CND AGM and Policy Conference
4.10.26

Nigel Day, Oxford CND and Peter Gloyns, Salisbury CND attended this conference on behalf of the Southern Region. This report attempts to convey the main content and decisions, which will shape CND's campaigning in the coming year. If you would like any further information, please contact us.

Campaigning 2025–2026

The year has been dominated by the escalation in Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, the launch of the US/Israeli illegal war on Iran, alongside the expansion of Israel's genocidal war against the Palestinians. It has also seen an acceleration in the war drive across Europe and here in Britain. All these developments are continuing to increase the risk of nuclear weapons being used in war. The actions of the British government are only dragging the country even deeper into these conflicts and is increasing the nuclear dangers. Alongside the continued replacement of Trident, the government has confirmed the purchase of US nuclear-capable fighter jets. The country is now the third largest nuclear spender in the world. The use of British-made long-range drones by Ukraine to attack deep into Russian territory, targeting civilian infrastructure, has resulted in Russia threatening 'consequences'. The government's continued permission for Trump to use British bases like RAF Fairford in bombing Iran has led to Iran stating that these base are 'legitimate targets'. In response the government has argued it will defend them '24/7' and work with NATO allies.

Across Europe, the nuclear risks are growing. France's 'nuclear sharing' agreement means its nuclear-armed fighter jets could be deployed to nine European states, including Germany and Poland. Lithuania is preparing to lift its nuclear ban to enable hosting nuclear weapons.

In Britain, the worsening economic situation and devastating impact of climate breakdown have more starkly exposed the government's wrong

priorities around its ‘war-readiness’ agenda. Increasing military spending by a further £15 billion, funded by cuts to critical public services, has added to the government’s political crisis. Maximising pressure on the new Prime Minister, Andy Burnham, to reverse the war drive and nuclear expansion will be critical.

CND has worked hard to respond to all these rapid developments. We have further ramped up our protests and actions at military bases. In February we demonstrated at RAF Marham to spotlight opposition to the F-35A nuclear expansion. From March to August, we have organised two national demonstrations against the illegal war on Iran as well as protests at RAF Fairford, where US B-1, B-2 and B-52 bombers have been carrying out bombing missions on Iran. We also mobilised for the Lakenheath Alliance for Peace camp and blockade in April, which saw a greater number of young and new activists getting involved in non-violent direct action.

To focus on the growing nuclear threats and against expiry of the START Treaty, we organised protests at both the US and Russian embassies, during the NPT Review Conference. In New York, CND was well represented by Parliamentary CND Chair and Vice-Chair Jeremy Corbyn and Bell Ribeiro-Addy.

We’ve also continued to raise awareness about the impact of nuclear weapons, including webinars on new research as well as backing the nuclear test veterans’ call for an apology and compensation.

We supported the very successful International Peace Summit in London in June, which brought together over 3,000 peace and trade union activists from across Europe. This has helped us to strengthen our links with the peace and anti-nuclear and anti-bases movements in Europe.

We’re also been strengthening our trade union work, building on Alternative Defence Review by promoting new research to expose the ‘defence dividend’ myths. We’ve increased national and local affiliations and reaffiliations, and we’ve had a great presence at trade union conferences including UCU,

Unison and TUC.
We're working hard to engage more young people in CND, relaunching Youth & Student CND and holding regular online meetings to plan and support new activities.
We've continued to play a central role in the wider movement, helping organise demonstrations as part of the Palestine Coalition, as well as building the 500,000-strong 'Together' Alliance demonstration against the far right in March.

Other areas of work

• Supporting Global Network against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space week and supporting Parc against Darc
• Opposing government's expansion of nuclear power
• Producing Campaign magazine
• Increasing the reach and followers on social media
• Building our fundraising activities
• Securing mainstream media interviews and coverage

Resolutions 2026

1. **Opposing increasing nuclear dangers**

CND Conference notes:
1. In 2026, the hands of the doomsday clock were moved closer to midnight at 85 seconds.
2. Global spending on nuclear weapons reached a record level of $119 billion in 2025, with Britain overtaking Russia to become the third biggest spender in the world.
3. The British government's Defence Investment Plan includes £64 billion spending on nuclear weapons – representing the largest single area of military procurement in the Plan. Included within this is the purchase of US F35A nuclear-capable fighter jets.
4. French President Macron's new nuclear doctrine that enables other European countries, including Germany and Poland, to participate in nuclear exercises and host French nuclear-capable jets and submarines.

