

Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament AGM: Chair's Framing Statement 2026

This document reminds us of our aims, the campaigns that have occupied us in the year past and that we remain committed to, in order to help us think about priorities in the year ahead. It should be read alongside the year in review.

Scottish CND opposes all weapons of mass destruction, biological and chemical and nuclear but our name reflects our central aim - the removal of the UK nuclear weapons that are based in Scotland, from Scotland and the world. Scottish CND's campaign seeks paths for the removal of the UK nuclear weapon system and the end of UK complicity in the use of nuclear threats while opposing nuclear weapons everywhere. Scottish CND has long opposed membership of NATO because of its nuclear posture.

As stated on our website, Scottish CND has a longstanding opposition to nuclear power because of the strong links between the nuclear power and nuclear weapon industries. We resist any new nuclear power in Scotland, have been keeping in touch with developments across the UK, and our webinar around the time of the Chernobyl accident was in collaboration with colleagues in Wales.

Scottish CND are not party political and have members across various parties.

Scottish CND is an ICAN partners organisations in Scotland (ICAN - the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons - the coalition of organisations that successfully campaigned for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW which entered into force in 2021) along with Trident Ploughshares, Peace & Justice, UN House Scotland, MEDACT Scotland, Northern Friends Peace Board, Pax Christi Scotland, Secure Scotland and Don't Bank on the Bomb Scotland. Scottish CND supports the website www.nuclearban.scot.¹ We seek to highlight steps taken by treaty signatories to further its aims and to showcase examples from these non-nuclear states, like that of our near neighbour Ireland, who achieve security, an internationally respected diplomatic service and foreign policy without nuclear weapons.

We have a formal relationship and mutual collaboration with CND UK, whose campaigning over the last year has included a focus on US nuclear weapons at RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk, the planned purchase and deployment of 12 F-35A fighter jets to be based at RAF Marham in Norfolk and designed to carry US

¹ Janet Fenton is a member of the International Steering group of ICAN and has a special responsibility for liaison with ICAN partners in Scotland.

B61-12 nuclear bombs, drawing the RAF further into the US-led NATO nuclear strategy. We share the common purpose of explaining the UK Government's mistaken thinking and the escalating squandering of resources on nuclear weapons, directing our economy and society towards readiness for (nuclear) war-fighting. When appropriate, we make use of UK CND materials, such as their excellent Alternative Defence Review and take inspiration for developing equivalent Scottish focused materials. Like UK CND, Scottish CND are members of the Lakenheath Peace Alliance.

We are committed to working for a Scottish Diversification Agency that would support alternative developments to nuclear militarisation and pathways for workforces engaged in civil and military nuclear industries, war fighting and fossil fuel industries. Simon Barrow has been commissioned to lead this work which has progressed across the year. Scottish CND is keen to work with the trade unions and collaborate with other organisations that seek a just transition to more socially worthwhile employment than nuclear or fossil fuel industries. We remain grateful for work by the STUC, Friends of the Earth and others on just transitions, the research of Don't Bank on the Bomb exposing investment in nuclear weapons and to the Campaign Against the Arms Trade. Scottish CND are also members of the Scottish Peace Platform and its Advisory Group.

Scottish CND campaigning sought to raise the importance of continued support for the removal of nuclear weapons from Scotland, the UK and the world among our elected representatives by working to raise awareness of this issue during the Scottish parliamentary elections. This included lobbying candidates and hosting national hustings in collaboration with other peace, justice and pro-environment campaigning organisations. A majority of MSPs are from parties committed to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and willing to sign the ICAN Parliamentary Pledge. A record of those who have and have not signed is maintained on the website nuclearban.scot. It is not yet clear if the Scottish Parliament Nuclear Disarmament Cross-Party Group² will be re-established but working with our parliamentarians remains a priority.

A key message of campaigning is the harms caused by nuclear weapons. The harms include the costs of diverting massive amounts of money and resources from socially useful activities. This and helping people to imagine alternatives remains a recurrent focus. The harms also include the catastrophic consequences of their use with campaigning focusing both on the testimony of

² The rules for cross party groups have been tightened against a group that only 2 parties out of 5 support. Janet Fenton, the elected secretary to the previous cross-party group, is working on the issue and we continue to liaise with supportive MSPs.

hibakusha but also survivors of victims of nuclear explosions referred to as 'tests' and the victims of uranium mining. In July we collaborated with UK CND on a webinar focusing on the consequences for Scotland of two 100kt bombs dropping on Faslane and Coulport, while reminding our audience that any nuclear strike would actually be even worse than this. The harms and the squandering of resources are the focus of a new leaflet for use during events in August around the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and our webinar in October, the month of the first UK nuclear explosion in their sequence of Australian tests.

