NPT commitment to “pursue negotiations” towards disarmament. A legal opinion commissioned by CND shows that they are in clear breach of the NPT and International Humanitarian Law.

As British citizens and residents, we request that NPT states parties in good standing raise concerns about breaches of the NPT and call on the UK and other states in breach of their NPT commitments to immediately halt all policies and activities that breach and undermine the Treaty.”
A decisive and damning legal assessment of the UK government’s plan to increase its nuclear stockpile demonstrates the scale of the UK’s breach of international law. The legal opinion by Professor Christine Chinkin and Dr Louise Arimatsu of the London School of Economics & Political Science was commissioned by CND-UK after the government announcement was made.

The legal opinion lays bare the astonishing breach of Article 6 of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, to which the UK is a party. Article 6 obliges all parties to the Treaty to negotiate in good faith to achieve an end to the nuclear arms race, and ultimately to agree on general and complete nuclear disarmament under strict and effective control.

It states: “[the UK’s] unilateral announcement of an increase in the stockpile of nuclear weapons is at variance with the conduct legally prescribed by NPT article VI, to undertake effective measures toward nuclear disarmament, a provision essential to the accomplishment of the object or purpose of the Treaty (...). Nor is it in conformity with the expressed step of a ‘diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies’.”

But the legal opinion does more than just show that the UK has broken its non-proliferation obligations. It rips apart the so-called logic of the arguments used by the UK government, to justify such an increase in its nuclear stockpile. The UK government has tried to argue that an increase in nuclear weapons is justified because other countries are doing the same, or in response to emerging threats such as biological or cyber warfare.

No, says the legal opinion. Under international law, states have a right to use force in self-defence if, and only if, they are subject to an armed attack. But (for states just as for ordinary people) the force used must be limited to what is “necessary” and “proportionate”. The legal opinion reflects the words of the International Court of Justice that: “the use of [nuclear] weapons ‘seems scarcely reconcilable with the respect for [the principle of distinction or prohibition on unnecessary suffering]’ and ‘generally be contrary to the principles and rules of humanitarian law’”. The UK’s attempt to justify its terrifying policy on nuclear weapons has no basis in international law.

The 40-page legal opinion can be read in full at: https://cnduk.org/cnd-legal-opinion-on-increasing-the-uks-nuclear-arsenal/

The Scottish CND executive condemns and abhors the decision by the UK government to pursue an increase in its nuclear arsenal. We endorse the legal opinion of Professor Chinkin and Dr Arimatsu, and call for an immediate end to the UK’s actions in breach of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Following the announcement of the UK government’s policy direction in the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, the Scottish CND executive discussed at length whether to take a legal case against the UK government through the Scottish courts. This was discussed at three meetings (the May executive, an interim extraordinary meeting, and the June executive). Although we decided not to pursue a case, there was a clear majority view that this was something that Scottish CND should do and would do in different circumstances. The decision at this time reflected consideration given to the existence of strongly polarised views, the strain the action would place on our capacity, the financial risks, and wariness from key peace movement organisations.
What does the name Monte Bello mean to you? Or Trimouille?

For most of us – who learned a very Eurocentric history, which taught us only to see ourselves as the heroes, and turned a blind and uncritical eye to the horrors and abuse of Britain’s long imperialist project – those names are at least as likely to summon the centuries-old French battles which lent their name to a cluster of islands off the north-western coast of Australia, as they are to bring to mind the recent opening of a sombre new chapter in the UK’s history.

Early in the morning on Friday 3 October, 1952, the peace of the Monte Bello Islands was shattered. Moored off Trimouille, one of the larger islands of the archipelago, the British frigate HMS Plym exploded. The plutonium bomb in its hold had been detonated in a planned explosion (calling it a “test” seems to bely the fact that these were real atomic bombs which were blown up, doing real damage to people, wildlife and the world we live in). In this moment, the UK crossed a dreadful line, as it became the third country in the world to use a nuclear weapon.

Years later, a Royal Commission found that the impact on Indigenous people had not been recognised or addressed. The Monte Bello Islands themselves were not inhabited by humans at the time, but swathes of radioactivity were carried across the Australian mainland. Indigenous people living close to the Islands were hit doubly hard: they were most exposed to the fallout, and had least access to protection.

