

How to get our councils to support the TPNW: CND information pack

Towns and cities around the world are signing up to support the United Nations' Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Through their support, these towns and cities – and countryside communities too - are playing their part in creating a world without nuclear weapons.

Councils who have already backed the treaty officially in the UK include Edinburgh, Manchester and Oxford. Who will be next?

How to get started

Campaigners across the UK are already working on campaigns to get their local councils to adopt motions of support for the TPNW. Take a look in this spreadsheet to see if anyone is active in your area, or add your own details if you're happy for others to contact you –

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1GKXrpMMr5G1HbZ9J6gzWh6sT7tydR6i_aWXFohnLXbU/e/dit#gid=0

Get in touch with local councillors

Usually a councillor would need to submit a motion in favour of the TPNW for their colleagues to vote on. Find your councillors on your local council's website and get in touch to see if they support the treaty. You may find Green, (some) Labour, Plaid Cymru and SNP councillors more sympathetic and so feel free to contact any councillors in the area rather than just your direct local representative.

A draft motion to suggest could be as follows, but you or the councillor should feel free to adapt as necessary:

(Your Council's name) _____ declares its support for the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), a historic treaty which prohibits its signatories from developing, testing and using nuclear weapons.

(Your Council's name) _____ recognises the necessity of creating a nuclear weapons-free world and as such condemns the United Kingdom government's refusal to sign or ratify this landmark treaty.

In adopting this resolution, the council therefore unequivocally declares its support for the TPNW. Furthermore, council calls on the United Kingdom government to work for global denuclearisation by:

- *Signing and ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, thereby joining the global majority of countries opposed to nuclear weapons.*
- *Cancelling the replacement of Trident, Britain's nuclear weapons system.*
- *Utilising all diplomatic avenues possible to work towards a nuclear-free world*

Building support

If you don't initially get a favourable response from any councillors, or in preparation for a vote, it will be helpful to display local support for the motion.

Collecting petition signatories can be a great way to show support for a motion, and to spread awareness of the treaty in general. Petition sheets can be sent out from the CND office, as well as general leaflets and briefings on the TPNW (contact enquiries@cnduk.org).

You may wish to arrange a traditional rally outside your local council building with speakers and chanting. Alternatively, you may decide that a visual stunt would work better. You may want to organise a banner-drop near a council building or dress up in fancy dress. A die-in could also be effective, or even a webinar. CND would be happy to provide a speaker for any event along these lines, just get in touch.

One way of reaching a new audience is to work with your local library to put on an exhibition about the TPNW and the campaign to get the local council on board. This could be a simple display or perhaps you have time to create something more in-depth and interactive. And if your library isn't available for an exhibition, you could try contacting community centres.

Press and social media

Local press across the country has been taking an interest in these campaigns. It would be a good idea to contact your local publications with the details of the campaign, or send in a letter for the letters page.

Social media posts are also a good idea for spreading awareness about your efforts, and can help put pressure on your local councillors. It's always a good idea to include attractive and colourful photos.

Please contact Pádraig McCarrick, CND's press officer, if you would like any support with press and social media (email pressoffice@cnduk.org or phone 020 7700 2393).

Good luck!