

ploughshare plus



news update from Christian CND

May 2010

Christians working and praying for a nuclear weapons-free world

CCND at the NPT

As this issue goes to print, the NPT Review Conference is still in session, but by the time you receive it, the Final Statement will be written. You can get it on-line from <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/npt/2010index.html>

CCND was represented in New York by Michael & Patricia Pulham, Caroline Gilbert and Chris Wood. We held our daily interfaith Prayer Vigil by the Isaiah Wall opposite the UN building and were joined by previous and new participants.

These vigils were followed by the regular Abolition Caucus where NGOs shared news and experiences, and afterwards by 'off the record' briefings from various countries.

We attended the main conference chamber sessions and listened to delegates putting their case. We were there when President Ahmadinejad spoke and a number of

western missions walked out. A letter from the NGOs was sent to the Chair of the Conference expressing their regret at this political action. They also signed cards of congratulations to countries who had recommended a Nuclear Weapons Convention during their statements.

There were other fringe events including a very good meeting organised by CND with Cmdr Rob Green as their main speaker. Also a conference at Riverside Church (Martin Luther King's church) and a march from Times Square - evening social events and films and the opportunity to meet and exchange contact details with other campaigners from all over the world. 1,800 Japanese people had accompanied the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the Archbishop of Nagasaki.

There will be a more detailed report, photos and extracts from the official papers in Ploughshare later in the summer.

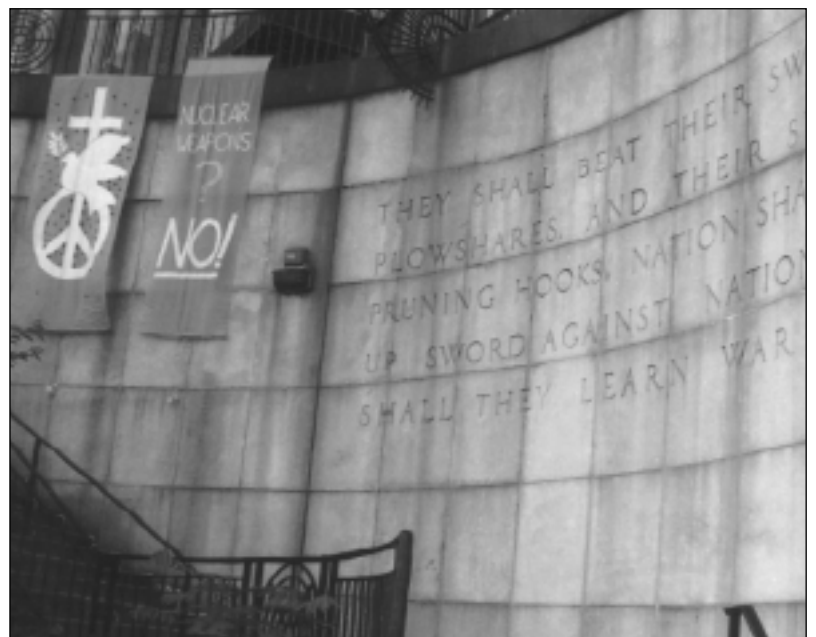
Other recent events

CO Day 15 May

CCND Co-Chair Bob Russell was MC at this event in Tavistock Square, London on 15 May and Tony Kempster of Anglican Pacifist Fellowship was the main speaker.

Aldermaston at Easter

There was no major event at Aldermaston for Easter planned this year, so a small group from CCND went along anyway and planted some flowers and had a short prayer vigil.



CCND banners at the Isaiah Wall opposite the UN in New York

Merci
Obrigado!

Köszönettel

Thank
You!

Tesekkürler

Thank You
Dank

Gracias

Dikey

Grazie

Thank You

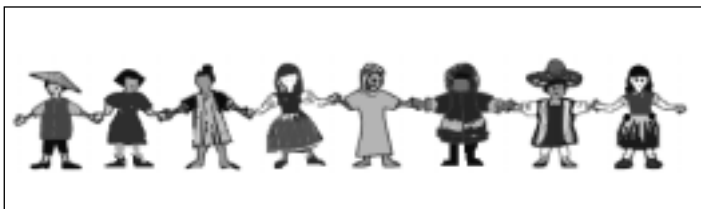
We would like to thank all members who contributed to our appeal - there was an overwhelming response and it is very pleasing to read all the comments accompanying the cheques.

We hope members don't mind this impersonal 'thank you' but we believe your donations were meant for Christian CND's campaigning, not for the benefit of the Royal Mail!