This harm was amplified by what the UK chose to do next. The explosion at Monte Bello was only the start. The UK continued to test its new nuclear weapons on Indigenous lands in Australia, at Maralinga and Emu Field; before conducting a further series of tests in the Pacific Islands; as well as participating alongside the US in its extensive nuclear weapon testing programme. Each of these tests was responsible for immediate and lasting damage to human health, to wildlife, and to the ecosystems we depend on; especially affecting populations already marginalised by colonialism and imperialism.

ICAN Australia recently shared the testimony of Debbie Carmody, Anangu Spinifex Pilki and Western Nullarbor person, and anti-nuclear activist, about the impact of some of these tests: “The Spinifex people were dispossessed from their homelands in the Great Victorian Desert in the 1950s, when their country was taken over for the Maralinga Atomic testing that was carried out between 1952 and 1957 in a joint operation between the British and Australian governments. During that time many Aboriginal people were moved to missions including Cundeelee and Warburton in Western Australia, which were hundreds of kilometres away from their traditional lands. At these missions, First Nation people were given clothing and foreign foods as way to simultaneously assimilate them into white culture and clear the area for dangerous nuclear trials. The process of assimilation only served to create a restricted lifestyle full of poverty, lack of water and food, and community confrontations. People that went back to their homes suffered radiation poisoning from nuclear fallout and from ingesting contaminated food and water. Not until 1980 did the Spinifex people fully return to their homelands.”

For those of us in the UK, far from the lived reality of the impact of nuclear explosions, Britain’s nuclear ‘tests’ and their legacy are too often overlooked. The injustice done to others around the world, and the importance of reparations and remediation – as much as any damage can be made right – are seldom acknowledged, let alone addressed.

This year, on the weekend of 2-3 October, we plan to hold an action-focused conference, confronting the history of the UK’s nuclear tests and exploring what can be done to address their legacy. All are welcome to join us, and we would be especially pleased to hear from people who have been directly affected by the tests as we put together our plans.

Sources: ICAN Australia (https://icanw.org.au) and CTBTO (https://www.ctbto.org)
Annual General Meeting

The 2021 Annual General Meeting of Scottish CND will take place online on Saturday 20 November. The yearly AGM is an important opportunity for Scottish CND supporters to come together and help to shape the Campaign’s objectives for the year ahead.

AGMs involve some routine business (such as approving financial statements and appointing an auditor), but they are also an interesting – often lively! – opportunity to discuss and set the direction of the Campaign, in conversation with likeminded people around the country.

You can help to shape Scottish CND’s future by joining the Executive Committee as an ordinary member or an office-bearer (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary or Treasurer). The Executive Committee steers the day-to-day work of the organisation, and joining the Executive is a real chance to have a hands-on role in helping Scottish CND to pursue our goals of nuclear disarmament in Scotland and in the world.

In addition, any individual member or local branch can bring proposed resolutions to the Scottish CND AGM. These usually address major issues of our time, calling for the Campaign to take an action or to adopt a particular position in response to global or local events. Successful resolutions set the framework for Scottish CND’s work in the year ahead, and often for many years to come.

Key Dates

**Thu 16 Sep:** SCND Action Planning Workshop for 2022 (online, 19.15-21.30).

**Sat 23 Oct:** Deadline for Executive Committee nominations and proposed resolutions to be received by Scottish CND's Secretary.

**Sat 13 Nov:** Deadline for any amendments to resolutions to be received.

**Sat 20 Nov:** Scottish CND AGM (online, more details to follow).

Thanks to Mike Blackshaw

We want to say an enormous thank you to Mike Blackshaw, who has just stepped down as Scottish CND’s Secretary due to ill health. Anti-nuclear activism runs through Mike’s veins, and he has been tireless in his work to build the movement, even from his hospital bed – recruiting almost every health professional he has encountered, and even observing the annual three-day fast for Hiroshima and Nagasaki (pictured).

Mike served as Secretary of Scottish CND while also being the beating heart of the Edinburgh Yes Hub, and we are immensely grateful for his hard work and dedication. We will miss him greatly, and know SCND supporters around the country will join us in sending him every good wish. David Mackenzie has taken on the role of Secretary until the AGM, and can be contacted on lazybeds@yahoo.co.uk.
As well as working to grow our membership and build our campaign, Scottish CND has been working on a number of specific projects throughout 2021.

