

NEWSLETTER

September 2014

The Launch of BRINDI

In the last few years, British Pugwash has been exploring how UK expertise might best be brought together to tackle the problems which need to be solved if the world is to achieve the long-term goal of global nuclear disarmament. In 2007 the idea of 'global zero' finally achieved political as well as intellectual respectability, with the publication of a letter in the *Wall Street Journal* by the US 'gang of four' – Schultz, Perry, Kissinger and Nunn. This was closely followed by Margaret Beckett's keynote speech proposing that Britain should become a 'disarmament laboratory' for the world. In 2008, British Pugwash proposed a set of concrete steps that the UK could take to realise this concept, through the establishment of a 'British International Nuclear Disarmament Institute' (BRINDI). We had initially hoped that this initiative could be linked to the Government's proposal in its 2009 White Paper *The Road to 2010*, for a 'Centre of Excellence' but this was sadly shelved.

The BRINDI project took a major step forward when, on 1 April 2014, we held a very successful day-long workshop in which 20 UK experts discussed our outline proposal for the creation of BRINDI, defining the possible scope of its work. BRINDI is envisaged as an independent institution that could advise governments, and bring together the technical, political, military, diplomatic and public outreach skills required eventually to reach global zero. The workshop also discussed how the relevant government stakeholders might be involved.



HMS Vigilant, a Vanguard Class submarine, alongside No. 10 berth HM Naval Base (HMNB) Clyde (see *Future Meetings* p.3)

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We are now engaged in creating a Working Group of experts which seeks to draw on the technical and scientific expertise that resides both in government, and in UK universities and NGOs, to help us realise the BRINDI concept. We are clear that BRINDI will need a strong management team, with a charismatic Chief Executive, if we are to create the necessary alliances and raise the significant funding that will be required.

We currently envisage that BRINDI's activities will focus on four main areas: Fissile Material Issues (restriction of access, detection and attribution of misuse); measures required to strengthen the non-proliferation and disarmament regime; achieving sustainability of already agreed disarmament measures; and exploring the implications of moving to a non-nuclear world order.

New Executive Committee members

The British Pugwash Group has welcomed two new members to its Executive Committee. Amb. Peter Jenkins was a British diplomat for 33 years and served twice as Ambassador in the UK Mission to the International Atomic Energy Agency, from 2001 to 2006. He was also President of the 2007 IAEA Conference on Illicit Trafficking of Nuclear Materials, and participated in the UN negotiation of a Convention on Corruption. He has recently participated in a number of Pugwash meetings.

Richard Guthrie's work has focussed mostly on technology control and innovation issues, particularly those relating to materials and technologies that can have hostile as well as peaceful uses. From 1988-2003 he collaborated with the Harvard Sussex Program on public policy towards chemical and biological weapons, and in 2004-2007 he was Project Leader of the Chemical and Biological Warfare Project of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). He is also the Co-ordinating Editor of the CBW Events project, and is currently a member of the Pugwash Study Group on the Implementation of the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions.

NUCLEAR ISSUES

WMDA Talking Trident

In February 2014 WMD Awareness worked with research agency ComRes to ask 4,207 adults aged 18+ (including 1,108 aged 18-35), across the UK, ten questions about nuclear weapons. The aim of this research was to:

- Find out more about people's attitudes to nuclear weapons and their knowledge about Britain's nuclear weapons system, Trident, ahead of the government's decision on whether to renew the system – due to be made in 2016.
- Identify differences in knowledge and opinion among age groups, particularly between those who have grown up since the Cold War (aged 18-35 year olds) and older voters (aged 36+).

The research shows that

UK adults aged 18-35 tend to oppose nuclear weapons and the like-for-like renewal of Trident:

- Only 19% believe the UK's nuclear weapon system should be renewed to maintain its current size and capacity, compared to a third (33%) of 36+ year olds.
- 51% agree that the UK's nuclear weapon system should be disbanded or reduced in size and capacity.
- More than half (54%) think nuclear weapons for defence purposes are too expensive for governments to maintain.
- 47% disagree that nuclear weapons protect the countries which possess them from modern day threats such as terrorism, while only 38% agree.

Many people in this age group are not engaged with the debate on nuclear weapons:

- Only 6% believe spending on defence should be the government's priority over the next 10 years.
- Almost half (45%) didn't know whether or not the

UK government is legally bound to work towards disarmament under the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

- A third (34%) believe renewing Trident is going to cost up to £5 billion. It is actually estimated to cost up to £100 billion.

