

NO WARS

NO NUKES



LONDON CND 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

**LONDON CND
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Sun 14th Jan
12-2:30PM on Zoom



TIMETABLE

12:00 **WELCOME** Hannah Kemp-Welch

12:10 **KEYNOTE 1** **View from Westminster**
Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP

12:25 **PLENARY 1** **Nuclear war clouds gathering**
Carol Turner
Emma Dent-Coad
Sam Mason
Chair: Hannah Kemp-Welch

13:15 **REFRESHMENT BREAK**

13:25 **KEYNOTE 2** **Prospects for Palestine**
HE Dr Husam Zumlot

13:45 **PLENARY 1** **Impact of the war on Gaza**
Raghad Altikriti
Sami Ramadani
Jenny Manson
Chair: Murad Qureshi

14:25 **ANNOUNCEMENTS & THANKS**

BIOGRAPHIES



RAGHAD ALTIKRITI

is President of the Muslim Association of Britain, an Advisory Committee member of the European Forum of Muslim Women, and a regular contributor to discussions of islamophobia and women and youth in the west. Established in 1997, MAB seeks to better equip the Muslim community in Britain with the skills needed to navigate their political and social environment as British Muslims. It has a long relationship with CND and is one of six organisations which have come together to organise national opposition to the war on Gaza.



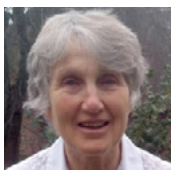
EMMA DENT-COAD

is a Councillor in the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, a Vice President of London CND, and a long-time anti-war and peace campaigner. Emma won the parliament seat for Labour and served as MP for Kensington, 2017-19 and was a Vice Chair of Parliamentary CND during that time. She is perhaps best known for her continuing work on the Grenfell Tower disaster.



HANNAH KEMP-WELCH

is Co-Chair of London CND. She is a sound artist currently researching socially engaged art at University of the Arts, London. She represented CND at the 2019 World Congress Against A&H Bomb in Japan, and curated London CND's Time, Memory, and Nuclear Weapons exhibition. Hannah has exhibited internationally, and her body of work includes projects with Japanese hibakusha.



JENNY MANSON

is a founder member of Jews for Justice for Palestinians, a network of Jews from across the religious and political spectrums who seek to ensure that Jewish opinions critical of Israeli policy and supportive of Palestinian rights are heard in Britain. Jenny is Co-Chair of Jewish Voice for Labour which campaigns against the war on Gaza, and a former London borough councillor.



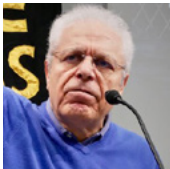
SAMANTHA MASON

is a well-respected national and international climate change activist. She is a Vice Chair of CND and a member of CND's Trade Union Advisory Group. Sam specialises in just transition issues and is an active member of the Campaign Against Climate Change Trade Union Group.



MURAD QURESHI

is a member of CND National Council and a Vice President of London CND. A former London Assembly Member, Murad is also a member of Stop the War Steering Committee and a former chair of the Coalition.



SAMI RAMADANI

is a founder member of Iraqi Democrats Against War in 1990, who came to Britain as a political refugee from Saddam Hussein's regime. He is a *Guardian* contributor on the Middle East, and formerly a Senior Lecturer at London Metropolitan University.



BELL RIBEIRO-ADDY

was elected to parliament as MP for Streatham in 2019 and served briefly as Shadow Minister for Immigration under Jeremy Corbyn. Bell is a member of the Socialist Campaign Group of MPs and a Vice Chair of Parliamentary CND. She devoted her maiden speech to reparations to former colonial subjects and is now Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Afrikan Reparations.



CAROL TURNER

is Co-Chair of London CND, a CND Vice Chair, and a member of CND's International Advisory Group. A nuclear disarmament and anti-war campaigner, she is active in Labour CND and a member of Stop the War's National Officer Group. Carol was a foreign policy advisor to UK parliamentarians for more than 15 years and is author of *Corbyn and Trident: Labour's continuing controversy* and *Walter Wolfgang a political life*.



AMBASSADOR HUSAM ZOMLOT

is Head of the Palestinian Mission to the UK since October 2018, and a special advisor to President Mahmoud Abbas. Before coming to London, he was Head of Mission in Washington until President Trump closed down the Palestinian Mission in August 2019.

CONFERENCE BRIEFING #1

CHALLENGING THE RETURN OF US NUKES TO BRITAIN

RAF Lakenheath, located just 100 km from London, was home to 110 nuclear bombs until 2008 when they were removed due to popular protest. Now, we believe they're back. These suspicions derive from when the US Department of Defence added the UK to a list of NATO nuclear weapons storage locations in Europe that are receiving upgrades through a multimillion-dollar infrastructure program. Notably, the UK was not part of a comparable list in the preceding year, indicating a recent decision.

Despite its RAF designation, Lakenheath is effectively managed by the USAF, housing their units and personnel. It hosts the 48th Fighter Wing (48 FW) under the United States Air Forces in Europe – Air Forces Africa (USAFE-AFAFRICA), overseeing F-15C/D Eagle, F-15E Strike Eagle, and F-35A Lightning II operations. With around 6,000 personnel, it's the largest deployment of USAF personnel in Britain and had hosted US nuclear weapons since 1954.

The US is the only country to locate its nuclear weapons outside its own borders and this substantial surge in NATO's ability to conduct nuclear warfare in Europe poses a significant risk of destabilisation. The reintroduction of these weapons will escalate global tensions and position Britain at the forefront in a potential NATO/Russia conflict.