The Scottish Elections took place in May 2021. Scottish CND, in partnership with other Scottish peace organisations, ran a clear campaign with the message that “Nukes are Our Red Line”, engaging with candidates and voters, and hosting a national Peace Hustings. We were delighted to see a Parliament with a very clear anti-nuclear majority (including Green, SNP and a good number of Labour MSPs) being elected, and we continue to work with MSPs to press for action on nuclear disarmament.

We have worked with former Netherlands MP, and well-known anti-nuclear activist, Krista van Velzen on challenging nuclear weapons from within NATO countries, and welcomed a report from ICAN making it clear that NATO need not be a nuclear alliance. We celebrated the Entry into Force of the TPNW and held an international event marking four years since it was first adopted, helping to raise awareness of the Treaty throughout Scotland.

We have worked with other peace groups around Scotland to prepare for COP26, calling for action on the links between climate change and militarism. We continue to show that nuclear energy is not a ‘green’ solution, and that there are deep links between nuclear power and nuclear weapons. A moving and reflective event in solidarity with the Marshall Islands Day of Remembrance took place on 1 March 2021, organised by a wonderful group of volunteers from Glasgow CND. We were honoured to be joined by DPR Sam Lanwi of the Marshall Islands, who spoke of the legacy of nuclear tests in his country.

Finally, we are delighted to have made a positive connection with Museums & Galleries Scotland, and a number of museums across Scotland, who are interested in working to tell stories of peace through their collections. We hope this will lead to a long-term partnership, known as a Knowledge Exchange Network, between Scottish museums and peace organisations in Scotland, who can help to ensure that stories of peace are heard alongside stories of war.

All of this has been done in response to resolutions made at the 2020 AGM, which helped to shape Scottish CND’s campaign priorities for the year ahead, and will continue to be pursued in the months to come.

Could it be you?

Do you want to take a more active role in campaigning for nuclear disarmament? Can you spare 5-10 hours a month to take part in meetings and decision-making? We are looking for Executive Committee members of all ages, backgrounds and perspectives to help drive forward Scottish CND’s essential work. Contact scnd@banthebomb.org to find out more about the role, or talk to any current member of the Executive Committee.
Campaigners will remember that when we celebrated the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entering into force in January 2021, 90 days after the fiftieth country had signed and ratified, we looked forward to the first meeting to progress the TPNW, within a year.

The Pandemic had already delayed the review of an older treaty, the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to August, and more recently the NPT has been scheduled for January 2022. This has meant that first meeting of states parties (“1MSP” – not the acronym for Scottish Parliamentarians!) to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) will take place from 22 - 24 March 2022 and The United Nations Secretary-General has now invited all the UN Member States to participate. (The delay could mean some extra ratifications are added before the meeting).

If UN member States are not able or willing to ratify or accede to the treaty in time they may observe the 1MSP. This is not a substitute for full commitment to the TPNW, but can show support for its aims. Outline draft procedures mean that observers can show support through speaking, submitting papers and receiving official reports, but they cannot take part in decision-making nor can they challenge decisions made. The detail of how these opportunities can be managed will be determined at the 1MSP, in the agenda item that concerns the Rules of Procedure for the Treaty’s conferences.

Scotland cannot observe the TPNW 1MSP as a country, any more than sign it, until and unless we become an independent country and join the UN as a member state. The UK Government is, at this point, unlikely to send any delegation to attend, let alone one that included representatives of Scotland, the country where they deploy their nuclear weapons! However, as stipulated in Article of the TPNW, civil society has an essential role. Academics and medics, campaigners, survivors and parliamentarians all made a huge contribution to the drafting and adopting of the TPNW, and their voices will be heard at the 1MSP and beyond. The international parliamentarian friends of the TPNW include Scottish elected representatives.

The treaty sets out observeration: "States not party to this Treaty, as well as the relevant entities of the United Nations system, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and relevant non-governmental organizations, shall be invited to attend the meetings of States Parties and the review conferences as observers."

