

Labour CND

Scrap Trident –

Support a Nuclear Weapons Convention

The Party's 2012 National Policy Forum Report rightly states the party must debate Trident replacement.

That debate should take place now and must include the option of Britain ending its possession of nuclear weapons, which the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review, and Cabinet Office Trident Alternatives Review, failed to do.

Trident and its replacement do not address our real threats. The possession of Trident does not increase our security. It is not a means of defence.

Trident or its replacement is a green light to nuclear weapons proliferation. The argument that its replacement is necessary due to an 'uncertain future' represents an inability to see a nuclear-free future, or to make the necessary commitment to achieve it.

Trident and its replacement is unaffordable. We are spending over £2 billion every year maintaining Trident.

Constructing Trident Replacement will cost at least £25 billion over the next 20 years, if the Ministry of Defence keeps the project to budget, and maintaining the system will take the cost to over £100 billion over its lifetime expected to last into the 2060s.

This massive expenditure could be better spent on health, education, welfare and jobs in future growth industries like renewable energy.

Trident uses skills that could be put to better use in other areas. A 2015 Labour Government should introduce an industrial plan for Trident-related facilities to maintain employment and the use of the skills base.

Trident replacement is unpopular. There is clear and consistent polling evidence that shows the public is opposed to Trident replacement.

An incoming Labour government in 2015 must take a positive message to the 2015 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

In 1995 Robin Cook wrote that a Labour administration would have backed a Nuclear Weapons Convention at that years NPT Review Conference.

We didn't do so in government but now, with overwhelming support from UN member states, the Labour Party should, in addition to announcing its commitment to:

- scrapping Trident,
- supporting negotiations to achieve a Nuclear Weapons Convention.