



# OXFORD CND

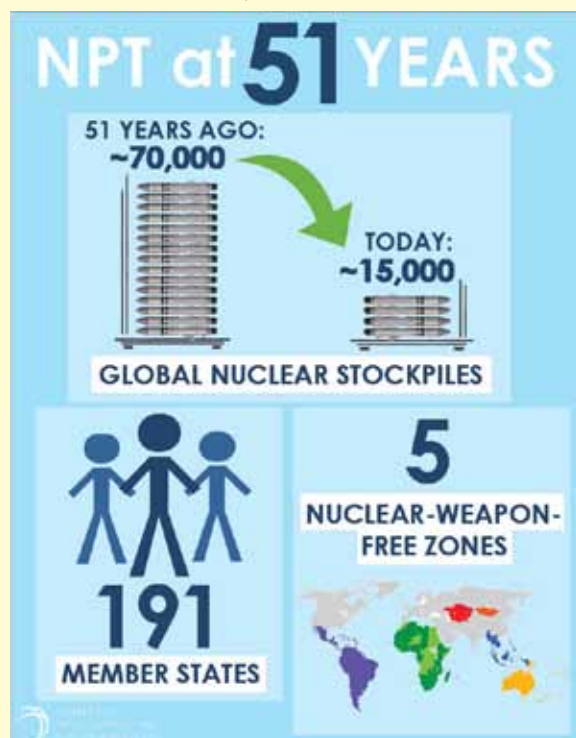
## NEWSLETTER

January/February 2022



# Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

The postponed forthcoming 10th nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference will be held sometime at UN Headquarters in New York. The NPT is a landmark international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament. The Treaty represents the only binding commitment in a multilateral treaty to the goal of disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States. Opened



for signature in 1968, the Treaty entered into force in 1970. On 11 May 1995, the Treaty was extended indefinitely. A total of 191 States have joined the Treaty, including the five nuclear-weapon States. More countries have ratified the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement, a testament to the Treaty's significance.

The current review process of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty must have a successful outcome in 2022. This cornerstone treaty must remain strong for non-proliferation, disarmament, and the peaceful use of nuclear power.

It must have concrete outcomes – real steps towards disarmament, not the nuclear weapons modernisation programmes that all these countries are undertaking, the arsenal increases and the additional scenarios for nuclear use which some are now adopting.

**Oxford Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament**

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# Renewal and Hope

The New Year is the time for resolutions, even if many of us don't quite manage to keep them. It should also be the time for nation-states and international organizations to make their own resolutions for the future – and never more so than now. Yet these too have a regrettable habit of being broken, or left half-fulfilled or not at all. Who remembers the three Decades of Development (1961-90) followed by that glorious Decade of Decision when the great powers were going to Solve the Middle East Question and Realise the Peace Dividend? It didn't quite happen.

Perhaps "resolution" is too weak a word since it carries the suspicion that it may falter. How about a global "reset" then? Unfortunately, these too tend not to last much longer than the professed good intentions behind them. What is needed is a more radical commitment, and the word "renewal" seems the most appropriate. There have been some amazing achievements in the past and we should seek to rekindle the enthusiasm that brought them to life.

Here in the UK we strive to maintain and renew the founding principles of the NHS, that it meets the needs of everyone, and is based upon respect, compassion, and universality. Though these are under attack, countless thousands of citizens including many politicians are quite clear about the need to defend them. The same is still broadly true of the core tenets of the welfare state.

On the environment, we may regret that progress has been so slow though the effect of human activity on the climate was recognised long ago. But we should be encouraged by the vastly greater awareness today, and the near-complete defeat of the climate sceptics.

Globally, the key reference point should be the founding principles of the UN, and it is refreshing to see the current Secretary-General António Guterres defend them so frequently, but they are in dire need of renewal. The words of the Charter and particularly of its Preamble cannot be quoted too often: "To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war... To reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights... To promote social progress and

better standards of life in larger freedom..."

This has been the solid basis of principle upon which the huge edifice of UN social and human rights bodies has been built for three-quarters of a century, and we should celebrate what has been achieved even while we admit that much more needs to be done.

In Britain, where news from the UN is scanty and skewed by pretensions of great-power status, the extent to which the rank and file of the membership continues to assert and defend the founding principles is easily overlooked.. Such defence goes back to 1945 when the smaller nations at the San Francisco Conference struggled against the Big Five to make the UN more of a "genuine society of nations".

Although the Security Council's veto power could not be dislodged, there were important gains in the Charter's provisions on international justice and economic and social goals.