ICAN, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for their work on the treaty have been nominated as the NGO coordinator for the MSP, and are encouraging all TPNW-supporting NGOs and Parliamentarians to take the time and make the effort to travel to Vienna to participate in the 1MSP. Maybe a Scottish representative could speak ‘in the room’ as part of civil society and there will certainly be the opportunity to meet with campaigners, diplomats, experts and survivors from around the world, and express Scotland’s support for the treaty and abhorrence of the bomb.

Please make sure that you ask your MSP if they will attend the 1MSP, and also consider if you and/or your group can get the Eurostar to beautiful Vienna, and join in this historic and exciting event. There will be a important ICAN briefing on 21st September in the Scottish Parliament to fully explain the 1MSP and how Scotland can make itself heard - despite Westminster. Please contact your MSP and ask them to attend the ICAN briefing, and contact scndcpg@yahoo.com if you would like to listen in.
The first 6 months of 2021 have been really busy for us. We have had a rebranding exercise and our new name is CND North East Scotland/ Campaigning for Peace. As well as being members of Scottish and UK CND we are also now official members of Stop the War and Campaign Against the Arms Trade.

We have continued our monthly talks on zoom which are followed by our monthly meetings on the first Monday of the month. The zoom meetings have the advantage of being able to involve both speakers and participants from further afield. We started the year with a highly successful New Year Peace, Poetry and Music Party which was great fun. The Talks that have followed have been very informative and if anyone is interested in watching any of them, we have made recordings. The talks have been as follows:

- David Kelly talking about the work of the Scottish Peace Education Network
- Emma Cockburn, Scottish Co-ordinator for CAAT, talking about the work of Scottish Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT)
- Steve Bell, Treasurer of Stop the War, on 'How to Stop the UK’s Endless Wars'
- Jenny Clegg from Stop the War and UK CND on 'Is the US leading Britain into a New Cold War with China'
- Zaki Mehchy, Senior Consulting Fellow at Chatham House and Senior Associate, London School of Economics, on 'the Current and Potential Institutional Socio – Economic Impact of Conflict in Syria'
- Emma Cockburn on the Arms Trade in North-East Scotland.

In July we will be having Maya Evans, who is a coordinator at Afghanistan Peace Project, on 'Afghanistan: After Twenty Years of Western Intervention. What next?'

We have all been active on zoom at various meetings of Scottish CND, Stop the War, UK CND, Peace and Justice Scotland, ICAN, Manchester CND, Cop 26, CAAT national activists meeting and Peace Education Network. We continue to have a very informative Facebook Page. Following the success of a picture of our Vice-Chair and Secretary in relation to the University going viral, we did a similar process in relation to the Global Days on Military Spending with Felix, Gillian, Emma, Doug, Mike and Jonathan appeared on Facebook all with simple messages about the arms trade and all being successful. Jonathan spoke at the two Aberdeen Rallies and Mike at one concerning the plight of the Palestinians raising concerns about Arms Sales to Israel and their holding of nuclear weapons.
In February we had an online event on the humanitarian origins of the TPNW involving representatives from MEDACT, SCND and elected members of Glasgow City Council. One reason for having the event was to discuss how best to convince the Council of the need to sign the ICAN Cities Appeal. The Council signed it in May when all SNP, Green and Labour councillors supported a motion moved by Branch member Councillor Feargal Dalton.

In March members of the Branch with help from SCND produced an online Day of Remembrance for the victims and survivors of the bombing of the Marshall Islands as part of testing by the USA. One of the speakers was DPR Sam Lanwi, Deputy Permanent Representative to the Marshall Islands’ Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva. He spoke to us directly of the suffering and injustice experienced by the people. A commemorative tree was planted at Faslane Peace Camp.

“Remembrance reaffirms our resolve to resist ... This tree will exist as a testament to our condemnation of these nuclear tests, and our solidarity with those whose lives they have ravaged. The white blossoms in the spring will remind us that fairer days lie ahead, and that darkness always gives way to the light. The red berries in the autumn will provide food for birds, and remind us that all living things must live and work in harmony. The endurance of this tree through harsh conditions will inspire us to stand tall in the face of adversity. And beneath its canopy generations to come will learn about the Marshall Islands, and reflect on the lessons that fighting for a nuclear-free world has taught us.” The event can still be seen in the news section on banthebomb.org

Our next project will build on the Marshall Islands one by exploring the links between Faslane/Coulport, testing, uranium mining, the exploitation of indigenous peoples, civil nuclear power and climate change. We plan to do it in partnership with British and Australian organisations and individuals, and to submit it for inclusion in the COP26 Coalition’s Global Gathering in September, where it would reach a global audience.

