

CND Conference 2024 Resolutions

1. Global Dynamics

For 66 years, CND has worked to eradicate nuclear weapons and the threat of nuclear war - for half of that time, during the Cold War, sometimes seeming on the brink of nuclear annihilation. Briefly after the Cold War ended, there were genuine hopes of a new world order of peace and justice, and a peace dividend to benefit all. Three decades on, the reverse is true. Powerful global dynamics are pushing us closer to the edge, to nuclear war.

In 1992 the Wolfowitz Doctrine declared that the US was the sole global superpower, and its main objective should be to maintain that status. Subsequent US foreign and defence policy – including through NATO - have been shaped to that end. The ongoing expression of this policy is the determination to contain China. This is taking an increasingly militarised form, underpinned ideologically by the 'new axis' narrative; new arms races are underway, global nuclear arsenals are on the increase.

Whoever enters the White House, this dynamic will continue, threatening the very future of all forms of life on earth. Our role, as ever, is to expose and oppose it.

Conference believes:

1. that the global majority supports neither a unipolar, nor a bipolar world, but a multi-polar world, where all states and peoples can develop and flourish in common security
2. that the US drive for continued global domination, backed by Britain, runs counter to the interests of all peoples and is already resulting in a degraded planet, mass killings and dislocation, intensified militarisation creating a culture of nationalism and squandering resources, limiting democratic rights
3. that a new agenda for peace is essential, at both national and international level, helping not only to reduce and remove the risk of nuclear war, but shifting societal values and political culture away from growing far-right trends

Conference therefore resolves:

1. to engage with all partner organisations to strengthen our alliances, recognising the major political challenges that are confronting our society
2. to amplify the links between campaigns and movements, sharing common perspectives for peace and justice
3. to engage increasingly with movements and campaigns from countries in the global south and elsewhere, where we have commonality of aims and analysis.

Submitted by Kate Hudson

2. Campaigning for Nuclear Disarmament Under a New Government

Despite demonstrable support for peace candidates in GE2024, conference notes

1. mounting calls to prepare for war from politicians, security thinktanks, and sections of the military
2. the Labour government and Conservative opposition are committed to
 - maintaining Trident

- strengthening Britain's relationship with NATO, and
 - raising military spending to 2.5%
3. the Strategic Defence Review will
- determine UK military priorities
 - be conducted by an ex-NATO Secretary-General, senior ex-member of the UK military, and former US presidential advisor
 - consider those submission which conform to the criteria laid out in the SDR terms of reference, and
 - report in the first half of 2025

Conference further notes

4. CND's No 1 strategic objective remains the elimination of British nuclear weapons, and the first point in our Statement of Aims is to change government policies
5. divisions in the peace and wider labour movements over Britain's nuclear weapons and war policies despite the growing possibility of nuclear war, in particular the UK's role in arming Ukraine

Conference considers

6. the difficult contemporary context in which CND operates does not lessen the importance of maintaining our commitment to eliminate Trident
7. campaigning against increases in military spending allows CND to link up with organisations and activists both in and outside the Labour Party who are campaigning on urgent domestic issues, such as cost-of-living, social spending, education, and housing crises

Conference resolves to increase pressure on government by

- a) stepping up campaigning on the cost of Trident and global nuclear weapons spending
- b) linking up with organisations and activists in and outside the Labour Party on military spending and the cost of nuclear weapons
- c) producing briefings and campaigning materials, in conjunction with Labour CND, to both assist our supporters in focussing on parties and candidates in their locality and introduce this material into CND's other national campaigning

and calls on the Officer Team to discuss this as a matter of urgency

Submitted by Labour CND

3.National Event at BAE Systems in Barrow-In-Furness

Conference notes that:

1. A crucial part of plans to renew the UK's Trident nuclear weapons system involves the building of four Dreadnought class submarines by BAE Systems at its shipyard in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.
2. BAE Systems says that "Work on the first two boats in the class - Dreadnought and Valiant - is well underway" (<https://www.baesystems.com/en-uk/product/dreadnought>).

3. During the 2024 General Election campaign, the Labour Party stated that it “has a ‘triple-lock’ commitment to the UK nuclear submarine programme, including commitment “to building four new nuclear submarines in Barrow-in-Furness” (<https://labour.org.uk/updates/stories/labours-defence-policy-how-we-will-provide-strong-national-defence-for-britain/>).

4. BAE Systems is the UK’s largest arms manufacturer producing a range of weapons including submarines for the Trident nuclear weapons system and rear fuselages for all the world’s F35s warplanes including those used by Israel in its genocidal attacks on Gaza and those based at RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk.