CND's Legal Challenge

CND is legally contesting development at RAF Lakenheath and calling for the Ministry of Defence to halt the works at the base until an environmental impact assessment has been conducted. CND believe, under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2017, that the project does not have permitted development rights. The development can proceed without an environmental assessment if executed on behalf of the Crown. However, CND argue this exception does not apply since the construction is conducted for the USAF.

CND emphasises that the developments at RAF Lakenheath— rapid airfield damage repair facilities (RADR), a child development centre, and a 144-bed dormitory—should have been treated as a unified project in the planning process. According to Planning Practice Guidance, “an application should not be considered in isolation if, in reality, it is an integral part of a more substantial development”. Moreover, the development's impact should be viewed within the wider context, encompassing both construction and the consequences of hosting nuclear arms.

While environmental impact screenings were conducted separately for the child development centre and RADR, no assessment was undertaken for the 144-bed dormitory. While the MoD believes in its development rights, CND contends that West Suffolk Council's lack of screening disqualifies it from having these rights.

Our concern extends beyond environmental impacts to encompass risks like mishandling of weapons, security threats, and potential UK targeting if nuclear armament occurs. CND asserts that the ongoing construction ignores these risks. Our challenge aims for an inclusion of comprehensive evaluation of US nuclear armament implications, advocating for transparency and accountability in these developments.

CONFERENCE BRIEFING #2

THE UK-US MUTUAL DEFENCE AGREEMENT

The Mutual Defence Agreement (MDA) is a long-standing nuclear agreement between the United Kingdom and the United States, established in 1958. According to the UK parliament website, it allows the two states to exchange nuclear materials, technology, and information.

While the MDA originally prohibited the transfer of nuclear weapons, subsequent amendments allow for the exchange of nuclear materials and equipment, renewing every decade, most recently in 2014. However, given the classified nature of the agreement, little is known about its content. The agreement is up for renewal in 2024.

The MDA and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

One significant aspect is that the MDA contradicts the commitments made by both nations as signatories to the nuclear NPT. The NPT requires signatories to work towards nuclear disarmament, yet the MDA perpetuates the development and enhancement of nuclear arsenals rather than their discontinuation. Moreover, the MDA's provisions, necessitating the renewal every ten years, clash with the NPT's directive against transferring nuclear weapons to any recipient.

The MDA and democracy

Another contentious point is the lack of parliamentary oversight and debate regarding the MDA's renewal. While the US Congress has the power to veto the treaty, the British Parliament lacks the ability to object or ratify it. This lack of transparency and parliamentary oversight erodes democratic principles and obstructs meaningful discourse on a matter of profound national and international significance. Furthermore, the MDA's structure and implications erode democratic norms by creating an asymmetrical power dynamic related to the ability of the US congress to veto the Treaty whilst the British parliament is deprived of such a power.

This disparity in decision-making processes between the two nations undermines the notion of equal partnership and weakens the democratic fabric of the UK by marginalising parliamentary checks and balances. Similarly, the government's secrecy surrounding this agreement stands in stark contrast to international efforts towards nuclear disarmament, prompting the need for accountability, transparency and a shift towards collaborative disarmament initiatives rather than clandestine alliances.

Reliance on the US

Trident's reliance on the US is profound. Components of the UK warhead are sourced directly from the US, and the UK leases Trident II D5 missiles from the US. The maintenance and replacement of these missiles necessitate regular visits by British submarines to US bases. The UK's involvement in the US nuclear weapons laboratories and participation in 'sub-critical' nuclear tests further solidify this dependence. This reliance on the US not only compromises Britain's autonomy and also holds sway over its foreign and defence policies. The deeply entrenched relationship created by the MDA raises crucial questions about the UK's commitment to disarmament and its independence in making strategic decisions.

CONFERENCE BRIEFING #3

UKRAINE UPDATE

The security situation in Ukraine has rapidly deteriorated since Russia invaded on 24 February 2022. At the end of November 2023, the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) estimated that the conflict had taken over 18,500 lives, at least 10,000 of them civilians.

There are an estimated 12 million people inside Ukraine and over 4 million Ukrainian refugees in neighbouring countries requiring relief and protection. The Red Cross states: 'The situation is still incredibly tense, dangerous, and distressing. People have taken shelter in basements, but often lack the most basic supplies such as food and water and at times have been unable to go out because of the shelling.' It has also been reported that the facilities of humanitarian organisations are being targeted.

December 2023 saw an escalation of armed conflict in multiple regions, including Kyiv and the eastern oblasts of Donetsk and Luhansk. In December, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy appealed across western media channels for increased aid, admitting Ukraine could not win the war without the assistance of NATO allies.

A White House spokesperson described US military aid as having 'ground to a halt'. Before the final session of 2023, President Joe Biden urged Congress to agree \$61.4bn for Ukraine, but this continues to be blocked in both the House and the Senate in disputes between Democrats and Republicans over aid to Israel and Ukraine. A €50-billion EU fund for Ukraine has also been vetoed by Hungary, which is due for re-discussion in February.

On a recent visit to Ukraine, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak signed an agreement promising long-term support for Ukraine, highlighting that the UK was the first to do so. Sunak promised a £2.5bn increase in aid from Britain this year but has declined to name a figure for UK long term aid.

CND continues to highlight the significance of Russia's war on Ukraine, which carries an existential threat of nuclear war between NATO and Russia. The size of their combined arsenals should not be forgotten – approximately 12,000 nuclear weapons, many of which are 100 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb.

Civilians in Ukraine, including ethnic Russians scattered throughout the country and who form a significant section of the population in Donbas, are the losers as this protracted conflict continues. CND calls for UK government intervention to convene peace talks, and for a halt to NATO expansion. A lasting settlement requires negotiations that take into account the security interests of all parties and ensure Russian troop withdrawal.



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