We are explicitly trying to counter the myth of magical thinking of 'deterrence', 'nuclear security' and 'nuclear umbrella' currently associated with escalation in the nuclear arms race and associated militarism. In September our webinar focused on the AUKUS deal and speakers at our AGM in November will focus on nuclear sharing in Europe and how to push back against NATO's championing of nuclear doctrine and military spending. A related key message of campaigning is debunking the myths of 'independence' in the phrase 'an independent nuclear deterrent'. Our campaigning around the Israeli government's genocidal assault on Gaza and the Russian government's attack on Ukraine, as well as our campaigning against NATO expansion expresses these arguments. We have emphasised the uselessness of nuclear weapons in deterring Ukraine's response to war. The use of nuclear weapons to sustain a colonial-like sense of entitlement has also been called out with reference to Israel's use of genocidal, ecocidal indiscriminate force. Complicity in nuclear threats contributes to the relative silence of other nuclear states about Israeli war crimes. We will continue to develop materials and workshops intended to give our supporters confidence to call out misinformed talk of a nuclear 'defence', 'security' or 'deterrence' and to support local groups in lobbying local authorities to sign the ICAN Pledge.

Our annual routines of commemoration of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, British nuclear tests, and Marshall Islands Remembrance point to the roots of nuclear weapons in an extractive, exploitative colonial history and the harms already caused to indigenous peoples and the planet's fragile eco systems. The harms also include the risks of catastrophic accidents, the history of near accidents and the actual accidental and routine addition of radioactivity to our environment. We use social media to repost news of nuclear convoys, the shambolic state of the Vanguard submarines and their dangerously long patrols and radioactive discharges into the Gareloch and Loch Long. Remembrance of accidents at Chernobyl and Fukushima are also occasions for remembering the links between nuclear weapons and nuclear power and their associated harms.

As well as raising public awareness of and actions pointing to harm, we campaign around the positive possibilities of nuclear disarmament, - particularly those

developing because of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Since an AGM resolution in 2013, we have had a position in support of Scottish Independence as the shortest route to nuclear disarmament in the UK. Various campaign materials hosted on our website explain that parties in Scotland campaigning for independence are committed to the TPNW, disarmament and removal of the UK's nuclear-weapon system from Scotland. The nuclear-weapon system would be unable to operate without a Scottish base because there is no alternative site to the combination of the port at Faslane and sea-accessible armament depot at Coulport. (John Ainslie *Trident: Nowhere to Go* first written 2012, updates 2013&2014.)

We remain committed to the direction of travel set in November 2023 when we held a 'Festival for Survival' which explicitly acknowledged links between nuclear weapons, the environmental tragedies of fossil fuel consumption leading to climate change and other forms of environmental destruction leading to loss of biodiversity and accelerating rate of species' extinction. We continue to seek ways of getting environmental activists and Peace Movement activists together in ways that strengthen each. The Reclaim Our Clyde Campaign is one channel for continuing this work. Highlighting the links between climate and nuclear catastrophes is also a strand of education work carried on by Peace Education Scotland, the independent charity that prepares educational materials for schools.

We will attend the Review meeting of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in New York along with other ICAN partners and peace movement organisations. We walk alongside organisations that campaign against weapons and war-fighting such as the Campaign Against the Arms Trade, Drone Wars, The Campaign for the Abolition of War, Secure Scotland, Stop the War, Space4Peace, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. We welcome collaboration with faith groups and religious communities dedicated to a world without nuclear weapons and more peaceful societies.

In our small group discussions at our AGM we invite members to help us address how to inspire activism and strengthen our campaign.

- 1. Developing a Youth Platform**
- 2. Making best use of work with Trade Unions towards a Scottish Diversification Agency**
- 3. Collaborating with environment organisations.**
- 4. Strengthening the work of local groups**

(or last year's)

- 1. Enabling and encouraging anti-nuclear activism among members and local groups**
- 2. Making more effective use of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)**
- 3. More productive engagement with political parties and politicians**
- 4. Collaborating with other social movements (environment, trade union, anti-austerity as well as wider peace & justice movements)**

These topics will be reworked or affirmed by members who attended a pre-agm meeting which will allow people to choose between them. Each discussion group will be asked to come up with four action points having asked themselves with reference to the topic:

- Can we devise more specific aims and achievable targets
- Can we do this in a way that will help to bring in new people, new energy, and/or financial support?
- What are the first steps?

Lynn Jamieson, Chair, Scottish CND