CND Conference further notes:
1. These nuclear developments go hand-in-hand with huge increases in military spending, particularly amongst NATO states in Europe, with, for instance, Germany's spending growing by 24 per cent to $114 billion.
2. The escalation of the Ukraine war in 2026, the intensification of the use of long-range missiles and drones and the increasing levels of

casualties.
CND believes:
The war-fighting agenda is increasing the threat of nuclear weapons being used in war. Britain is significantly contributing to this with the purchase of US F35A nuclear-capable fighter jets. The US deployment of new B61-12 nuclear bombs at RAF Lakenheath, means Britain is supporting US's plans for aggressive, pre-emptive use of nuclear weapons in war.
CND resolves:
1. Intensify our campaigning against Britain's nuclear expansion.
2. Strongly promote our 'People not Nukes' campaigning.
3. Strengthen our links with the European anti-bases movement.
4. Build our campaigning at Lakenheath and other US bases.
Sophie Bolt
ADOPTED

2. **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

CND Conference notes
a) The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) Review is to be convened for five days at the UN in New York from 30 November to the 4 December 2026.
b) The sabotage of the May 2026 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by both the US and UK delegation in favour of "nuclear deterrence remaining central to UK security".
c) Campaigning for advocacy of the Prohibition Treaty has been supported by CND National Council, Scottish CND and London CND and a steadily increasing number of towns and cities around the world are declaring their support for the TPNW.
d) The statements within days of his appointment as Defence Secretary by Wes Streeting that "The first duty of any government is to keep our country safe. My job as secretary of state is to maximise our deterrence, and ensure that should deterrence fail, we have the capacity to fight and win".
e) Both the Starmer administration and the incoming Burnham government have confused security with spending more on weapons.
"Warheads don't buy a safer world they make it more dangerous" - Ellie Chowns MP
CND Conference resolves
a) To critically expose the folly that security is achieved by rearmament for nuclear deterrence and advocate for a genuinely open public debate

on the UK's increasing militarisation.
b) To demand the Burnham government, sends representatives to the Prohibition Treaty Review with a determination to remove US weapons at UK bases and include the future Dreadnought program in negotiations.
c) In the event of a government refusal to attend the Prohibition Treaty demand a General Election with the issue of nuclear rearmament as a critical public issue.
Submitted by Tom Cuthbert,
Chair St Albans CND and Coordinating Group

Amendments to Resolution 2
Finchley CND
Changes to CND resolves:
Remove "critically" and replace "the UK's increasing militarisation" so it reads:
a) To expose the folly that security is achieved by rearmament for nuclear deterrence and advocate for a genuine open public debate on the priorities for national security, including building e.g security of food, water, energy and infrastructure.
Remove "to remove US weapons at UK bases and include the future Dreadnought program in negotiations." so it reads:
b) To demand the Burnham government send representatives to the Prohibition Treaty Review with a determination to: join the Nuclear Ban Treaty, remove US weapons at UK bases and to halt Britain's nuclear weapons expansion, instead directing those resources to build real national security as outlined above.
Remove the whole of c) In the event of a government refusal to attend the Prohibition Treaty demand a General Election with the issue of nuclear rearmament as a critical public issue.

ADOPTED with the amendment above.

3. **Campaigning against space-based warfare and US bases**

Conference notes:
1. The growing importance of space-based warfare capabilities in the preparation and execution of wars.
2. That former commander of UK Space Command, described space as the "central nervous system" of modern military operations.
3. The government Defence Investment Plan includes over £12 billion additional spending on military satellites and space control.
4. The government is preparing to release a new space strategy to bring civil and defence

priorities closer together.
5. President Trump's 'Golden Dome' missile defence project will undoubtedly involve US bases in the UK.
6. US bases in the UK including Fairford, Mildenhall, Croughton, Fylingdales and Menwith Hill, are assisting US wars in Gaza and Iran.
7. Declassified UK has reported that the UK's Tyche satellite provided intelligence information to the US before their attacks on Iran.
8. The US plans to spend $4 billion on its bases in the UK.
9. The ongoing involvement of US aerospace companies in space operations at Goonhilly Earth Station in Cornwall and forthcoming spaceports in Scotland.
Conference welcomes:
1. Protests at US bases at Lakenheath, Fairford, Croughton, Menwith Hill, Fylingdales and elsewhere.
2. The success of PARC against DARC, the campaign against the US Deep Space Advanced Radar Capability that would be part of the US ambition to dominate space.
Conference resolves to:
1. Continue to campaign against missile defence programmes.
2. Support and encourage opposition to US military bases in the UK and support July 4th protests to declare "Independence from America".
3. Continue to support the Global Network's "Keep Space for Peace" week in October.
Submitted by Dave Webb, Yorkshire CND