It's not too late if you feel like slipping CCND a cheque...

Pilgrimage to Peace

Plans for Pilgrimage to Peace are taking shape. The event will take place in Coventry between 29 and 31 October. Please put it in your diary! More details as and when they occur. Ideas, offers of help, volunteers for the weekend, are welcome.



Flame of Hope Walk

The Abolition Flame campaign, a project of Abolition 2000, is inspired in part by the 'Hiroshima Flame' kindled 57 years ago from embers of the atomic bombing of Japan. George Farebrother of World Court Project UK, supervised a South Coast "Flame of Hope" walk.

Christian CND organised the Lydd to Hastings part of the South Coast walk on 4 April. The route took us past Dungeness Nuclear Power Plant and Camber Wind Farm. We paused near Lydd Camp to remember all who have died in war. We stopped for prayers at 'Wesley's Tree' in Winchelsea, and were met in Rye by the Mayor and in Hastings by the local MP.

There was a report on the CCND section of the walk in 'Maya's Diary' in *Peace News*, several mentions in local newspapers, and the whole South Coast Walk report and photos can be seen at: <http://www.peacebourne.serifweb.com/flameGROUPS/index.html> or contact George Farebrother for a paper copy of the Dossier. geowcpuk@gn.apc.org 67, Summerheath Rd, Hailsham, Sussex, UK BN27 3DR 01323 844 269.

Greenbelt

Where would you like to spend your August bank holiday weekend? Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival (www.greenbelt.org.uk) is an exciting and inspiring weekend of music, art, thought-provoking talks and workshops, camping and organic beer.

Come to the festival as part of the Peacezone staff team, and in exchange for free entry, you will be asked to work about 4 hours a day in the Peacezone as part of the staff team.

Peacezone is run by the Network of Christian Peacemaking Organisations - including CCND, and seeks to provide a creative space where festival goers can explore 'What is Active Nonviolence?', our theme for the year.

Whether you're an old timer at Greenbelt, or would like to go to try out the festival with a community of people, we'd love to hear from you. Please email disarm@quaker.org.uk or phone 020 7663 1067 for more details.

Meanwhile, CCND has arranged for Bruce Kent to be a speaker - for the first time!

Nuclear Abolition Day - Saturday 5 June

On 5 June, thousands of people across the world will take part in local actions responding to the outcome of the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. Our message to governments is simple: it's time to negotiate a Nuclear Weapons Convention banning all nuclear weapons.

We encourage you to help unify our actions on Nuclear Abolition Day by forming the letters "NWC" — standing for "Nuclear Weapons Convention" and "Now We Can" — in whatever way you like. It could be a human formation, a candlelight formation, or simply a large banner. Think creatively!

Take a photo or video of your event and we'll add it to our website after June 5. You should also send it to your government representatives, along with an explanation of why a Nuclear Weapons Convention is so important. For more information, visit the website of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons: <http://www.icanw.org/>

See www.nuclearabolition.org for more details.



Strictly Disarming!

Christian CND was specifically asked to organise an event for Abolition Day and so at short notice - and even though we are busy organising our Pilgrimage to Peace event in Coventry - we decided to hold an event at Aldermaston.

Where? Main Gate, AWE Aldermaston

When? Come at 1pm for a shared Peace Picnic ready for the main event of the day at 2pm

What? Bring your interpretation of the letters NWC to be judged by our distinguished panellists. It will be videoed for world-wide viewing! Show them that people really do want nuclear weapons to be banned.

How? That's up to your imagination - anything from posters and placards to music and theatre - just make it visual. Why not come in costume?

Who? YOU, of course, individually or as a group.

(If you can let us know in advance, we can give you a good spot on the programme and on our website)

And, of course, if you can't come to Aldermaston, why not organise a similar event in your area! Make sure the local papers know about it, let us know so we can put details on our website, and if you have any great photos let us have copies (high resolution for printing or send us the photo and we'll scan and return).