5. The economic future of Barrow-in-Furness and its hinterland is becoming ever more dependent on BAE Systems.

6. The current UK Government, like preceding Governments, has no policies in place that would make any significant contribution to reducing the dependence of places like Barrow on arms manufacturing and on BAE Systems, in particular.

Conference resolves to:

1. Organise a national event to be held in Barrow-in-Furness during 2025, to be focused on the involvement of BAE Systems in the Trident nuclear weapons system.

2. Urge all groups affiliated to CND and others to attend and support this event.

3. Highlight the role played by BAE Systems in the ‘renewal’ of the Trident nuclear weapons system, the need for Government policies that will facilitate and promote a greater diversity of employment opportunities in areas like Barrow-in-Furness, and the ways in which planned Government spending on so-called ‘Trident renewal’ could be redeployed, if ‘Trident renewal’ was cancelled.

4. Support related campaigns which identify and oppose the involvement of BAE Systems in weapons production and the arms trade, including those focused on the production of rear fuselages for F35s at BAE Systems in Salmesbury, Lancashire.

Submitted: Philip Gilligan

4. Building the Movement Against New US Nukes in Britain

Conference notes:

1. Reports that the US plan to start deploying B61-12 nuclear bombs at NATO bases, including Lakenheath, from Spring 2025.
2. The intensifying of nuclear dangers between the US and Russia with President Biden authorising Ukraine to use US weapons to hit military targets inside Russia.

3. NATO's continued expansion following membership of Sweden and Finland.
4. Statements by Britain's new Defence Secretary that the government will be the 'leading European nation' in NATO.

Conference further notes:

Ongoing involvement of Lakenheath in conflicts around the world, including in the Middle East. For example, as well as regular joint exercises with the Israeli and Saudi air forces, in April 2024 fighter pilots from RAF Lakenheath were involved in shooting down Iranian drones over Israel.

Conference welcomes:

Increased opposition to the developments at Lakenheath, greater media interest and mobilisations at the base, including the establishment of Lakenheath Alliance for Peace (LAP), a coalition of about 40 groups – including CND - and its successful march, peace camp and brave NVDA action in July.

Conference Believes:

Lakenheath's greater role in the US and NATO's nuclear war machine intensifies the threat of nuclear weapons being used in war and puts Britain on the frontline of any nuclear confrontation between the US and Russia.

Conference Resolves to:

1. Redouble our efforts to build the strongest campaign possible to stop delivery of US nuclear weapons to Britain.
2. Continue to raise awareness about the role the base plays in conflicts across the world, including nuclear-armed Israel's genocidal war against the Palestinian people
3. Continue to build our work with all those in parliament, local authorities and councillors, trade unions, students and the wider anti-war and climate movements to back our call for Lakenheath to be a nuclear-free zone.
4. Strengthen our work to support the regionally organised campaigns against these new US nuclear weapons and actions at the base
5. Build our national demonstration at Lakenheath on Saturday 2nd November
6. Actively promote and build the monthly vigils taking place the last Saturday of each month (except December) building up to the next LAP peace camp from the 14th to 25th April 2025.

Submitted by Sophie Bolt. Supported by Norwich CND.

5. Direct Peaceful Action

Conference Believes:

1. In the seriousness of CND's demands for a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons.
2. That all avenues of campaigning and action within the bound of morality should be employed to achieve CND's vision, with no form of action being neglected unless there is a well-communicated strategic or logistical reason.
3. That coalitions strengthen our voices so long as we remain clear on our focus.

Conference Notes:

1. That campaigning through the mainstream avenues provided by the state, including petitions and engagement with members of parliament, has its place in our movement.
2. That the establishment has proven to be corrupt to the core and unyielding to our call, thus making mainstream avenues a very slow method for change; they cannot be solely relied on to achieve CND's vision.
3. That the last year has demonstrated the power of direct, peaceful action that disrupts the ordinary motions of society, including the work of Palestine Action and the student encampments for Palestine.
4. That the encampment organised by Lakenheath Alliance for Peace in July 2024 were diligently planned and well organised; this action is a noteworthy example of direct actions done right.

Conference Resolves:

1. To recognise the positive impact of long term, direct peaceful action in the anti-nuclear movement.
2. To create a network and space for long time activists in the anti-nuclear movement and newer activists to coordinate and share skills.
3. To strengthen CND's coordination with Lakenheath Alliance for Peace for actions at Lakenheath
4. To organise a national online focus session to support, empower and connect local activists to campaign in their area for the anti-nuclear cause.