And finally but by no means least [drum roll please] Big Sandy: The Return. After over a year in storage and some much needed ‘medical’ treatment from Richard Phelps he made an appearance at the Vinicombe Street Gala Day in mid June. He spent over four hours walking around, shaking hands, dancing to ABBA and generally giving pleasure to children and adults alike. Thanks to Iona, Micah and Alexander for supporting him. He is already booked for an appearance at a festival in June and the Govanhill International Festival Carnival Parade in August.
I've kept busy for months. Firstly collecting bikes, eg thanks to Penny the Singer who got permission for me to remove the bike and wheels cluttering up her tenement bike shed. Some were beyond repair but all had useful parts for getting others going.

Next I had to repair the bikes. I learnt some hard lessons, I should never have tackled that Portuguese mountain bike that had been in my son's Stockbridge garden since the Miner's Strike. It needed everything replaced, took many days of work and sold for a mere 40 quid!

A good source of parts, advice and help was the Bike Station (cheers! Gee and Mark). Indeed all the excellent bike shops we have in Edinburgh were really helpful despite these hard times. Some of the bikes I had to send by mail or courier and couldn't have done it without those giant bike boxes the shops give away if you ask nicely! I didn't feel I was competing with them as they couldn't meet the demand for bikes and repairs.

I've met all sorts of people from all over the world as they got themselves some safe, budget transport. There was the contract worker from India, the guy who needed a bike to work as a delivery cyclist, the English language teacher, and, (on Gumtree) the ambulance paramedic who has become a mate and emails me his bike and other news every month.

And now? Well I'm trying to ease myself out of the bike fixing, maybe time to go back to face-to-face plant stalls at festivals (eventually), or try something new, but I'll always be proud I helped our campaign by increasing the number of cyclists on the road with the many benefits that brings to all of us.

And even now if I got a call about a tasty handmade 1980’s road bike needing some TLC, well, who could resist?!
Following a moving commemoration of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which demonstrated the power of poetry and reflection to give voice to grief, to inspire action, and to bring us face to face with the true human cost of nuclear weapons and war, we are opening a poetry competition to address the history and the present reality of nuclear weapons and nuclear tests here in the UK.

This is especially important with the anniversary of the UK’s first nuclear test coming up, while the UK government continues to ignore the human and planetary cost of its actions, and still pursues increased nuclear force. We are delighted that renowned anti-nuclear poet and activist Gerry Loose will head our panel of judges.

The competition is open to entrants in Scotland and beyond. All entrants must be 16 years old or over. There are two categories: youth (age 16-25) and adult (age 26+). We welcome entries from groups of poets as well as from individual poets. Entry is free. Judging will take place in English only.

We invite poems on the theme of ‘peace, disarmament and reparation’ – poems that respond, especially, to the UK’s ongoing pursuit of nuclear weapons, and the impact that this has had, and continues to have, on the world we all share. To learn more, please visit the competition page on banthebomb.org, and make use of our resources.

Shortlisted poems will be published in an anthology marking the legacy of the UK’s nuclear tests, and calling for peace and justice, reparation to survivors and restoration of environmental harm. Winning poems will be read at an event on 3 October, held in solidarity with the people who have suffered at the hands of the UK’s pursuit of nuclear force since its first test in 1952, and with victims and survivors of nuclear weapons around the world.
NUCLEAR POWER
11 OCTOBER 2021 ONLINE

On the anniversary of the Windscale Fire - the worst nuclear accident in the UK’s history - join us for an event exploring the human cost of nuclear power and the never-ending problem of nuclear waste; and confronting the reality of new nuclear in the UK, in the context of rising sea levels, ecosystem damage, and consequences for human and animal health. A vital event before COP26, showing that nuclear power is neither 'green' nor safe, and exposing its deep entanglement with military infrastructure and the nuclear weapons industry.

