

# **Labour CND**

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017**

Labour CND continues to campaign against Trident replacement and for its abandonment as our number one priority, in the context of campaigning for the abolition of all nuclear weapons. The past year has been a contradictory one for nuclear disarmers everywhere.

### **INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT**

We welcomed the passage of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons – the first ever treaty to Ban the Bomb. The support of the majority of UN members indicates that international opinion is shifting. But the nuclear armed powers, including the UK, boycotted the Treaty talks and have refused to sign.

At the same time, the on-going nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula brought the world closer to nuclear confrontation than we've been since the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, and President Trump has unilaterally abandoned the Iranian nuclear agreement.

The publication of the US Nuclear Posture Review at the beginning of 2018, the appointments of John Bolton as US National Security Advisor and Mike Pompeo as US Secretary of State all show that the use of military force, including the threat of nuclear weapons use, remain central to the 'security' scenarios of the US and its Nato allies.

### **CAMPAIGNING PRIORITIES**

#### **Labour Party Conference**

- Korea and the UN Treaty was the joint focus of the suggestions we circulated for contemporary resolutions to party conference, which were submitted by several CLPs. Despite the Korean crisis unfolding before our eyes in August and September, the Conference Arrangements Committee ruled them out on the grounds that they were not contemporary!
- CND held a well attended fringe meeting with Fabian Hamilton, Labour's Shadow Minister for Peace and Disarmament and other speakers.
- Labour CND produced a conference newsletter (available on our website) and participated in Campaign for Labour Party Democracy's daily Yellow Pages bulletin.

#### **Social media**

- Thanks to committee member Hannah Kemp-Welch, our Social Media officer, Labour CND has greatly improved our digital communications – with regular e-newsletters, frequent website updates, and using Facebook and twitter.

#### **Labour Party policy-making and elections**

- We campaigned for a Labour victory in the June 2017 general elections, highlighting the manifesto's commitments to put conflict resolution and human rights at the heart of foreign policy, support UN reform and end support for aggressive wars of intervention, and especially the creation of a Minister for Peace and Disarmament.
- We have supported and promoted candidates with a track record on Trident in elections. Rachel Garnahm, a former Labour CND committee member was successful in the NEC elections.
- We have encouraged members to engage online with Labour's National Policy Forum and the leader's Democracy Review.

#### **Campaigning with partner organisations**

- We have participated in and supported other organisations and forums within the Labour Party, including: Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, Momentum, Labour Assembly Against Austerity, Labour Representation Committee.

#### **Strengthening Labour CND**

We have sought to expand Labour CND's reach, encouraging greater regional representation and developing new ways of communicating. We now hold bi-monthly face-to-face committee meetings, alternating with telephone conferences for committee members who are less able to travel.

*Carol Turner and Carol Wilcox, June 2018*