29 May - 4 June: World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel. Initiative of World Council of Churches supported by networks including Pax Christi, Christian Aid, Ecumenical Accompaniment in Programme, Scottish Palestine Forum. www.worldweekforpeace.org

5 June: Nuclear Abolition Day. A global day of action for a Nuclear Weapons Convention. www.nuclearabolition.org/

“Strictly Disarming” Nuclear Abolition Day. Main Gate, AWE Aldermaston. Organised by Christian CND. Come at 1pm for a shared Peace Picnic ready for the main event of the day at 2pm. Let us know what you’re planning! 020 7700 4200 christians@cnduk.org

6 June: Action at RAF/US Fylingdales ballistic Missile Early warning Station. 12noon - 4pm. A day to say no to nuclear weapons, US bases and missile defence. Please meet at Ellerbeck car park or Saltersgate car park on A169 road between Pickering and Whitby. Picnic. Banners etc/ kites? balloons? music? short statements/ readings. A flyer and information pack available please contact Sylvia 01274 824271 email robinandsylvia@yahoo.co.uk

9 June: The International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons. Public meeting with the Rt Rev Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Reading. Organised by Nuclear Awareness Group (NAG). 7pm at RISC Centre, 35-39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS. Info: 0118 327 7489. www.nuclearawarenessgroup.org.uk

15 June: Inequality and Millennium Development Goals. Meeting held by Uniting for Peace (a joint Action for UN Renewal and World Disarmament Campaign meeting). Keynote speaker: Sir Richard Jolly (former under-Secretary General for United Nations). Meeting from 6.30-8.30pm, at Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ. Advance bookings (please sent at least £6) to: either Vijay or Brian. Vijay Mehta. 97 Commercial Road, London, E1 1RD (0207 377 2111) Brian Cooper, WDC, Po Box 28209, Edinburgh, EH9 1ZR (0131 446 9545). Donations welcomed.

Wednesday 16 June: “The 2010 NPT Review Conference: consequences for the future of disarmament and non-proliferation”. With Ambassador Peter Jenkins, Geneva Centre for Security Policy; previously UK Ambassador to the IAEA; Carol Naughton, Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy; and Prof. John Simpson, Mountbatten Centre for International Studies. 13.30 - 15.00 Chadwick Lecture Theatre, University College London Gower Street, WC1. Admission is free; no advance booking is necessary but helpful to let the organisers know you’re coming: 020-7405 6661;

pugwash@mac.com; web: www.pugwash.org/uk
Sorry no wheelchair access.

Saturday 19 June: “Where to Next?: After the NPT Review Con.” 1.30pm Leeds Met University Lesley Silver Building. Scottish CND Chair Alan Mackinnon will be reporting back from the conference and be discussing post NPT events and campaigning. <http://www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk/>

19 June: Pax Christi Annual General Meeting Will be held in Blackfriars, Oxford. Speaker Dr Jane Clements, Director of Forum of Discussion of Israel and Palestine (FODIP) Other highlights New Schools and Youth Worker. Matt Jeziorski joined us at the beginning of November and is settling into the job. Pax Christi, St Joseph’s, Watford Way, London, NW4 4TY 0208 203 4884 www.paxchristi.org.uk

20 June: Campaign Against Arms Trade Day of Prayer. If you are a member of the CAAT Christian Network, join thousands of other Christians to raise awareness about the arms trade in your faith community on our day of prayer. Email christian@caat.org.uk for more information. +44-(0)20 7281 0297 CAAT, 11 Goodwin St, Finsbury Park, London N4 3HQ.

7 June: Unarmed Forces Day. Meet 10.30am, Ministry of Defence, for the start of five-day walk to the military prison in Colchester where soldier Joe Glenton is in prison for refusing to fight in Afghanistan. Film showings and other activities along the way. Accommodation available in London on the nights of 25-26 June. Initiated by Justice Not Vengeance (www.j-n-v.org) and others. Contact: 0845 458 2564, afghanpeacewalk@googlemail.com

4 July: Annual “Independence FROM America” day at Menwith Hill, Yorks. Organised by Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases (CAAB), 9 Swarcliffe Road, Harrogate, HG1 4QZ. Tel no: 01423 884076 <http://www.caab.org.uk>

10 July: Stop nuclear trains through London! Nuclear power produces highly toxic, radioactive waste. London hosts the 2012 Olympic and Para Olympic Games in sites across Hackney and Stratford. Nuclear trains run alongside the site. Take action and join the protest! Assemble 2pm Victoria Park, Cadogan Gate Entrance, Cadogan Terrace E9. Nearest station: Hackney Wick. March to Stratford Station. Called by Nuclear Trains Action Group. Supported by London CND and National CND. Info: David, 020 7607 2302 david.lrcnd@cnduk.org www.nonucleartrains.org.uk

29 - 31 October: Pilgrimage to Peace. Plus CCND Golden Anniversary Event at Coventry. More details later but please put the date in your diary now!