

In 1945, the first atomic bomb ever to be used was dropped by the United States on **Hiroshima**. Three days later, a second bomb was dropped on **Nagasaki**. The human carnage was beyond imagining, hundreds of thousands of civilians died and the effects of those bombs are still evident today. The legacy of those events has a major influence on our modern world, with huge resources devoted to ever more powerful nuclear arsenals, the use of which would end the world as we know it.

The current wars in **Ukraine** and **Israel** have brought nuclear weapons back to centre stage, and the threat to use them is alarming all nations around the world. There is a risk of uncontrollable escalation leading to annihilation, with enough nuclear warheads to destroy the world several times over.

Our UK government has agreed to allow the **USA** to bring nuclear weapons back to **RAF Lakenheath** in Suffolk without any parliamentary discussion. This is provocative and will make the UK more of a target. US nuclear weapons were cleared from UK soil before and need to be resisted once more.

Each year, in **Hiroshima**, candle lanterns are floated to remember those nuclear bombs and all who have been victims of nuclear weapons or nuclear testing.

Salisbury Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has been conducting a similar annual candle float for many years. This year, our lanterns are joined by lanterns decorated by Japanese school children, expressing our joint determination that the world should be free from the threat posed by nuclear weapons. We are also honoured to have a letter from the **Mayor of Hiroshima** supporting our event and reinforcing its message.

In 2022, **Salisbury City Council** voted to become a member of the international movement of **Mayors for Peace**. This gives our annual event an added focus.

On 22nd January 2021 the **United Nations Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)** came into force. So far, 93 countries have signed this new United Nations treaty which makes nuclear weapons illegal in the countries that ratify it. This treaty provides the much needed route for the world to free itself from the threat that nuclear weapons pose to our very existence.

However, it is deeply regrettable that our own Government is turning its back on the rest of the world, not just by retaining a huge arsenal of nuclear weapons, but also by enhancing that arsenal by **40%**. The UK had previously committed to reduce its nuclear weapons stockpile, and in 2010, the government set a cap of 180 warheads for the mid-2020 period. Boris Johnson scrapped the earlier limit and said the number would now rise to a maximum of **260**. Keir Starmer recently stated “ Our commitment to the UK’s nuclear deterrent is absolute”.

59% of the public want the UK government to sign the **TPNW**, according to a poll commissioned by CND.

Please join us at the Candle Float and reflect on these matters with us.

To reassure you, all lanterns are recovered from the river at the end of the candle float.

**For more information and to join Salisbury CND go to: www.cndsalisbury.org.uk
Or telephone: 01722 321865**