Submitted by: Junayd Islam

6. Globalising NATO: preparing for World War

Conference notes

with no end to the Ukraine conflict in sight and the prospect of nuclear war closer than ever before, NATO's 2024 summit statement encouraged greater belligerence:

- pledging further and long-term military assistance to Ukraine including €40bn for the next year
- identifying China as the 'decisive enabler' of Russia's war and warning of 'negative impact'
- announcing plans for long-range US cruise missiles to be deployed periodically in Germany in 2026

Further notes

1. several NATO members including Britain are allowing Ukraine to use their donated weapons against military targets within Russia's borders
2. ground-launched missiles were deployed for the first time since the collapse of the INF Treaty in 2019 in military exercises with the Philippines in May 2024
3. Russia has moved tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus and the US is looking to strengthen extended nuclear deterrence with Japan and South Korea

considers that

1. the summit represents a major step towards a global NATO with the Euro Atlantic linked to Indo Pacific in a two-pronged strategy to escalate the Ukraine conflict, then blame China
2. claims of a 'Russia-China-Iran-North Korea axis' are exaggerated warmongering aimed at stoking preparations for wider war

3. peaceful solutions or paths to peace are available in all the above cases and should be urgently pursued
4. Israel's genocidal war on Gaza and risks of overspill across the Middle East together with the prospects of another unpredictable Trump presidency stoke the escalatory atmosphere
5. nuclear threats and proliferation are escalating with the situation verging on a Cold War-style arms race

resolves to

1. call on the International Advisory Group to closely monitor and assess the risks and dangers of the above developments but equally to weigh prospects for peace
2. consult with CND officers on building these considerations into CND campaigning
3. establish and strengthen people-to-people links with organisations and individuals working in global majority countries
4. highlight and strengthen understanding and acceptance of a 'Common Security' approach to such questions

Submitted by International Advisory Group

7. Peace Through Common Security

There is an urgent need for the UK peace movement to challenge the recent, and ongoing, war mongering by UK 'Defence' Chiefs, senior politicians of both major parties and the tabloid press. The demonisation of Russia, China, and Iran and warnings such as that the country should be preparing for war within three years is part of a concerted attempt to scare us into supporting a diversion of resources from the pursuit of social, economic and climate goals into increasing the 'lethality' of our armed forces and the modernisation of our nuclear arsenal.

It is desperately important that a different progressive and peaceful view of what constitutes our national security is put before the British public.

We call upon CND to lead a public campaign in collaboration with like-minded faith and civil organisations challenging the notion that our national security can only be secured by aggressive militarism and vigorously promoting what we know to be true – that the only sustainable future for this country lies through social justice at home and international co-operation abroad.

NATO – A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

Given the inexorable eastward expansion of NATO - in contravention of explicit reassurances given to the Soviet Union to persuade them to accept the admission to NATO of a re-unified Germany - the British public need to be made aware of the truth about NATO – that it is unnecessary, aggressive, and a dangerously destabilising force in an already complex and dangerous world.

We call on CND to publicly challenge the pro NATO propaganda of the UK's military and political establishment, and, without in any way condoning Russia's invasion of Ukraine, explain how NATO's nuclear armed presence on its borders has fed Russia's fear and provided exactly the kind of existential threat that all dictators, such as Putin, need to consolidate power and stifle internal dissent.

Submitted by Merseyside CND

8. Building and Supporting Trade Unions Opposing Nuclear Weapons and War

CND Conference notes:

1. The past two TUC congresses voted for an increase in defence spending and militarisation of the economy overturning a motion in 2017 which called for defence diversification.
2. The inherent contradiction in supporting a pro-war military agenda when investment is desperately needed to tackle the cost of living and welfare crisis, the health and social care crisis, food insecurity, housing, education, and the climate crisis.
3. That the Labour Government has confirmed its commitment to a “triple lock” nuclear deterrent and being fully committed to AUKUS.
4. That in launching a Strategic Defence Review on 6 July 2024, defence is seen as central to the Labour government’s “Growth Mission” and will include a new defence industrial strategy.
5. That Sheffield Forgemasters acquired by the MoD under 100% ownership in 2021, will play a key manufacturing role for the AUKUS project and in civilian nuclear programmes.
6. That arguing for jobs based on warfare, nuclear weapons, or accelerating climate change are against working class interests and international solidarity.
7. Trade union affiliates who continue to oppose nuclear weapons and are bravely speaking out against this drive to war which does nothing to secure peace and prosperity for working class people in the UK or globally.

CND Conference resolves to:

- Support and build our trade union affiliations to strengthen the wider labour movement opposition to nuclear weapons, increasing militarisation of the economy and war.
- Hold regular meetings with affiliates and trade unions members to develop collective strategies within unions to meet these ends, including but not limited to, model motions, fringe meetings, public talks and leafletting of workplaces.
- Provide leaflets and other materials to support arguments for peace and jobs based on socially and ecologically useful production.
- To work across the peace, labour and environmental movement in support of the Tyne and Wear Association of Trades Councils’ motion that was passed at the Trades Council Conference 2024 calling on trades councils and unions to support and promote a new Lucas Plan for a just transition to alternative peaceful production for workers in the defence industries.

