

Labour CND Newsletter

Labour Party conference 2018



Web: www.labourcnd.org.uk ■ Facebook: www.facebook.com/LabourCND
Twitter: www.twitter.com/LabourCND ■ Email: info@labourcnd.org.uk

Shadow Defence Diversification Agency urgently needed

The time's just right for a Shadow Defence Diversification Agency. Jeremy Corbyn has promised it during his election campaign, the Trades Union Congress is committed to it, and Unite is coming round to the idea. Labour in opposition must establish a Shadow DDA ready for the off when it takes becomes the government.

A DDA will research ways to secure high and stables levels of employment for those communities and sectors affected by nuclear disarmament, which is necessary to bring about a nuclear free Britain and world. A DDA is also the only sure fire way to protect rapidly-shrinking defence sector jobs.

Defence Diversification is a win-win initiative. Defence jobs are declining – the combined result of growing automation, cost cutting by the private sector companies that dominate the industry, and a Ministry of Defence that's strapped for cash.

The TUC has endorsed the proposal at its 2017 Congress. "The first task of this Agency" Motion 17 says, "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 General Council reported to the 2018 Congress that: "In line with resolution 17... the TUC has met regularly with unions with an industrial interest in the sector, and with the Labour Party. We have made the case for the



development of a long-term strategy for defence jobs that can respond to future changes in government policy, within the context of a broad industrial strategy aimed at delivering good-quality jobs across the UK.

"Paul Nowak, deputy general secretary of the TUC, spoke at the launch of a

report on defence diversification by the Nuclear Education Trust to stress the importance of engaging workers in the defence industry in discussions about the future of the sector."

This report, *Defence Diversification: International Learning for Trident Jobs*, identifies experiences overseas from which the UK will need to consider in an effort to retain employment that's already disappearing across the defence sector. It describes this decline as "a long-term downward trend".

Economic transition always results in upheaval, the report says 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>

Inside: Trump's nuclear hypocrisy ● World Transformed fringe ● Policy for your CLP ● Grassroots Labour CND

Walter Wolfgang gets everywhere!

Labour CND's proud of its nonagenarian Vice President, Walter Wolfgang, pictured earlier this year accepting the Ron Todd Peace Prize. Age hasn't dulled his passion for nuclear disarmament. He remains an active thorn in Labour's nuclear side.

A life-long advocate of a non-aligned foreign policy for Labour and Britain, Walter is a committed anti-war activist. Earlier this September, the annual meeting of Stop the War Coalition appointed him a patron.

So we were only mildly surprised to discover another accolade from an unlikely source. In *Keeping On Keeping On*, Alan Bennett's third prose collection, a diary entry records: "2005, 29 September. Among several things that the ejection and charging of Mr Walter Wolfgang from the Labour Party Conference demonstrates is the danger of endowing the police with any more powers than they have already.

"For shouting out 'Liar' he is charged under the Terrorism Act. The silencing of hecklers was hardly the act's original purpose but it is just the handiest blunt instrument available. This should be remembered in the next session of parliament, when the police are asking for yet more powers... young Muslim or Jewish old-age pension it makes no difference. 'You're nicked!'"



Policy motions for your CLP

Labour CND circulated two contemporary motions for this year's party conference. in the run up to Labour Party Conference. Please use them as a model and ask your CLP adopt these policies.

Shadow Defence Diversification Agency

Conference notes the announcement on 13 August 2018 by the Ministry of Defence to expand the role of the MOD Career Transition Partnership into the technology and cyber security sector.

Conference acknowledges:

- the defence industry is increasingly capital intensive and employment is in long-term decline;
- urgent attention is needed to ensure skilled, secure and well-paid employment for defence workers.

Conference welcomes:

- Jeremy Corbyn's commitment to establishing a Defence Diversification Agency 'jointly between workers, industry and government to ensure that jobs and skills are not just maintained, but also expanded';
- Motion 17 passed by TUC 2017 which 'calls on trade unions and the TUC to lobby the Labour Party to establish a 'shadow Defence Diversification Agency' and 'urges trades union councils, trade unions and the General Council of the TUC' to assist it work;
- Unite's 2018 policy conference decision is to 'provide resources to develop a defence diversification strategy' including promoting cross-sectoral work within the union, and working with other unions, the TUC and Labour Party.

