



Hiroshima Day - a Walk for Peace

It is 70 years since the dropping of the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. The Japanese people are still suffering. Join us for a Walk for Peace to link the commemorative events in London. There are four separate commemorative events taking place on Hiroshima Day in central London. This walk is a way of linking these events. We have added a stop at the Innocent Victims Memorial and a visit to the Japanese Embassy.

The walk is divided into 6 sections. Each will have a focal stopping point where those who cannot walk the whole distance (a little over 4 miles) will be able to join or leave. Each of these points is near a tube station.

- 1) 8.00am. International Fast for Peace, Whitehall Gardens, Westminster.
- 2) 9.30am. Innocent Victims' Memorial, Westminster Abbey.

- 3) 10am. Pax Christi Vigil, Westminster Cathedral.
- 4) 10.30am. Japanese Embassy, 101-104, Piccadilly.
- 5) 11am. St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square.
- 6) 12 noon. Tavistock Square, Hiroshima Day Commemoration.
- 7) 1pm. Tavistock Square, Peace Picnic
- 8) 2.30pm Friends House, Euston, Memorial Event.

There are many Japanese visitors in London. White is the Japanese colour of mourning. If as many of us as possible wear white, it would demonstrate our sorrow and contrition.

You can join us at any point in the walk, and drop out when you want. On the day ONLY, you can use our mobile (if you miss us at a location for example) 07972 327482.

Church of England Synod

The Church of England held its summer Synod in York University from 10 - 14 July. Nuclear Weapons were not on the official agenda, but CCND made sure Synod members were aware of the Trident renewal decision, to be made in 2016 (if not before) and the statements made by Church Leaders condemning Trident renewal.

Caroline Gilbert and colleagues represented us on a stall, thanks to the sponsorship by Bishop Paul Bayes. As well as having our material available, we collected names for an online multi-faith statement on nuclear weapons (see page 2).

One good result from Synod (or at least a step in the right direction)- Synod voted to divest £12m from tar sands oil and thermal coal - the first time it has ever imposed investment restrictions because of climate change. The new investment policy bans investments in any company makes more than 10% of its revenues from thermal coal and tar sands. The church still has huge investment in oil and gas companies.



UK multi-faith statement on nuclear weapons – 2015

This statement is based on the statement made by 26 faith leaders in the UK in a letter to The Times on 13 March 2015. The statement was co-ordinated by Religions for Peace UK, Pax Christi UK and a range of Churches and other faith groups.

“Nuclear weapons are by their nature indiscriminate in their effect. Any use of nuclear weapons would have devastating humanitarian consequences, be incompatible with International Humanitarian Law and violate the principle of dignity for every human being that is common to each of our faith traditions. Our world faces many challenges including oppressive poverty, climate change, violent extremism and emerging national rivalry. Addressing these challenges requires strong relationships across nations, founded on mutual co-operation, trust and shared prosperity. Security policies based on the threat of the use of nuclear weapons are immoral and ultimately self-defeating.

We must move beyond the division of our world into nuclear and non-nuclear weapons states and ensure that all states make good their commitment to negotiations on the universal, legally verifiable and enforceable elimination of nuclear weapons. We call on all nuclear weapon states to join in this endeavour. We urge these states and the international community to develop a robust plan of action that will lead us to a world free of nuclear weapons.”

You can add your name here:

<http://www.endnuclearweapons.org.uk/signup.htm>

More info The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN):

<http://uk.icanw.org/category/get-involved/>

Quotations from

<http://www.endnuclearweapons.org.uk/quotations.htm>

“I am convinced that the desire for peace and fraternity planted deep in the human heart will bear fruit in concrete ways to ensure that nuclear weapons are banned once and for all, to the benefit of our common home.”

His Holiness Pope Francis, December 2014

“There can be no place for weapons of mass destruction in a world that God loves so much.”

The Right Reverend Alan McDonald, former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

The inhumane nature of nuclear weapons is evidenced from a variety of perspectives above and beyond their sheer destructive potential. First, their capacity for annihilation instantly negates all the achievements of civilization and strips all existence of meaning. Second, continued nuclear weapons development and modernization generates dire socio-economic distortions. Third, the maintenance of a nuclear posture locks countries into continuous military tension.