WMD Awareness' Young Ambassadors have responded to the findings by launching **#Talking Trident**, a national debate to raise awareness of the issues surrounding defence and Trident renewal ahead of the 2016 Main Gate decision. Find out more at: wmdawareness.org.uk/talking-trident

Hay Festival 2014

The 10th Rotblat annual lecture, organised by WMDA, was delivered by Jonathon Porritt. His new book *The World We Made* focuses on building a sustainable, fair and compassionate world by 2050. He explained that this means a world free from nuclear weapons. By 2022, "so many senior military or ex-military leaders will have concluded that Trident is undermining the ability of this country to provide security for its people. It will not address the security problems we will face and will be so costly and dangerous that we would be a much safer country without it." See WMDA's films from Hay at: youtube.com/user/AwarenessWMD

Nuclear Weapons Parliamentary Liaison Group

This informal collaboration of experts has continued to meet regularly and work to inform decision makers on nuclear weapons-related issues. It has continued to monitor developments on the Trident replacement front, and members of the group are in discussion with a number of influential MPs and advisers.

Further funding received from Network for Social Change has enabled the group to appoint a new Parliamentary Liaison Officer in anticipation of an

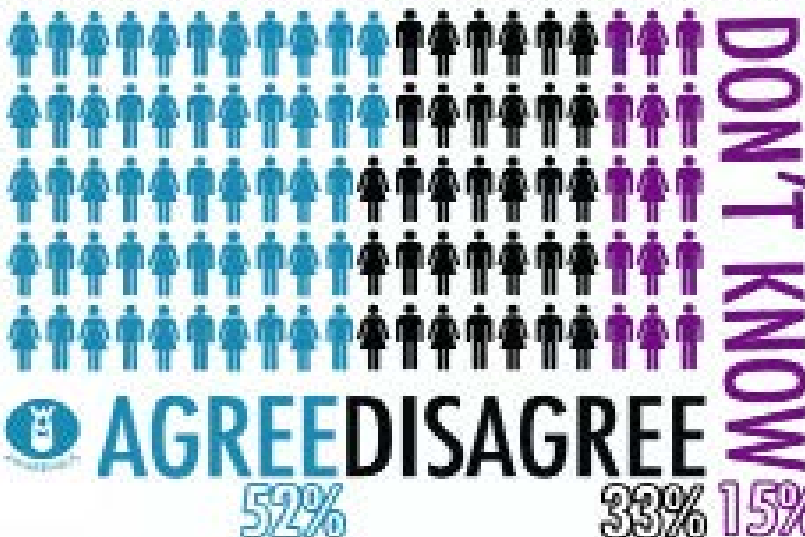
increased intensity of work during the run-up to the general election next May, and as a consequence of the debates arising out of the Scottish independence referendum.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

The five-yearly Review Conference of the NPT will take place in May 2015. In the run-up to that conference, Pugwash President Amb. Jayantha Dhanapala will be spending a week in London.

During that time he will be undertaking consultations with the UK government officials and UK-based think tanks on the prospects for that meeting. We also hope to arrange an open discussion meeting while he is here (see FUTURE MEETINGS).

"NUCLEAR WEAPONS SHOULD NOT BE PART OF A COUNTRY'S DEFENCE SYSTEM."



SCIENCE AND ETHICS

The ethics of developing technologies

Two lines of work instituted in 2013 on the ethics of military robotics and the potential development of autonomous weapons have developed further in 2014.

John Finney continues to work on the UNESCO Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Information and Technology (COMEST), representing Pugwash President Amb. Jayantha Dhanapala. He will participate in the next COMEST meeting in Quebec in October, where ethical issues of converging technologies will be further discussed. The meeting will also work on revising the 1974 UN Declaration on the Status of Scientific Researchers and on finalising COMEST's draft report on the ethics of climate change.

John has also represented Jayantha in work to prevent the development of autonomous weapons systems being undertaken by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, coordinated by Human Rights Watch. Following very successful discussions in September 2013 on the occasion of the UN First Committee in New York, the UN Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) held an informal meeting of experts on lethal autonomous weapons systems in May, with 87 states participating. The high level of engagement by a range of countries showed an appetite to continue this work in 2015. At their next annual meeting on November 14, the 117 states party to the CCW will decide on the mandate for moving forward.

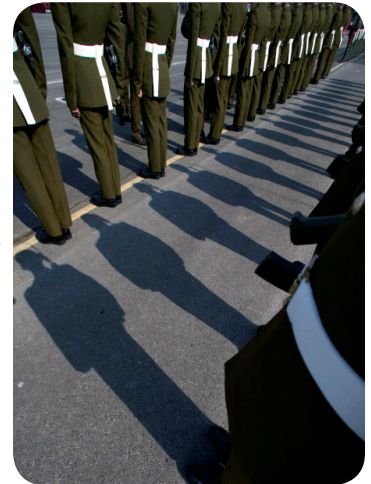
At the UN Human Rights Commission (HRC) meeting in June, Christof Heyns, the UN Special Rapporteur on extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary executions followed up his 2013 HRC report by stressing the importance of the HRC remaining seized with the issue of autonomous weapons systems, because of its implications for human rights during armed conflict as well as for law enforcement. In further UN activities related to autonomous weapons, members of the campaign were asked to present at the July meeting of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters. At that meeting, United Nations disarmament chief Angela Kane encouraged the Board to take into consideration how nations can take action now to address fully autonomous weapons as "the mere existence of an international legal obligation is often not enough" to rein in the technology.