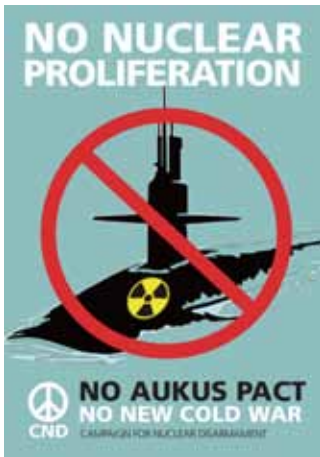
This is not to overlook conflicting interests that can and often do divide the wider community of nations whether large or small. Yet joint action is possible, and has been shown in achieving the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons,

and in the voices raised at COP26. But new goals have to be pursued just as the world faces new challenges. The combined threat of pandemics, the climate crisis, plus ever-present nuclear risks, on top of persistent world poverty and inequality, has created a nexus of dangers for which existing remedies will never suffice. This challenge is beginning to move up the peace agenda, and more than fifty Nobel laureates have signed an open letter calling for all military spending to be cut by two percent a year for the next five years, to be put into a new UN fund to combat these dangers.

"We are not made for an exclusive self-sufficiency but for interdependence, and we break the law of our being at our peril", the late and much-lamented Desmond Tutu told his Nobel Prize audience. It is time now to reassert and renew that fundamental law of human existence. ■

**John Gittings**





## AUKUS

On September 15 2021, with no public consultation, Australia entered into a trilateral security arrangement with Britain and the United States, known as the AUKUS Partnership. This is expected to become a Treaty in 2022. Politicians are apparently unconcerned that the US and UK will be assisting Australia to acquire new long-range strike capabilities including the provision of nuclear-powered submarines fuelled by weapons grade uranium. and appear to have ignored the potential threats to peace and stability inherent in such military escalation. In the UK, CND is calling on the UK government to focus its resources instead on funding our NHS more adequately and on meeting the social care needs of our communities. Indeed, CND wants the government to halt all its dangerous and provocative nuclear adventures. ■

## Speed kills – The Growing Threat from Hypersonic Weapons

Behind the scenes, arms companies and military powers are quietly developing a new class of weapon system that uses speed to project deadly force. Through travelling at extreme speed, hypersonic weapons can strike targets anywhere in the world in a very short period of time.

While these weapons are mostly at the development stage, once deployed they could introduce great instability and threaten global peace and security, particularly at times of crisis. A nation under attack would be unable to tell where a hypersonic missile is going, or whether it carries a nuclear warhead, creating a significant risk of misunderstanding and escalation. The speed of hypersonic weapons would dangerously narrow

the time available for working out the nature of an attack and making a reasoned decision on how to respond, and would create 'use it or lose it' pressure on nations to strike first. A briefing, the first in a series published by Drone Wars UK as part of their 'Future Wars' project, examines the development of hypersonic weapons, the UK's involvement, and the risks they pose to peace and security – <https://dronewars.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Future-Wars-Speed-kills2.pdf>



## NPT postponed

A U.N. conference on nuclear non-proliferation due to take place in New York from early January is postponed again because of surging COVID-19 cases. The meeting to review the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was scheduled to be held Jan. 4 to 28 in New York after being delayed three times from its original date in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The NPT, joined by 191 countries, is the world's most widely ratified nuclear arms control agreement.

At the beginning of December CND met with a top United Nations official to report the UK government for breaking international law. The UK government's announcement earlier in the year that it will increase Britain's nuclear arsenal by over 40% puts Britain in

breach of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) which it signed in 1968. CND supporters backed the campaign to report the UK to the UN were delighted to present the legal opinion and the signatures of thousands of supporters to the President of the upcoming NPT Review Conference.

Ambassador Gustavo Zlauvinen congratulated CND on this work and emphasised the importance of grassroots campaigning to secure international nuclear disarmament. The Ambassador had read the legal opinion, and in a very fruitful meeting, discussed ways forward for the mutual aim of achieving a world without nuclear weapons. CND is now working on the next steps in the NPT process to make sure the UK is held to account for its actions. ■

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# There is No Such Thing as 'Civil' Nuclear Power

Nuclear energy is and has always been closely connected to military use and has always been about the power in continued weapons proliferation.

Much has been made regarding the recycling of fissile plutonium from spent nuclear fuel but this results in huge amounts of weapons usable plutonium available worldwide, when it only takes about 4kg of plutonium-239 to relatively easily manufacture a nuclear device and provides

consistent quantities of uranium 235 and plutonium 238 needed in nuclear weapons. Nuclear power exists to supply the military-industrial complex and the UK has stockpiled huge amounts of fissile isotopes over the years and now "needs" them not just for bombs but for new battlefield weapons.

