

This meeting was attended by Nigel Day, Oxford CND and Peter Gloyns, Salisbury CND, as representatives of the Southern Region of CND. This report attempts to convey the content that will be of most interest to members. You are welcome to contact either of us, if you would like further information on any area.

Sophie Bolt, General Secretary

Opposition to illegal war on Iran and the use of British bases continued to be a big focus of our campaigning in April. As well as organising a second joint demonstration with Stop the War and the Palestine Coalition in central London, we also organised a very successful demonstration from Fairford, with over 300 protestors marching through the town centre to the RAF airbase, culminating in an ‘embrace the base’ symbolic action in front of the 3,000 metre runway and the US bombers. The protest received national media coverage and significant local support.

The Lakenheath Alliance for Peace camp and blockades against the Iran war and US nuclear weapons were very powerful and received national media coverage. More new and young activist joined the NVDA actions. To help promote the LAP actions, we ran digital billboards ‘Trump’s nukes are now here – help us kick them out!’ that visited Cambridge, Norfolk and RAF Lakenheath.

For the nuclear Non-Proliferation Review Conference in New York, we organised briefing meetings for our parliamentary CND delegation of Jeremy Corbyn and Bell Ribeiro-Addy who spoke at side events, met with the wider movement and gave a strong critique of the British government’s shameful report that promoted its nuclear expansion and lack of disarmament commitments. We also organised ‘Restart START’ demonstrations at the Russian and US Embassies.

The elections in early May create both serious challenges - in the far right - but also opportunities, with increased support for anti-nuclear parties including Plaid Cymru and the Green Party. Whilst the far right ‘Unite the Kingdom’ movement attempted to galvanise support for its racist protest later in the month, they were totally outnumbered by the 250,000-strong demonstration organised by the Palestine Coalition – of which CND is a significant partner - as well as Stand up to Racism. The protest commemorated the 79th Nakba and called for unity against the far right. CND’s placards promoting a ‘nuclear- free Middle East’ and ‘Nurses not Nukes’ were very well received.

With the looming cost-of-living crisis, our campaigning on the costs of nukes is even more critical. We are strengthening our links with trade unions, with a great presence at UCU Congress in Harrogate. A big thanks to Yorkshire CND for running the stall! We’re at UNISON conference in June.

With the increasing nuclear cooperation between Britain and France, and rising opposition to European rearmament, CND is supporting the Anti-War International Summit on 20 June.

Germany is aiming to be the most powerful military presence in Europe and has planned a 25% increase in military spending. Germany is also seen as the country leading in taking an aggressive stance towards Russia. France is proposing a 9 country nuclear sharing agreement, which would open up the possibility of nuclear

weapons being stationed in Poland. Within NATO, Finland and Lithuania have lifted the ban on nuclear weapons on their soil.

The labour party's poor performance in recent elections is seen partly as a result of them failing to deliver improved living standards due to their devotion to increased military spending.

The recently announced Defence Plan increases military spending by £15 billion. Over the next 4 years, the military spending will be £400 billion. Nuclear weapons account for £64 billion, more money than on any other sector of defence.

Trident replacement is Massively over budget and delayed. £7 billion cuts will be required from other departments, with £2 billion announced from Energy Security.

This switch to increased military spending will result in 10,000 job loses, according to a recent study.

In this current climate, the work of CND is so important.

Tom Unterrainer stated that the change towards drones, AI and drone ships runs the risk of increasing the risk of nuclear conflict, as they lead to a reduction in the threshold for nuclear use.

The following resolutions were discussed and agreed unanimously.

1.

People not Nukes campaigning**CND Council notes:**

1. The breaches of the ceasefire between the US and Iran, most notably through Israel's worsening offensives on Lebanon, Iranian attacks on Israel and US bases in Bahrain and Jordan and US attacks on Iran including on radar sites and water reservoirs.
2. The worsening economic crisis, driven by the impact of the illegal war on Iran and the ongoing closure of the Straits of Hormuz, which is causing fuel shortages, spikes in energy and food prices, and threatens a global recession.

