

Position of Alison Craig, Green Party Candidate

Trident replacement

You contacted me some weeks ago asking for my response on the Trident renewal issue, and I am sorry for the long delay in this response.

I have now had a detailed look at this issue and am considering attending the demo against Trident on Saturday 24 January, London, being organised by CND/Action on Atomic Weapons Establishments and Wool Against Weapons. I note that the 'Main Gate' decision on replacing Trident is in 2016, and therefore those elected as MPs this year will be involved in that decision.

To answer the specific questions:

- If elected I would vote against replacing Trident;
- I would strongly support including the option of not replacing Trident in the next government's Strategic Defence and Security Review;
- I agree the next government should advocate for the introduction of a convention against nuclear weapons at the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York;
- I believe spending £100 billion or more to replace Trident is entirely wrong in light of the austerity regimes the current government is pursuing, which I think should be halted.

I am particularly interested to see the list of cost comparisons - what could be financially supported with the Trident expenditure if Trident was cancelled - on the CND website here:

<http://www.rethinktrident.org.uk/the-cost-of-trident-replacement/>

I have signed this petition and urge you to do so, if you have not already:

<http://www.cnduk.org/campaigns/no-to-trident/scrap-trident-petition>

Green Party policy on Trident is guided by these principles:

PD204 The defence budget needs to be adequate to ensure security, but no more so. Military preparations are a drain on our resources, as well as being a source of threat. Even peacetime military activities can have major impacts on communities, on the environment, and on a healthy democracy. All military capabilities and exercises should have specific military objectives built on real and credible threat scenarios. They should be proportional to the threat, sufficient to respond adequately, but not disproportionate.

PD205 Nuclear weapons are political weapons of terror, and are disproportionate to any threat. Further, since there is a finite possibility that the policy of nuclear deterrence will fail, and the ecological and social consequences of such a failure would be catastrophic, the deterrence system must be abandoned. The Green Party is committed to pursuing immediate and unconditional nuclear disarmament.

Our full set of policies on peace and defence, which are regularly updated democratically at our Conferences, are set out here:

<http://policy.greenparty.org.uk/pd.html>

Please don't hesitate to contact me again if I can provide any more information.

With best wishes

Alison Craig