Daisaku Ikeda, President, Soka Gakkai International (SGI)

“Nuclear weapons are utterly incompatible with the values upheld by our respective faith traditions — the right of people to live in security and dignity; the commands of conscience and justice; the duty to protect the vulnerable and to exercise the stewardship that will safeguard the planet for future generations. Nuclear weapons manifest a wanton disregard for all these values and commitments. There is no countervailing imperative — whether of national security, stability in international power relations, or the difficulty of overcoming political inertia—that can justify their continued existence, much less their use.”

Faith Communities statement on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons at the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, December 2014

To plan a strategy around such weapons is to be defeated by them. To threaten such an outrage against humanity and its world is to begin to lose one's moral and human dignity. To work for a world free from nuclear arms is to work for the sake of that moral and human dignity.”

The Right Reverend Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, September 2009

“Law after all is based on the moral sense of the community and the moral sense of the community draws deeply from the reservoirs of morality that are present in religion. All legal systems at their formative stages of development drew heavily upon religious principles, not in the sense of the dogma, or shall we say the ritual, or the high theology of religion, but upon the basic principles of morality which were contained in that body of religious teaching.”

Christopher Weeramantry, former Vice President of the International Court of Justice

Ask your MP to sign EDM 73 on Trident

MPs have tabled Early Day Motion 73 Trident and the Strategic Defence and Security Review which calls on the Government to ensure that the current Strategic Defence and Security Review includes options for future defence without nuclear weapons. Email here <http://act.cnduk.org/lobby/edm73> or write to them at the House of Commons.



Time to Scrap Trident

Sign CND's Time to Scrap Trident Petition. The government says Britain has no money. It is cutting billions from public spending on health care, education, welfare and services and devastating peoples' lives. Yet at the same time it is spending billions every year on nuclear weapons and plans to spend over £100 billion on a replacement for the Trident nuclear weapons system.

It is time to comply with our obligation under international law to accomplish the total elimination of our nuclear arsenal. By doing so we would send a message to the world that spending for peace and development and meeting people's real needs is our priority, not spending on weapons of mass destruction.

Sign online here:

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

You can also download paper copies of the petition from the above website. If you would like to order paper copies please email enquiries@cnduk.org or call the CND office on 0207 700 2393.

Update on Pink Scarf

There are still huge piles of pink knitting in the CND office. So if you feel like volunteering to make up blankets out of the scarf, in the CND office (10-6, Monday to Friday), please ring Becky on 020 7700 2393.

Much of it has already been made up into blankets and have been going out all over the place, to places like Syria, Jordan and Tanzania, as well as Women's Refuges, homeless shelters, and Asylum Centres closer to home.

See the Wool Against Weapons website for some great photos of a hospital in Tanzania which received some much-needed baby blankets for premature babies: <http://www.woolagainstweapons.co.uk/>

ICAN Campaigners' Meeting, 6-7 July

CCND Exec Member Martin Birdseye and CCND worker Claire Poyner both attended the ICAN Campaigners' meeting in London. We were pleased to see international campaigners including Ray Acheson from Reaching Critical Will and our friend Dominique Lalanne from Abolition 2000 France.

Much of the two days was given over to discussion and campaigning on a nuclear weapons ban treaty. <http://uk.icanw.org/why-a-ban/positions/>

Two of the guest speakers were representatives from British Nuclear Test Veterans Association. They gave a very emotional talk on the problems British veterans suffered after being told to 'witness' a nuclear test at various locations, Christmas Islands in this instance. They were offered very little in the way of protective equipment (bush hat and flip-flops!). One veteran said his daughter later suffered cancer and died, and he felt sure her condition was related.

The BNTVA are currently conducting a survey into British Test Veterans Descendents. <https://bntva.com/>

Ursula Windsor (12 July 1924 - 29 March 2015)

Ursula, who has died at the age of 90, was born in Hamburg, Germany, the eldest of three daughters of Fritz and Cäcilia Valentin. Fritz served in World War One, and became a judge at a young age, but because he was Jewish, the family left Germany, arriving in England in August 1939.

Ursula attended school for one year, then became a librarian in Croydon. After the war, she met and married another librarian, Arthur Windsor.

In the early 1950s Arthur and Ursula became

Quakers. This remained a central focus of their lives. In 1962 they moved with their three children to Gloucester, sharing their house with a succession of like-minded families or people who needed a home.