This campaign has made remarkable progress since its launch in London in April 2013, with several different UN bodies engaging with the issue. And one robotics company, ClearPath Robotics in Canada, has already "vouched to not manufacture weaponized robots that remove humans from the loop". More details are on the campaign's website <http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/>

MEETINGS

Security by Remote Control: can it work?

At a British Pugwash discussion meeting on 20 March Paul Rogers, Professor of Peace Studies at Bradford University, traced attempts by western powers, especially the US, to move to a 'war light' strategy which, in reducing 'boots on the ground', lessens military casualties and the cost of sending military forces overseas. The experiences of Iraq and Afghanistan increased the attractiveness of such remote control options. Recent developments in Iraq and Syria make his remarks all the more relevant.



Special Forces Support Group
Inaugural Parade at RAF St
Athan, Wales 11th May 2006.
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He examined not only the use of armed drones, operated by the US, UK and a number of other nations, but also the expansion of special forces and private military companies. In the UK it is very difficult to obtain numbers of special forces but a new special forces support group has been established to provide logistical support for SAS and SBS (Special Boat Service) operations. In the US, the army, air force, navy and marines all have their own special forces, which come together under the Special Forces Command, semi-unified at a worldwide level. Also below the radar is the rapid expansion of private military companies (separate from private security companies such as G4S) which are more combat-oriented and tend to be drawn from ex-special forces personnel. Professor Rogers concluded that we are moving into an area of proliferation which raises ethical and legal issues and has consequences that are difficult to predict, with little hard information available.

FUTURE MEETINGS

20 October 2014: Discussion meeting: 'Trident after the Scottish referendum'. Speakers: Prof. Malcolm Chalmers and Prof. William Walker, UCL, Garwood Lecture Theatre, 6pm

31 October 2014: Showing of the film on the life of Joseph Rotblat, 'The Strangest Dream', Merton College, Oxford, 5pm

9 December 2014: Public meeting to be addressed by Pugwash President Jayantha Dhanapala, venue and time tbc

March 2015: British Pugwash AGM and discussion meeting on Chemical and Biological Weapons. Date and venue tbc

For further information go to: [upcoming events on the British Pugwash website](#)

AWE and British universities

Christopher Watson participated in a panel discussion to launch the Nuclear Information Service/Medact publication *Atoms for Peace? The Atomic Weapons Establishment and UK universities*. The study found that more than 50 British universities have received funding from the AWE. Its 'Technical Outreach' programme with universities mainly supports scientific research in the areas of physics, materials science, high performance computing, modelling, and manufacturing disciplines. The report concludes that many aspects of AWE's scientific research programmes are conducted in sensitive and controversial areas, raising complex ethical and legal issues, including issues of dual use applications.

PEACEJAM UK



Shireen Ebadi at PeaceJam UK conference in Bradford, 2009

PeaceJam UK is an educational programme which empowers young people, inspiring them through the example of Nobel Laureates who work with the programme. We have the very exciting news that the University of Winchester has come into partnership with PeaceJam UK to host its annual conference, and we will be holding the first week-end conference at Winchester in Spring 2015. We now have a South of England hub as part of our Affiliate. On 21 September, we are also holding the first public premiere in the UK of the Desmond Tutu biographical film, "Children of the Light", part of the Nobel Legacy film Series which PeaceJam is making.

We are still working with the University of Bradford and at the beginning of May we held a very successful one-day event with the human rights lawyer and

Nobel Peace Laureate, Shirin Ebadi, pictured at our conference in Bradford in 2009. Her talk about her life as an Iranian Moslem woman was followed by a lively Q&A session. We also plan to hold a one-day Slam event with many schools in the Yorkshire area in October.

This year we have written up a Toolkit and Scheme of Work to be used with our curriculum and resources material to make it easier for teachers to use the PeaceJam curriculum. We hope that this will help us to greatly increase the uptake in schools.

Lastly, Google are partnering with us to take our 'Global Call to Action' projects worldwide. They have created with us a "One Billion Acts of Peace" Campaign. For all details please look at the PeaceJam website: www.peacejam.org

PUBLICATIONS

British Pugwash *Annual Report 2013*

General Sir Hugh Beach 'The UK's Nuclear Deterrent' *RUSI Journal*, Volume 159, Issue 2, 2014

In a response to Malcolm Chalmers' article in the December 2013 edition of *the RUSI Journal*, Hugh Beach argues that it is time to move on from 1980s rhetoric of 'unilateral' versus 'multi-lateral' disarmament and to act in the UK's true national interest.

PUGWASH HISTORY

New photo blog - can you help?

We have set up a blog for the Pugwash photo archive to seek information about the many photographs which lack captions or other evidence of who is shown in the picture and where it was taken. Here is one example.

We have already had a number of responses to our first series of posts, solving several of our queries about the events and people shown. Visit the blog to see the latest posts and share your Pugwash memories. <http://www.pugwashphotoarchive.com/p/home-page.html>



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