Further notes:

1. In Britain, the results of the devolved and local elections in May that showed both a significant rise in the far right expressed through votes for Reform, as well as growing support for anti-nuclear parties like Plaid Cymru and the Green Party.
2. Political interventions by former Prime Minister, Tony Blair and former NATO Secretary General, George Robertson calling on the government to recommit its full support for the US military alliance and make cuts to welfare to increase military spending.
3. Announcements that the British government plans to further increase military spending by between £15 to £18 billion over the next four years to fund the delayed Defence Investment Plan. Reports that the purchase of 12 nuclear-capable F35A fighter jets may be delayed or dropped from the Plan.
4. Reports of cuts to capital public services to fund the military spending increase, including to the new hospitals building programme, with Department of Transport and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero facing deepest cuts.

CND Council believes:

1. The impact of the illegal war on Iran shows the worsening of inter-connected crises: increasing global insecurity, making populations poorer and driving climate breakdown.
2. Whilst dangers of the far right exploiting the economic crisis are growing, greater opportunities are emerging to present alternatives to the war drive and nuclear weapons.

CND Council resolves to:

Build on the Alternative Defence Review, working with the anti-war, climate justice, anti-poverty and trade union movements to organise debates across the country around the questions 'What does real security look like?' with a view to developing an independent foreign policy of diplomacy, a common security approach to conflict, and global cooperation to halt the climate crisis and extreme poverty.

This was proposed by Sophie Bolt

2.

Motion on a transformative approach to the fossil fuel energy crisis

CND Council notes that the energy and food impacts of the US/Israeli attack on Iran about to be overlaid by the extreme weather impacts of the strongest El Nino for a decade. This will create a violent upward pressure on the cost of living that is likely to be long lasting. Before the war, the cost of energy was already too high for many, and thousands died each winter from fuel poverty.

2. CND Council believes

2.1. To stop the crisis we need to stop the war – so the UK government should give no support for it in any form and press for peace instead in the way that the Spanish government is doing.

2.2. War profiteering is unacceptable - All windfall profits made by arms manufacturers and traders, the energy industry, and banks, should be taxed at 100% to fund targeted measures like an essential energy guarantee and to accelerate investment in the energy transition.

2.3. We need a sharp turn away from military expenditure - Any additional investment into war preparation serves only to deepen the cost of living crisis, atrophy infrastructure and squeeze wages. It is also a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. Using these funds instead to accelerate the energy transition, including restoring climate funding in overseas development, will be better for national security too.

2.4. The transition to renewable energy and energy conservation is the solution - The current level of renewable energy generation has saved billions off the costs of imported fossil fuels since March, and the faster that transition is driven across society at all levels, the lower the impact on the cost of living will be. Additional North Sea development of fossil fuels would have a tiny impact on UK supply, no effect on the cost of living and wouldn't stop the erosion of jobs. We need planned retraining and redeployment as part of accelerated deployment of renewable energy: most effectively done through public ownership.

2.5. Crisis measures must be social justice measures: Rationing by price is inherently inequitable. We need fair pricing that guarantees adequate power for every household, and collective measures to reduce fossil fuel demand (and therefore prices). Such measures can include insulation and retrofitting in homes, by unionised labour and accountable to residents, slashing public transport fares, and pre-emptive limits on purchases of key food items in limited supply, all paid for by diversion of all tax-money associated with nuclear rearmament.

3. CND Council resolves

3.1. To re-emphasise across the broad progressive movement that nuclear power and nuclear weapons exacerbate the climate crisis and are no solution;

3.2. To campaign for climate action and emissions reduction on the above points alongside local climate and environmental campaigns as part of CND's Welfare not Warfare, Nurses not Nukes, Books not Bombs, Climate not Trident campaigning.

3.3. Take this resolution, suitably reworded, into the trade union and labour movement and political parties, prioritising local Trades Councils for dialogue and debate.

This was proposed by Tony Staunton

3.

"At what level of danger does the urgency of disarmament become undeniable?"

Viet Nam's U.N. Ambassador Do Hung Viet chaired the 4-week Non-Nuclear Proliferation Treaty Review conference. The late press briefing on May 23, 2026 with Izumi Nakamitsu High Representative for Disarmament Affairs confirmed the failure of the NNPT process. Both Do Hung Viet and Izumi Nakamitsu stated their disappointment at no consensus for the outcome document from all the states parties; so much so that the chairman did not even present the document for final approval.