Conference recognises that securing jobs for defence workers is best achieved by the establishment of a Shadow Defence Diversification Agency as part of a national industrial strategy, which must encourage workers and communities to take the lead in a broad partnership of all stakeholders.

Conference resolves to:

- encourage discussion about defence diversification at all levels of the party;
- work with the TUC, Unite and other unions to encourage research on defence diversification; and
- establish a Shadow Defence Diversification Agency as a matter of urgency.

Reducing the risks of nuclear confrontation

Conference acknowledges that the faltering Korean Peninsula denuclearisation talks and the USA's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear agreement increase the risk of future confrontations which include the potential use of nuclear weapons.

Conference: agrees with Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui's statement of 6 August 2018 that the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is 'a milestone along the path to a nuclear-weapon-free world'; and congratulates the 60 states that have signed the Treaty by 6 August, 14 of which have already ratified it.

Conference recalls that Labour's 2017 manifesto: recognised 'We live in a period of growing international tensions'; sought to reduce 'human suffering caused by war'; committed to 'lead multilateral efforts with international partners and the UN to create a nuclear-free world'; and promised 'a strong, viable and sustainable defence and security policy' that is 'strategic and evidence led'.

Conference calls on the next Labour government to: sign and ratify the UN Treaty, which will inevitably involve a commitment to scrap the Trident nuclear weapons system; and devote resources to meeting Britain's real security needs, such as combating cyber warfare and terrorism.

Grassroots Labour CND

Local community networks are essential to magnify and broadcast the voice of nuclear disarmament in every Labour Party branch and constituency. Labour CND groups are growing across Britain to do just that. **Sonia Klein** is Labour CND's regional coordinator and keen to encourage them. She writes:

We need to draw upon all talents, ideas and skills from across the country to spread the message of CND. Are you ready to join us?

Setting up a local group starts with one person making the decision to take a lead. Labour CND will send you a simple toolkit to help you organise and grow, and work with you to strengthen your regional voice.

- **Step 1: The founding members**

Make the decision, recruits some friends and develop a strategy specific for your area and membership needs.

- **Step 2: The mission**

Decide on what you hope to achieve within the movement. Define your group and develop a path to reach your goals.

- **Step 3: Activity plan**

Agree on activities you will deliver such as policy discussions, film nights, lobbying, education and awareness campaigns, social meet-ups. We'll work with you to develop a 12-month plan of action.

- **Step 4: Tools and technology**

Assess what skills you have within your group and assign roles and responsibilities –social media, website development, event management, communications, canvassing, policy ambassadors. We can advise on digital tools and organise training.

- **Step 4: Publicity**

Develop a strategy to promote your meetings and your message to your local community. Use a combination of technology and traditional methods.

- **Step 5: Networking**

Local groups will be linked within their region and empowered to share ideas and campaigning experience within the movement.

- **Step 6: Lobbying Parliament**

To make an impact we need our MPs to understand and vote for the will of the people. Strong regional Labour CND voices will get their attention. We'll help you use VocalEyes, a digital democracy and crowdfunding platform, and provide training if you'd like some.

This is an important time for our movement. We'll be at Labour conference all week and look forward to meeting many of you. Get in touch if you would like to discuss establishing a local group, contact me at soniakleinCND@gmail.com

Britain must back UN nuclear ban treaty

Impetus for the worldwide 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 signature. 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 new treaty would prohibit the use, stockpiling, testing, production, manufacture, stationing and installation of nuclear weapons. And it commits signatory states to assisting victims of nuclear weapons, whether from their testing or their use.

When 122 UN members voted to adopt the Treaty 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 Labour's manifesto.

Since the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons opened for signature a year ago, 60 states have now signed it, and 14 have ratified it, that is incorporated into their country's national legislation.

