

Briefing for Delegates



TUC MOTION 17

For a Shadow Defence Diversification Agency

Labour CND has long called on the Labour Party to establish a ‘Shadow’ Defence Diversification Agency whilst in opposition to research ways to secure high and stable levels of employment for those communities and sectors affected by nuclear disarmament, which is necessary to bring about a nuclear free Britain and world.

The TUC has now endorsed the proposal since its 2017 Congress. Labour CND was delighted Unite supported Motion 17 which pointed out “the first task of this Agency would be to engage with plant representatives, trades unions representing workers in the ‘defence’ industry, and local authorities, to discuss their needs and capacities, and to listen to their ideas, so that

practical plans can be drawn up for arms conversion while protecting skilled employment and pay levels. A key means for developing the national industrial strategy would be the National Investment Bank proposed by the Shadow Chancellor. Congress also urges trades union councils, trade unions and the General Council of the TUC to assist work of such a ‘shadow’ Agency if set up.”

The Labour Party must now adopt this policy so that the labour movement as whole has a unified position to reassure workers in the sector that there will secure employment under a Labour Government which is also delivering on nuclear disarmament.

New report highlights international lessons on defence diversification



New research on defence diversification was published last week. *Defence Diversification: International Learning for Trident Jobs*, commissioned by the Nuclear Education Trust identifies experiences overseas from which the UK will need to consider in an effort to retain employment already disappearing in the defence sector.

The report describes this decline as ‘a long-term downward trend’ and states: ‘economic transition always results in upheaval, and “do nothing” is not an option: trends in defence spending and markets show that employment in the defence manufacturing sector is already shrinking.’

The costs of the international diversification programmes assessed are “tiny in contrast to the cost of Trident’s replacement which is estimated

to cost between £140bn and £205bn over its lifetime”, and the report includes following recommendations:

- **WORKERS** and communities must take the lead in making decisions for diversification, but a broad partnership involving all stakeholders is necessary for success.
- **ACTION** must be taken at early stages to proactively assist communities in diversification, rather than reacting to a crisis. Suggested timelines to organise and plan for diversification range from three to five years as a minimum.
- **FUNDING** must be available not just for putting a plan into action but for organising, analysis of the situation, planning and then implementation.

Defence Diversification: international learning for Trident jobs, published by the Nuclear Education Trust, June 2018, is available from <http://www.nucleareducationtrust.org>

May's government is out of step with global demands for a ban on nuclear weapons

Since Unite met for a national policy conference in 2016 the global momentum for the abolition of nuclear weapons has gathered pace, with a new UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Its exponents were awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize. But Theresa May has announced her government will never sign.

In September 2017 the Treaty opened for nation states to sign. The 'Global Ban' Treaty, as it's widely known, follows international agreements to ban weapons of mass destruction such as chemical and biological weapons, as well as landmines.

“The Global Ban Treaty reflects the ambitions of a nuclear free world set out in Unite's 2016 policy statement.”

The time has come to ban nuclear weapons too. The new treaty would prohibit the use, stockpiling, testing, production, manufacture, stationing and installation of nuclear weapons. And it also commits signatories to assisting

victims of nuclear weapons, whether from their testing or their use.

When the text was agreed by 122 nation states in July 2017 it was the culmination of years of work by non-nuclear states and civil society. It reflects the ambitions of a nuclear free world set out in Unite's 2016 policy statement.

Britain must now decide if it will remain in splendid isolation on this issue, or recognise the multilateral momentum developing towards a global ban across the planet. The Labour Party is committed to playing a leading role in global nuclear disarmament, but under the Tories Britain has sat on the sidelines as the international agenda has developed apace.

The labour movement must call on the British government to sign the treaty. With Jeremy Corbyn as Prime Minister a commitment to the global abolition of nuclear weapons would be taken seriously by all nations.

The next Labour Government's place in history will be assured if it plays its part in bringing about a nuclear free world.

Labour CND Fringe Meeting

MONDAY LUNCHTIME

Defence Diversification and Internationalism

Speakers

Kingsley Abrams, Unite London & East Region Committee Member

Daniel Blaney, CND

Ann Feltham, Campaign Against Arms Trade

Sam Mason, PCS

Chair: **Carol Turner**, Labour CND

The Old Ship Hotel, Kings Road, Brighton

Start time: around 12.30pm or after end of morning conference session whichever is later

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