DISARMAMENT THROUGH DIVESTMENT

Don't Bank on the Bomb Scotland's 2021 guide to divestment from nuclear weapons is now available on nukedivestmentscotland.org. Packed with figures showing the scale of investment from pension schemes, universities and financial institutions in Scotland, the guide is also full of suggestions for action you can take to put pressure on financial service providers to invest your money ethically. Check out the guide online and write to your bank or pension provider today!

CITIES APPEAL

Outspoken support for nuclear disarmament continues to grow among Scotland's local councils in 2021. We were delighted that Glasgow City Council passed a resolution in support of the TPNW, and Inverclyde Council called for divestment from nuclear weapons. We are here to provide support to local groups and councillors who want their council to take a stand for a nuclear-free Scotland - please get in touch if so!
Tribute to Kenneth McNeil

With great sadness, in March 2021, we said farewell to our dearest lifelong CND supporter Kenneth McNeil. He was active since our formation and had a pivotal role in the nuclear disarmament and wider Scottish peace movement.

Isobel Lindsay, current vice chair of Scottish CND, said: "Kenneth had a continuous role in SCND from its formation until his death. I met him first around the 1960s when he was on the SCND executive - never flamboyant, always steady, determined, consistent and principled."

"I was not involved as an executive member through the seventies and eighties although active in campaigns because of my other commitments. Sometime during the 1990's Kenneth phoned me and asked if I would go on the executive because he was very worried about personality tensions which he felt were undermining the organisation. It was typical of him to try to find positive ways to resolve problems. It did not sound like a very attractive invitation but knowing Kenneth’s dedication, I felt I could not say no. He is one of the movement’s quiet heroes."

Arthur West, Chair of Scottish CND from 2011- 2019, said: "Kenneth served as Scottish CND secretary for a number of years and was also a very hard working executive member. He was involved heavily in the Scottish CND Education Committee and in the last few years served on the committee of the charity Peace Education Scotland. During my time as chair he was very supportive to me and a very good source of advice based on his past experience and expertise."

"Kenneth was massively committed to Scottish CND and the wider peace movement and he made an enormous contribution down the years. His work in developing Scottish CND educational resources was absolutely outstanding. He will be very sadly missed."

David MacKenzie, current Scottish CND executive member, said: "I got to know Kenneth in recent years when we would meet up from time to time. For me, this was a chance to be in an intelligent and alert company and to tap into his wide and up-to-date knowledge. He was one of the best-informed people within Scottish CND. I will miss these occasional meetings for his warmth and his passionate conviction."

Flavia Tudoreanu, Coordinator of Scottish CND, said: "Kenneth was always sharp, analytical and very respectful of everyone’s view. His wisdom of life was striking and his commitment to our cause never faded. A lifetime of dedication to the nuclear disarmament movement."
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament • 162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DG

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Your Local Group: You are happy for CND to contact you by: ☐ Email ☐ Phone ☐ Postal Service

Commitments to immediately halt all policies and activities that breach and undermine the treaty:

As British citizens and residents, we request that the UK states parties in good standing raise concerns about breaches of the NPT and call on the UK and other states in breach of their NPT commitments to pursue negotiations towards disarmament. A legal opinion commissioned by CND shows that they are in clear breach of the NPT and international humanitarian law.

NPT commitments to “pursue negotiations” towards disarmament is an obligation under the NPT and therefore any policies that breach the NPT and international humanitarian law are in clear breach of the NPT. These policies are not compatible with the commitments in Article 3 of the NPT, which guarantee that “disarmament, complete with the total elimination of nuclear weapons”, is not only an objective but also a principle of international law.

In good faith, by signing and ratifying the NPT, which came into force in 1970, the UK committed to “pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures leading to a disarming of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament (as per Article 6).”

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament on behalf of the undersigned is reporting the UK government for breaching its obligations to reduce the nuclear arms race through the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Report the UK to the President of the NPT Review Conference
Don't miss out

- **16 September**: SCND Action Planning Workshop for 2022
- **21 September**: ICAN briefing / meeting of the Cross-Party Group on Nuclear Disarmament
- **26 September**: Die-in at Faslane
- **2-3 October**: Nuclear Reparations - an Action-Oriented Conference
- **11 October**: Nuclear Power event
- **4 November**: Day of Action on Climate Change and Militarism
- **20 November**: Scottish CND AGM

More information about upcoming events at [banthebomb.org > Events](http://banthebomb.org)