ADOPTED

4. **Demilitarising Higher Education – Welfare Over Warfare**

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament notes:
1. BAE Systems produces F-35 components used in Gaza bombings;
2. Universities maintain research links with arms manufacturers including BAE Systems, Babcock, Callen-Lenz, Elbit, Evolve Dynamics, Leonardo, Tekever, Teledyne, Thales UK, UAVTECH, and the Atomic Weapons Establishment; and
3. Many institutions have ethical investment policies prohibiting investments in arms companies, especially those complicit in war crimes.
The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament believes:
1. The military-industrial complex profits from human and environmental devastation;
2. University partnerships with arms companies violate human rights commitments and international law; and

3. Public institutions have a civic duty to advance peace and sustainability.
The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament resolves to:
1. Support the Demilitarise Education open letter calling on universities to adopt the dED Treaty;
2. Campaign for institutional transparency and termination of partnerships contravening ethical standards and international law;
3. Organise campus events amplifying the campaign with staff and students; and
4. Build coalitions with UNISON, Unite, NEU, UCU and other unions supporting demilitarisation of education.
Plymouth CND Branch / Tony Staunton

Amendments to Resolution 4

Greater Manchester and District CND
1. 2. 3. To amend the title adding “Technical and” to read “Demilitarising Technical and Higher Education – Welfare Over Warfare”
To add as a last point to ‘The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament notes’:
“the establishment of 5 Defence Technical Excellence Colleges in different parts of the country involving the MOD”
To ‘The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament resolves to’ section, insert into the final point ‘“all

branches of” to read:
· Build coalitions with UNISON, Unite, NEU, UCU and other unions supporting demilitarisation of all branches of education

ADOPTED, with the Amendment above

5. **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Centres**

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament notes
a) The government sees AI data centres as “Critical National Infrastructure (CNI)” prioritising their “rapid expansion, grid capacity, and strict environmental and resilience standards”;
b) The government is creating “AI Growth Zones (AIGZs)” linking “priority data centre sites directly to necessary power and planning support to drive artificial intelligence innovation”; and
c) Data centres are currently requesting 50 GW of grid connections – 5GW more than UK peak winter electricity demand.
The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament believes
a) b) AI is a weapon of war, tested in Gaza;
AI represents significant and damaging environmental impacts. Unchecked AI data centre growth is a lso a threat to jobs and a surveillance tool at work, jeopardising social infrastructure including water security and house-building;

c) Data centre energy demands cannot be met from renewables. It will require increased fossil fuel consumption and emissions, accelerating climate change; and
d) The government is advised by big tech lobbyists and cannot be trusted to enforce international law, human rights law or ethical and environmental standards.
The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament resolves
a) To support national and local community campaigns against the introduction of data centres;
b) To call on the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
i. to immediately implement a moratorium on data centre developments until there is a clear framework setting out how many data centres are needed, what they will be used for, and how their military, national security, social and environmental impacts will be subject to full and open public and parliamentary scrutiny and managed to mitigate harm, and
ii. Require all data centres to report on their power and water usage so that everyone can weigh up the environmental harms against any benefits they may bring; and
continue to highlight and expose the military and security dangers of Artificial Intelligence.
Plymouth CND / Tony Staunton

Amendments to Resolution 5

IAG

1. 2. 3. 4. To amend title adding ‘nuclear decision-making’ to read ‘Artificial Intelligence (AI), nuclear decision-making and Data Centres’

To add as a first point to The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament notes:
“that integrating AI into nuclear decision-making and targeting dangerously increases the risks of escalation and misperception, compressing timelines and generating ‘hallucinations’ that could trigger a nuclear war”
and re-letter subsequent three points appropriately

To add as a first point to The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament believes
“that delegating life-and-death decisions or integrating artificial intelligence into nuclear command systems threatens human survival”
and re-letter subsequent four points appropriately

To add as a first point to The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament resolves
“to support the call for a global ban on the use of AI in any nuclear decision-making to rule out the additional risks of escalation and misperception”

and re-letter subsequent three points appropriately

ADOPTED, with amendment above.

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Plymouth CND / Tony Staunton

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