Nuclear technology transfers to further military use in submarines and other military reactors, with the need to continue those specialist "civil" nuclear skills in order to perpetuate that. ■

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## EU makes nukes green

Germany and Austria have expressed their fury over a French victory on EU rules that would open the door to new investment in nuclear power. The European Commission's proposed new "taxonomy" rules will allow private investment in atomic energy to be linked to climate policy subsidies as well as funding for gas-fuelled power stations to replace coal-fired generators. "The EU commission took

a step towards greenwashing nuclear power and fossil gas yesterday in a night and fog action," Leonore Gewessler, the Austrian climate protection minister, said. "They are harmful to the climate and the environment and destroy the future of our children." Greenpeace UK has urged Boris Johnson not to allow gas or nuclear to be included in Britain's own green investment rules. ■

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## Possible Generic Fault with Reactor Type at Hinkley C

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities network (NFLA) has written to the Minister of State for Energy and the Head of the Office of Nuclear Regulation calling for an indefinite halt to construction work at the new Hinkley Point C nuclear plant whilst the impact of the Taishan-1 nuclear accident in China is investigated. The Chair of the NFLA Steering Committee, Councillor David Blackburn, has written to Minister Greg Hands and Chief Executive Mark Foy outlining concerns that a radioactive gas leak at the Taishan 1 reactor in China has uncovered a potentially fatal design flaw which could have a serious impact

on the UK Government's plans to permit identical reactors to operate at Hinkley Point C in Somerset and at Sizewell C in Suffolk. The Hinkley Point and Sizewell projects would both, like Taishan-1, be equipped with EPRs (short for European Pressurised or Evolutionary Power Reactors). EPR projects have a history of safety concerns, massive delays and huge cost overruns. Although the Hinkley Point C is planned to come on line in 2026, plants at Olkiluoto 3 in Finland and Flammaville 3 in France are now 13 and 11 years behind schedule respectively. Sizewell is still awaiting final government authorisation. ■

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## Radioactivity in Wales from Hinkley

Research finds 'significant concentrations' of radioactivity in samples taken from across the Somerset and south Wales coast and has concluded that the spread of man-made radioactivity from reactor discharges into the Bristol Channel is far more extensive and widespread than previously reported.

The research has also detected a high concentration of radioactivity in Splott Bay, which could be linked to the controversial dumping of dredged waste off the Cardiff coast in 2018.

The survey was undertaken over the summer by groups from both sides of the Bristol Channel after EDF Energy refused to carry out pre-dumping surveys of the Cardiff Grounds and Portishead sea dumpsites where they have disposed of waste from the construction of the Hinkley Point C nuclear power plant.

Overall, the study found significant concentrations of Hinkley derived radioactivity in samples from all 11 sites, seven along the Somerset coast and four in south Wales. ■

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## Thursday 4 November – Day of Action on Climate Change and Militarism

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change does not require Governments to report one of the most significant emissions, by the military. On Thursday 4th November there was a 'Climate not Trident' banner display outside the Oxford University Officers' Training Corps at Falklands House in Oxpens Road. ■



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## Saturday 6th November COP26 – Global Day for Climate Justice

Members of Oxford CND took part, with banners, in this 3,000 strong march through Oxford, and showed the link between militarism and climate change. ■

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## Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp, December 2021

Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp, December 2021 – a number of gates at AWE Aldermaston had 'Crime Scene Actions' with campers in white radiation suits with police tape and banners marking the crimes against climate, nuclear proliferation and the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). ■



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## ONR report AWE Aldermaston

The Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston is to remain under enhanced scrutiny for another year. The nuclear watchdog, the Office for Nuclear Responsibility (ONR), has just published its report in to safety at both Aldermaston and Burghfield in West Berkshire.

The report says the key areas of concern are the 'ageing facilities and infrastructure.' The plants build and maintain the UK's nuclear missile deterrent, Trident. Eight people were injured at Aldermaston in separate incidents in the last year. Three at Burghfield.

Michael Finnerty, ONR's operating facilities

director, said: "We are maintaining our enabling approach to ensure that further safety improvements necessary at Aldermaston are delivered in a timely fashion and that the safety improvements demonstrated at Burghfield continue to be sustained. However, we will continue to hold these sites to account should they fall short of the expected standards."

