

SCOTTISH CND AGM 2025

Minutes & Resolution Outcomes

Organization:	Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (SCND)
Event Date & Context:	Annual General Meeting 2025 15 November 2025
Guest Speakers:	Florian Eblenkamp (ICAN), Professor Karen Bell (Univ. of Glasgow), Laura Pidcock (Declassified UK), Rob Edwards (The Ferret)

1. Opening Remarks & Administrative Updates

Chairperson Lynn Jamieson welcomed members and opened the meeting, noting that while in-person attendance was modest, the meeting was being recorded for distribution via YouTube to reach a wider audience. It was highlighted that part of the audience was participating in the major Climate March taking place concurrently in Glasgow, carrying 'No Nuclear' placards.

Key points noted in the opening address:

- **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs):** Criticized the UK Government's plans to build SMRs in Anglesey, Wales, framing the strategy as economically and environmentally irrational, and arguing that nuclear power serves as a covert support system for nuclear weapons capability.
- **US Reliance & Trident:** Reaffirmed that the UK nuclear deterrent remains fundamentally dependent on the United States due to missile leasing agreements.
- **Staff Recognition:** Expressed formal gratitude to Administrator Cristina Tofan and Campaigns & Communications Officer Samuel Rafanell-Williams for their vital behind-the-scenes work throughout the year.

2. Guest Speaker Presentations

2.1 Florian Eblenkamp (ICAN) — Global Context & The TPNW

Florian Eblenkamp provided an update on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and global disarmament dynamics:

- **TPNW Status:** 99 states have signed or ratified the treaty. Eblenkamp emphasized that the TPNW has consolidated its normative power and moral authority, establishing a legal framework that nuclear-armed states cannot permanently ignore.

- **Critical 2026 Timeline:** 2026 represents a pivotal year with the potential expiration of New START in February, the NPT Review Conference in April/May, and the 1st TPNW Review Conference in November in New York.
- **UK Government Objections:** Criticized the UK's opposition to UN resolutions—such as scientific studies on nuclear war impacts—placing the UK alongside Russia, North Korea, and France in voting against fundamental scientific research on nuclear harm.
- **Actionable Strategy:** Urged campaigners to build parliamentary pressure in Holyrood and the Senedd ahead of upcoming elections, advance local council TPNW pledges, and support divestment initiatives such as 'Don't Bank on the Bomb'.

2.2 Dr. Karen Bell — Defense Diversification & Alternative Defense Review

Dr. Karen Bell presented the core findings of the 'Alternative Defense Review' (published by CND and supported by the RMT and UCU):

- **Defense Spending vs. Security:** Countered claims that increased military spending yields security, citing research showing higher military expenditure correlates with increased likelihood of involvement in conflict.
- **Economic & Employment Reality:** Highlighted that defense spending is highly automated and inefficient for job creation compared to public services (spending £1M creates ~9.4 jobs in defense vs. 13.7 in public transport/services).
- **Environmental Impact:** Defense sector emissions remain massive (UK defense emissions exceed those of 60 entire nations; US military ranks 37th globally in emissions). 'Green defence' or decarbonizing military assets is not feasible.
- **Just Transition:** Advocated for a Defense Diversification Agency and respectful social dialogue with defense workers to redirect skilled labor toward green technology (e.g., converting shipyards to offshore wind turbine manufacturing). Noted success at the TUC where the UCU motion 'Wages Not Weapons' passed.

3.3 Laura Pidcock — Trade Union Solidarity & Economic Security

Laura Pidcock focused on bridging anti-nuclear activism with working-class economic struggles:

- **Human Security vs. Military Spending:** Stressed that true security resides in meeting daily human needs—decent housing, well-funded healthcare, education, and energy security—rather than escalating defense budgets.
- **Coalition Building:** Called for deeper alignment between peace organizations, trade unions, and anti-poverty campaigns, urging anti-war messaging to be framed around working-class economic priorities.

2.4 Rob Edwards — Nuclear Risk & Environmental Scrutiny

Rob Edwards detailed safety concerns and environmental hazards associated with nuclear infrastructure in Scotland:

- **Military & Civil Intertwining:** Emphasized that civil nuclear expansion directly supports military nuclear capability and infrastructure maintenance.
- **Safety Incidents & Waste:** Raised concerns regarding radioactive waste management, aging reactor risks, and safety incidents at naval bases (Faslane/Coulport) that are routinely understated by official bodies.

3. Resolutions & Formal Business Outcomes

Resolution Submission	Submitted by:
Resolution 1 (passed) Develop a policy document on how to message and confront the escalation of war in Ukraine / Taiwan and the potential use of nuclear weapons in these scenarios.	CND Northeast Scotland PASSED
Resolution 2 (withdrawn) War between Russia and Ukraine, backed by NATO, carries a significant danger of nuclear escalation. Trump's pressure on European states to increase their military spending is demonstrating the need to get ready for war! There is even talk of encouraging a 30% increase in cadets by 2030 through a voluntary gap-year scheme! All of this will seep into the popular consciousness to affirm that war is inevitable and with it the use of nuclear weapons . These weapons have been fed to the public as if they can be used and not affect the whole planet . As if their destruction can be contained. SCND needs to counter this narrative and create an alternative narrative of pushing for dialogue and negotiation warning of the consequences of potential nuclear war if the conflict escalates.	CND Northeast Scotland WITHDRAWN

Resolution 3 (passed) The Scottish Trade Union Peace Network welcomes Framing Statement produced by Scottish CND for discussion at AGM. The Scottish Trade Union Peace Network particularly welcomes reference to Just Transition away from nuclear weapons related areas into socially useful areas of the economy. The Scottish Trade Union Peace Network notes that the Alternative Defence Review report outlines how spending in areas of the economy such as health and education would generate substantially more jobs than spending equivalent amounts of money on military related expenditure. Scottish Trade Union Peace Network also agrees with the priority given in the Framing Statement to highlighting the work which signatory countries to the	Scottish Trade Union Peace Network PASSED
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TPNW are taking to further its aims. Scottish Trade Union Peace Network proposes the following actions in support of the Framing Statement: 1. Scottish CND and partner organisations should make a commitment to a monthly messaging programme to discredit the Deterrence arguments used to support the presence of nuclear weapons in Scotland. This messaging could take place via social media , letters and articles to newspapers. 2. Encourage local SCND groups to run public meetings on the Alternative Defence Review. 3. Support work to raise the profile of the TPNW within the Scottish Trade Union movement .	
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4. Action Points

- **2026 Election Mobilization:** Prepare policy briefings for MSP and MS candidates in Scotland and Wales to lock in parliamentary opposition to nuclear weapons.
- **TPNW Review Conference:** Organize Scottish civil society delegation and MSP attendance for the November 2026 TPNW Review Conference in New York.

- **Union Engagement:** Work alongside STUC and affiliated trade unions to promote the 'Wages Not Weapons' framework and advance just transition planning.
- **Public Education:** Distribute AGM video recordings and publication materials (Alternative Defence Review) to regional branches and community groups.