Labour's manifesto commits the party to playing a leading role in global nuclear disarmament. Under the Tories Britain has sat on the sidelines as the international agenda gathered pace. The labour movement must call for Britain to sign the treaty.

With Jeremy Corbyn as Prime Minister a commitment to the global abolition of nuclear weapons would be taken seriously across the world. The next Labour Government's place in history will be assured if it plays its part in bringing that about.

BREAKING NEWS...

Congratulations to Labour CND members who became CLP reps in the recent NPF elections: Co-Chair **Carol Turner**, representing London, Secretary **Carol Wilcox**, representing SW, and **George Downs**, re-elected to the NW youth place. And **Tom Unterrainer**, elected in the East Midlands, sits on CND's Trade Union Advisory Group.

HOLD THE DATE: Labour CND annual conference and AGM: Saturday 2 February 2019. All welcome. Party members who are also members of CND have voting rights.

Trump's nuclear hypocrisy

After Trump's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear agreement, the first round of sanctions are kicking in. Labour CND Co-Chair Carol Turner contrasts US withdrawal from the Iran deal with plans to expand America's nuclear reach.

The first tranche of sanctions against Iran came into effect on 7 August, three months after President Trump withdrew the US from the Iran nuclear agreement. Iran is excluded from currency markets, and lending it money is prohibited. A second, tougher round begins in November, against petroleum-related transactions.

Trump tweeted: 'Anyone doing business with Iran will NOT be doing business with the United States.' He meant it. Sanctions don't just target Iran, they aim to penalise any company doing business there.

Europe opposed withdrawal. The EU fought back against secondary sanctions. British, German, French foreign ministers co-signed a statement promising to protect European companies from sanctions by introducing legislation designed to limit potential damage to European companies.

EU 'blocking laws' seek to make it illegal for banks to withdraw services from companies conducting legitimate business with Iran. But US pressure is already taking effect:

- Daimler has announced its halting business activities in Iran
- Total, the French oil giant, is shelving a multi-billion dollar investment, and
- British Airways and Air France are suspending flights there.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was one of the few successful international initiatives in a long chain of failures. It put restraints on Iran's nuclear programme, in return for economic sanctions being lifted. The UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirms that Iran continues to meet its obligations, as do official US sources.

So why did Trump claim it was a 'bad deal'? In a speech that followed US withdrawal, Secretary of State Pompeo spelled out US objectives: to 'apply unprecedented financial pressure' on Iran with the aim of counteracting its influence in the region.'

Iran must meet 12 requirements before sanctions will be lifted, including agreeing to:

- permanently and verifiably abandon in perpetuity any military dimension of its nuclear programme;

- stop enrichment and never pursue plutonium reprocessing;
- provide the IAEA with unqualified access to all sites throughout the entire country; and
- halt development of nuclear-capable ballistic missile systems.

More than severe, these conditions seek to remove Iran's ability ever to pursue any kind of civilian nuclear programme that might conceivably have military spin offs. US demands go further, designed to neutralise Iranian influence in the region and end its ability to oppose US regional allies, namely Israel, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Compare the destruction of a landmark nuclear arms control agreement with the United States plans to beef up its own nuclear strategy. US National Security Strategy (Dec 2017) and Nuclear Posture Review (Feb 2018) expand the scenarios in which nuclear weapons might be used, to include preventing 'significant non-nuclear strategic attacks' – ie in a conventional military conflict with a non-nuclear adversary.

The US will also continue development of a new generation of so-called low-yield nuclear weapons. (The bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki would be considered 'low yield' according to this double-speak.) Technological advances mean smaller and more accurately targeted nuclear weapons are within US reach. These smaller and more accurately targeted nukes, include Trident warheads.

Trump's next nuclear frontier is interstellar. He recently announced the formation of Space Force, a new branch of the US armed forces. "It is not enough to merely have an American presence in space," he said. "We must have American dominance.'

Trump's nuclear hypocrisy is taking us to a very dangerous place indeed.

Labour and Trident: do jobs justify making nuclear weapons?

CND at The World Transformed
Monday 24 Sept, 1pm to 2.30pm
Hinterlands,
7 Mann St,
L8 5AF