The report says Aldermaston has made some progress, but significant improvement will need to be delivered in key areas, with consideration for a move to routine attention not thought likely before the end of 2022 at the earliest. ■

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## Cyber-attack on UK's Defence Academy

Former senior officer says unsolved hack of the UK's Defence Academy and Joint Services Command and Staff College in Shrivenham, Oxfordshire's systems did not succeed but still had costs. The cyber-attack on the UK's Defence Academy caused "significant" damage, a retired high-ranking officer has revealed. The attack,

which was discovered in March 2021, meant the Defence Academy was forced to rebuild its network, but the damage has yet to be fully rectified months on. The Defence Academy teaches 28,000 military personnel, diplomats and civil servants a year and moved more online during the pandemic. ■

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## Oxford University's ties to nuclear weapons

Freedom of Information requests submitted by *Cherwell* have revealed that Oxford University accepted at least £726,706 from the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), the designer and producer of the UK's nuclear warheads, during the years 2017-19 alone. The majority of this money was awarded to the Oxford Centre for High Energy Density Science (OxCHEDS), which advertises AWE as one of its "national partners" on its website.

AWE's funding is mostly used by OxCHEDS to fund individual research projects and studentships, with a substantial portion (£82,863 in 2019) funding the department's William Penney Fellowship, named after the head of the British delegation for the Manhattan Project and 'father of the British atomic bomb'. This fellowship is currently shared by two professors, Justin Wark and Peter Norreys, both of whom collaborate closely with US state laboratories that develop nuclear weapons, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

AWE donations have also funded projects at the University's Departments of Chemistry, Engineering, and Physics, a number of which are directly linked to the design of nuclear weapons.

One AWE-funded paper, published in 2019, investigated fusion yield production, a vital way of testing the destructive power of a warhead prior to manufacturing, whilst another project researched the methods used by nuclear weapons designers for simulating the interior of a detonating warhead.

However, AWE is not a civilian organisation. As Andrew Smith of Campaign Against the Arms Trade told *Cherwell*, "the AWE exists to promote the deadliest weaponry possible. It is not funding these projects because it cares about education, but because it wants to benefit from the research and association that goes with it". Mr. Smith concluded: "Oxford University should be leading by example, not providing research and cheap labour for the arms industry".

Responding to *Cherwell's* findings, Dr Stuart Parkinson, Director of Scientists for Global Responsibility, described Oxford University's ties with AWE as "shocking" and called for the work to be "terminated immediately". He said that the findings "point very clearly to Oxford University researchers being involved in the development of weapons of mass destruction". ■



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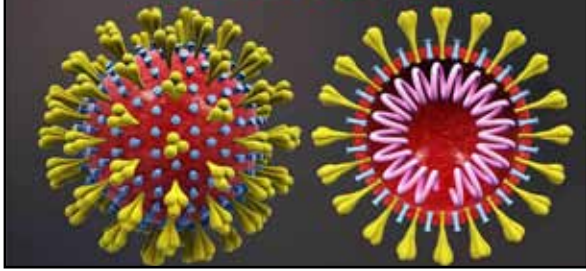
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## Wash our hands of Trident



## Diary

**MONTHLY ALL YEAR:** USAF Croughton main gate Quaker meeting 2-3pm (fourth Saturday of the month). Contact: **Elisabeth Salisbury** – **01865 515163**.

### January

**Wednesday 5th** – Faringdon Peace Group meeting – 7.30pm

**8th-9th** – Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp – Nuala 01865 749459.

**Monday 10th** – Parliamentary CND webinar -information@cnduk.org – **POSTPONED!**

**Tuesday 18th** – Abingdon Peace Group meeting – 8.00pm

**Friday 28th** – Oxfordshire Peace Campaign meeting – 5.00pm.

### February

**Wednesday 2nd** – Faringdon Peace Group meeting – 7.30pm

**11th-12th** Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp – Nuala 01865 749459.

**Tuesday 15th** – Abingdon Peace Group - 8.00pm.

**Sunday 20th** – CND online conference 'Working for Peace in the Middle East' – [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_HDY-WnokSHSwd0LSs3OMcw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HDY-WnokSHSwd0LSs3OMcw)

### Best list of news items, webinars etc:

[https://www.cndsalisbury.org.uk/news\\_items](https://www.cndsalisbury.org.uk/news_items)



## Latest News

**Stand where you are!  
Use what you have!  
Do what you can!**

Graffiti at Brighton Station seen by Peter Burt.

**NURSES  
NOT  
NUKES**



### Membership subscriptions 2022 Please pay your subscription soon!

If you pay your subscription by cheque please can you pay us as soon as possible. Oxford CND needs that money to campaign and send you information and newsletters. We are also very grateful for extra donations.

Subs are very reasonable – £10 or £5 low wage, but are essential for us to continue to campaign. Standing orders can continue as before.

Make cheques for 2022 payable to Oxford CND and send to: Membership, 22 Downside Road, Oxford, OX3 8HP.

### Oxford CND Newsletter by email

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### Oxford Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

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### Contributions to the next issue...

Please send letters and items to:  
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No later than **February 20th 2022**