There was no political will from the nuclear weapons states to respect their obligations. The nuclear armed states had prevented any meaningful disarmament language from surviving the final document, prompting Izumi Nakamitsu to state to the nuclear weapon states *"Non-proliferation and disarmament are two sides of the same coin. It is simply wrong for them to assume that non proliferation obligations will be upheld without their own commitment to, and implementation of, disarmament obligations"*.

It was the third failure of the conference in 16 years. The UK delegation was led by Steven Doughty MP, Minister of State for Europe, North America, and the Overseas Territories proclaiming that *nuclear deterrence remains central to UK security and NATO commitments; under lining a 'pragmatic' approach to disarmament. The UK insisted the main challenge to the Treaty is 'proliferation risk', as if their own modernisation programmes and submarine fleet upgrades exist in a different moral universe.*

As the UK's alliance partner in crime the United States arrived in New York as an active participant in the erosion of the NPT disarmament pillars. It showed its belligerency right at the beginning by opposing Iran as one of the 34 vice presidents of the conference. Its closing statement - *"This is called the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, not the nuclear disarmament treaty"* a callous denial of the Article 6 legal obligation.

Perhaps we should not have been surprised. At our early webinar *"Nuclear Disarmament-Not Nuclear Hypocrisy"*, CND's NPT Review Conference side event; the warnings from Melissa Parkes, Zia Mian, Jeremy Corbyn MP, and Belle Ribeiro Addy MP were clear. In June 2025 the **Strategic Defence Review** presented in triumphalist fashion by Secretary of State John Healey prompted the following criticism from Ellie Chowns MP and Jeremy Corbyn MP.

Ellie Chowns - *"This government seems to have confused security with spending more on weapons, but warheads don't buy a safer world, they make it more dangerous. So can I ask the minister instead of spending £15 billion on nuclear warheads, weapons that must never be used and should be as unacceptable as biological and chemical weapons... why not spend the money instead on real security- which must involve defence, diplomacy, and development"*.

Jeremy Corbyn - *"What I find sad and disappointing is in the review there is no analysis, no documentation, there is no analysis of how we reduce tensions around the world, bring an end to the conflicts and enhance and empower institutions like the UN to avoid conflict in the future, so we can deal with the real issues of insecurity, poverty and hunger, which forces people to become refugees*

around the world, surely there is a way we could be doing things that bring about a peaceful world rather than just pouring more money into weapons".

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is not going away if anything consecutive NPT failures are accelerating its moral and political authority. What distinguished this NPT conference from its predecessors was the breadth of disillusionment it produced.

I suggest to CND Council we try hard to enable our members, our supportive MPs and councillors to raise the debate on the failure of the NPT Review in May, the extinction of the START treaty and Fissile Material Cut Off Treaty and emphasise the global dangers this now threatens. It was ICAN's Melissa Parkes who reminded us of the review of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in November at our recent webinar. This will be opposed I imagine tooth and nail by the NATO alliance. But the safety of the international community is at grave risk with no treaty regime in place to restrain nuclear militarisation and nuclear war.

Melissa recommended ICAN's Cornerstone Report as an explanation of the prevarications and denials of the nuclear armed states to complete nuclear disarmament and asks, "*At what level of danger does the urgency of disarmament become undeniable ?*" I hope the following resolution is acceptable for us.

RESOLUTION

a).CND National Council recognises the serious existential danger presented by the consecutive failures of states participants to agree any progress towards nuclear disarmament at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conferences particularly the one convened in New York in May,2026.

b). CND National Council recommends in the months leading up to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons Review at the UN in November 2026 that we act as our website recommends "*to put this treaty at the top of the political agenda*" including criticism of the government's nuclear rearmament, its costs exposed, and dangers indicated.

c) CND National Council recommends our promotion of the Prohibition Treaty as a matter of urgency in the immediate future to every CND group, supportive organisations at national and local meetings, webinars and press interventions and for parliamentary debate.

This was proposed by Tom Cuthbert