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### **Websites / partner links:**

**NFLA:**  
<http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>  
**(Also links to Facebook and Twitter)**  
**CNFE:** <http://www.cnfe.eu>  
**MFP:** <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>  
**KIMO:** <http://www.kimointernational.org>  
**ICAN:** <http://www.icanw.org>  
**ICAN UK:** <http://www.ican-uk.org>

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A UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons poster (courtesy of ICAN)

## TPNW enters into force at United Nations

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> January the milestone of the entry into force at the United Nations of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons took place (TPNW).

52 states have now ratified the TPNW with another 34 in the process of doing so. Its entry into force means it is now a core part of

disarmament law.

Around 200 events were held by ICAN and other groups around the world welcoming this important milestone. It is expected the first TPNW State Parties conference will be in the autumn.

A joint statement, media release and Mayoral video messages were

issued by the Mayors for Peace, with ICAN and the NFLA. These call for greater effort by all to bring about nuclear disarmament.

Brighton & Hove, Leeds & Lancaster City Councils have passed resolutions giving their support for the TPNW. The joint statement can be found on the NFLA website.

## UK Energy White Paper gives strong support to new nuclear

Just prior to Christmas, the UK Government finally published a White Paper on energy policy.

The White Paper gave strong support to 'big' energy projects like new nuclear, offshore wind and hydrogen.

The Energy White Paper responds to the need for policies to reach 'net

zero' carbon emissions by 2050. This includes support for green transport, energy efficient buildings, finance and innovation.

New nuclear gets significant support in the White Paper. It pledges that at least one large new nuclear reactor will be approved by the end of this Parliament, gives

support to small modular reactors and for an experimental nuclear fusion reactor.

In its initial response, the NFLA argues that developing new nuclear projects at a time when renewable energy generation are at record levels makes little sense. An alternative energy focus is needed.

**NFLA media releases, January 2021:**  
**(On NFLA website)**

- The costs of Hinkley C go up as Wylfa B project ends
- Portishead dumping ground is possible new destination for 'Hinkley mud'
- Leading global cities welcome entry into force of the TPNW
- NFLA welcomes Brighton and Leeds supporting the TPNW
- Following White Paper, NFLA note all new nuclear projects have significant challenges
- NFLA troubled by UK Government not 'calling in' Cumbria deep coal mine decision

**Mayors for Peace Briefing on TPNW**

A detailed briefing on the entry into force on the TPNW, and wider Mayors for Peace Chapter progress can now be found on the NFLA website. It is well worth disseminating.

**NFLA AGM and Steering Committee set for February 5th**

The first NFLA Steering Committee of 2021 will also include its 2021/21 Annual General Meeting and it takes place on the 5<sup>th</sup> February.

NFLA members will be considering its core work programme going into a year when there have already been significant developme-

nts across core nuclear policy.

The AGM follows on from the NFLA's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary which took place at the end of 2020. It will also elect its Chair and Vice Chairs for the year, and approve a financial report, its constitution & its communications

policy.

The NFLA Steering Committee will be considering a number of consultation responses and plans for new reports. These include a transport report, an analysis on a part 'under sea' rad-waste repository and work on the climate emergency.

**NFLA raises concern over West Cumbria deep coal mine**

The NFLA has issued a media release raising real concern over the decision by the UK Communities Minister not to 'call in' a decision by Cumbria County Council to approve a deep underground coal mine.

Given the UK's zero carbon commitments, it appears bizarre to per-

mit a new coal mine to take place. Many local and national environmental groups spoke at Cumbria CC's inquiry into this decision, but councilors admitted that they did not feel they could oppose it.

NFLA also shares the concerns of local groups of the coal mines'

relatively close proximity to the Sellafield site, as well as the separate discussion now taking place in Cumbria over potentially hosting a deep under-ground rad-waste repository.

NFLA still hope this development may not take place.

**NFLA submits responses to NDA and ONR consultations**

The NFLA Secretariat has made submissions to the NDA on its Draft Business Plan, and to the ONR on its definition of bulk quantities.

The NDA Draft Business

Plan is a parallel process to its autumn consultation on its draft strategy for the period 2021 – 25. The NFLA makes a range of comments, including taking account of the

Public Accounts Committee report on costs and knowledge of NDA sites. The response to the ONR comments on its thinking towards how it may license a deep waste repository.

**NFLA / joint letters to the media, January 2021 (emailed to NFLA members)**

- NFLA support an ICAN UK joint letter to the Guardian supporting the entry into force of the TPNW

**RWM EXCHANGE AND A DEEP UNDERGROUND REPOSITORY**

The NFLA are engaging with other local and national NGOs in a new stakeholder engagement process with the RWM.

The RWM Exchange will look at its activity as communities start to engage over possibly hosting a deep underground repository. NFLA will keep a close eye on these processes.

**PROGRESSING DEFENCE DIVERSIFICATION**

The NFLA take a close interest in the evolving debate over defence diversification.

It welcomes a new process from the Nuclear Education Trust engaging with this debate in Scotland, with a detailed webinar held at the end of January.

## Costs of Hinkley Point C increases as Wylfa B plans end

EDF Energy has admitted that the costs of construction to its Hinkley Point C reactor site has risen again, by another £500 million to £23 billion.

The increase in costs arises from delays and complexities created by the Covid-19 pandemic. EDF Energy also note

that these delays has also meant its expected conclusion of the project has moved from the end of 2025 to mid-2026.

In a media release NFLA comment that this figure is eye-wateringly high and three times what was expected when this project was

mooted in 2008. At the time, EDF also said it would be completed by late 2017.

The day after this announcement, Hitachi wrote to the UK Government formally ending its interest in the Wylfa B development. Years of effort and large resource have come to nothing.

## NFLA Forums & Mayors for Peace Chapter progress

Plans are being put in place to set up meetings over the next three months for the four National NFLA Forums and the UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter.

The NFLA Scotland Forum has been set for the 11<sup>th</sup> February. It will include a business meeting and its Annual

General Meeting.

A NFLA English Forum is provisionally set for the 5<sup>th</sup> March and will look at new nuclear, a partly under-sea repository & local energy.

A NFLA All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum is set for the 12<sup>th</sup> March and will focus on local energy, Irish energy policy and an Irish Sea

under-sea repository.

The NFLA Welsh Forum is provisionally taking place on the 19<sup>th</sup> March and will look at the Hinkley mud issue, SMRs in North Wales and local energy.

The NFLA Steering Committee and a Mayors for Peace Chapter is planned for the 26<sup>th</sup> March.

## Forthcoming dates or meetings of interest to NFLA members

**NFLA Steering Committee and AGM, 5<sup>th</sup> February**

**NFLA Scotland AGM, business meeting and webinar, 11<sup>th</sup> February**

**NFLA English Forum webinar, 5<sup>th</sup> March**

**NFLA All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum webinar, 12<sup>th</sup> March**

**NFLA Welsh Forum, 19<sup>th</sup> March**

**NFLA Steering Committee and UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter, 26<sup>th</sup> March**