The Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is a specialist section of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. It seeks to put forward CND's message in the light of the Gospel in churches of all denominations.

Christian CND continues to work in Churches and other Faith Communities encouraging them to see work for nuclear disarmament as part of their Faith commitment, to engage with the government of the day and make public statements on this subject.

As part of its aim to dialogue with decision makers, it holds an annual walk visiting the London embassies of Nuclear Weapons States, the New Agenda Coalition and other relevant nations. In 2010 this also incorporated interviews with representatives of 13 of these embassies.

Conferences and day schools are arranged on both the theology and politics of nuclear disarmament in solidarity with other Faith Communities. Liturgies and demonstrations are held at significant sites.

CCND also helps schools with their curriculum requirements on War and Peace

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NUCLEAR WEAPONS and NUCLEAR POWER

The Birth of Siamese Twins

"The development of nuclear power and nuclear weapons has been like that of Siamese twins. Joined physically at birth they have grown up together and pushed and pulled each other into shape…Nuclear power is a spin-off from war-time efforts to develop atomic bombs …Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), involved in the atomic project from an early stage, said:

'There must always be a very close relationship between the exploitation of nuclear energy for military explosive purposes and for power production in peace and war. The development of one will have a profound effect on the development of the other.'"

"Fuelling the Nuclear Arms Race" Sheila Durie and Rob Edwards.

In the UK, our first nuclear power stations were a front for the production of nuclear weapons. Today we have large enough military and civil stockpiles of uranium and plutonium produced as part of the nuclear fuel cycle that we could make about 13,500 nuclear bombs just from our civil stockpile of over 100 tonnes of separated plutonium alone. We do not need to build new nuclear power stations for this purpose.

Even if most countries that are planning to develop or expand their nuclear power programmes have no intention of developing weapons to start with, there is always the danger that nuclear power technology may be subverted to develop a nuclear weapons programme.

The dangers of terrorism:
It is always possible that nuclear materials may get into the wrong hands and even though the technology to create a nuclear explosion might not be there, the materials could be used to create a crude nuclear device or 'dirty bomb'. We have seen the terrible environmental effects and human suffering caused by unintended catastrophes such as at Chernobyl and Fukushima, and deliberate attacks on nuclear power stations are a real threat.

Nuclear weapons proliferation:
Nuclear weapons and nuclear power share a common technological basis. Skilled workers and continuing research are beneficial for both industries. The process of enriching uranium to make it into a fuel for nuclear power stations can be a step towards further enriching it to make nuclear weapons. This is why there is so much international anxiety when a country is seen to be increasing its capacity for uranium enrichment. Spent nuclear fuel from nuclear power stations can be separated out to recover any usable elements such as uranium and plutonium through a method called reprocessing. Plutonium is a by-product of the nuclear fuel cycle and can also be used to make nuclear weapons.

Depleted Uranium:
The depleted uranium that is left, although non-fissile, can be made into armour-penetrating shells which were widely used in the Iraq War. The dust left after these shells were detonated was still radioactive and many believe is responsible for widespread health problems in the region.

As well as the decommissioning of all nuclear warheads and the elimination of all stockpiled fissile materials, a nuclear weapons- free world requires a non-nuclear energy policy.

Further information from www.cnduk.org