In retirement, Ursula and Arthur gave increasing time to the peace movement and Quaker concerns. Widowed in 1995, Ursula continued to travel to meetings, conferences, friends and family. Until recently she played a leading role with local Quakers, and remained an active peace campaigner.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki Events

6 August: Hiroshima Day Walk organised by CCND. See front page.

6 August: Hiroshima Day. 12noon commemoration in Tavistock Square London and lots of other places. For more see <http://www.networkforpeace.org.uk/category/areas-work/hiroshima-nagasaki-days>

6 August: Hiroshima Day Interfaith Service. Starting with the annual commemoration in Tavistock Square at 12:00 and continuing with the Interfaith Service and further events in Friends House. Interfaith Service in the Large Meeting House of Friends House at 2.30-3.30pm. It will include short readings from each of the major faith traditions represented in the UK, some music, silence, the lighting of a candle sent from Hiroshima and a contribution from one of the survivors of the atom bomb 70 years ago. This will be followed by light refreshments and the opportunity to view an exhibition on the global effects of nuclear weapons production, testing and deployment since 1945 as well as stalls from peace organisations and a selection of workshops. Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ. Book here: <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/hiroshima/> Or ring 020 7663 1067.

6 August: Hiroshima Day screening of The War Game at Friends House, at 6pm. Book a place as spaces are limited: <http://tinyurl.com/of59cn9> or ring CND 020 7700 2393.

6th-9th August: Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemoration Fast in Central London. In the final year before the decision on Trident replacement, the fast will take place near the seats of military and political

power in Britain: Whitehall, Downing Street, the Ministry of Defence. Everyone is welcome to join the protest, whether you're fasting or not and whether you're staying for an hour or three days. For all the details, contact Angie Zelter reforest@gn.apc.org 07456 588943

8 August: Peace Trail Walk. Discover some of the people and places in London associated with international peacemaking. Guided walk along the Central London Peace Trail with Bruce Kent and Valerie Flessati of the Movement for the Abolition of War. Meet by Gandhi's statue in Tavistock Square at 10.30am. Let us know if you plan to come. info@abolishwar.org.uk

9 August: Nagasaki Day. Peace walk from Westminster Cathedral to the London Peace Pagoda followed by the Floating Lantern Ceremony at Sunset. Info: Nipponzan Myohoji, c/o Park Office, Battersea Park, Albert Bridge Road, London SW11 4NJ. 020 7228 9620.

9 August: Commemoration service for Blessed Franz Jägerstätter, Martyr for Peace. 6.30pm at Sacred Heart Chapel, Horseferry Road, SW1P 2EF. This will be followed by the interfaith peace walk to Battersea Park. See above. <http://www.paxchristi.org.uk>

9 August: Nagasaki Day Pax Christi stall/time of prayer outside Westminster Cathedral. If you are able to help us contact the office with date / time. 1.30 - 5.00 pm We will have prayers at 3.30pm Tel 0208 203 4884 info@paxchristi.org.uk Pax Christi welcomes offers of help. Tel 0208 203 4884 info@paxchristi.org.uk

More Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day events: <http://www.networkforpeace.org.uk/category/areas-work/hiroshima-nagasaki-days>

Other Events

Until 31 May 2016: Exhibition. Peter Kennard is Britain's most important political artist whose imagery has become synonymous with the modern protest movement. This is the first major retrospective of his work. He designed the famous 'missile broken on a CND symbol' image. At the Imperial War Museum, London. Open daily 10am - 6pm. Last admission is at 5.30pm.

7 - 12 September: Stop the Arms Fair week of action. Near the ExCel Centre, London, which hosts the DSEi arms fair. <http://www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk/events/>

13 September: CAAT Christian Network Day of Prayer. As the week of the DSEi London arms fair begins, join with Christian communities across the UK in prayer and action in their own churches. Tel: 0 20

7281 0297 action@caat.org.uk

17 - 18 September: CND Conference. Arlington Conference Centre, 220 Arlington Road, Camden, London <http://www.cnduk.org/about/cnd-conference>

26 September: International Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. A day for public awareness and education about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and to mobilize international efforts towards achieving the common goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world. www.abolition2000.org/?page_id=3084#unday

Keep an eye out in the next *Ploughshare* for the CCND AGM (a Saturday in November place tba) and a Lobby of Parliament, which will take place some time in October.

Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

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