Submitted by Sam Mason

9. Workers for Peace

Conference notes:

1. the landslide election of the Labour Government in July 2024, alongside the election of CND vice-President Jeremy Corbyn as one of five independent candidates standing for Peace, social justice and freedom for Palestine;
2. the failure of the Labour leadership to push for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, withdrawal of Israeli troops from that occupied land, and Freedom for Palestine;

3. the commitment of the Labour leadership in government to NATO with urgent funding of arms manufacturing and deployment of military to "bring the UK back onto the world stage";
4. the current UK Defence Security Review proposing that the "NATO-first" pledge will be at the heart of Britain's "Defence" planning;
5. the domination of trade unions representing workers in defence and allied industries in demanding full support for the government's military ambitions, despite widespread opposition from the rest of Britain's trade unions.

Conference believes:

1. that the Labour Government is likely to lead Britain into early direct military engagement in war as part of the drive of the United States of America towards imperialist challenge against China;
2. that the overwhelming majority of the British working class supports peace and social justice, and does not want Britain to go to war;
3. that trade unions have an historic and central role to play in the call for Peace, and in challenging and confronting the war-drive of the current government.

Conference resolves:

1. to call upon the Labour Government to withdraw from the pro-US military framework and unilaterally lead the drive for Peace and nuclear disarmament on the world stage;
2. to strengthen links with all trade unions at local, regional and national level, offering detailed advice and resources towards the adoption of national trade union policies by individual trade unions and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) for Peace and disarmament in the face of global military conflict;
3. to support and encourage MPs and trade union representatives who represent policies for peace with social justice.

Submitted by Plymouth Trades Union Council / Tony Staunton

10. Great? British Energy

Conference notes:

1. That Ed Miliband, the Minister for the Environment, has made it clear that the Labour Party plan for Great British Energy includes support for new nuclear reactors. These include both Sizewell C and a pledge to order a number of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). It is a known fact that nuclear reactors, which include SMRs, are very costly in contrast to genuine sustainable energy, such as wind, solar or marine. Both SMRs and the more conventional nuclear reactors produce radioactive waste.
2. There is no solution for the legacy waste let alone for that produced by these new reactors. Global warming will mean that the proposed reactor Sizewell C, which is to be built on the coast, will be surrounded by water in a few years' time. Nuclear reactors carry the constant dangers of terrorist attack or accident: either case would risk explosion of the plant with devastating effects, equivalent to those of a nuclear bomb. Add to that the misery inflicted on generations of uranium miners and their families, who come mainly from indigenous communities. It has also been revealed by academics, Johnstone and Stirling, of Sussex University, that the so called 'civil' nuclear energy programme is kept going simply to subsidise the nuclear weapons projects.

Conference resolves:

1. that the General Secretary of CND will write to the Minister for the Environment to express their opposition to these plans and will ask for a response to the concerns
2. that CND will prepare a template letter for members to write to their MPs along the lines above.

Submitted by Rochdale and Littleborough Peace Group

11. The New Labour Government and the Undercover Policing Inquiry.

CND Conference notes

1. The return of a new Labour government and after 43 years, open reporting by an Undercover Policing Inquiry with interrogation of anonymous Under Cover Officers. The subjects of their infiltration were represented on 15 July 2024 by our General Secretary Kate Hudson for CND speaking under oath at the Inquiry.
2. In May 2024 CND presented an 86-page written Witness Statement to the Inquiry signed by General Secretary Kate Hudson, Roger Spiller former Vice Chair and Paul Oestreicher, Vice President of CND.
3. The bulk of this policing Inquiry dealt with events in the 1980-1990 period and featured statements by undercover officers from Special Branch, the Security Service, the Special Demonstration Squad some reporting to senior officers from the Metropolitan Police.
4. Included in surveillance were the Labour Party, the GLC, London CND with groups and notable members in those groups, were targeted by an undercover officer disguised as a CND organiser. Others accessed CND's National Office then located in Finsbury Park.
5. Under Cover Officers tried to represent CND as subversive, suggest complicity with the then Soviet Union and generally smear CND with accusations of 'entryism' or control by 'extremist' influences! The agents claim they were acting in the interests of public order referencing non-violent-direct action.

In this context CND Conference resolves to

1. Condemn the actions by former British government security services to infiltrate CND and attempt to smear our campaign.
2. Strengthen CND's campaigning work to support the democratic right to peaceful protest
3. To call on the new Labour government to repeal the Public Order Act which restricts the right to protest and targets peaceful activists taking part in non-violent direct action.

Submitted by Tom Cuthbert