



MAKING THE LINKS,
WAGING PEACE

£1⁵⁰

PEACE & JUSTICE NEWS

APR - MAY - JUN 2020

MILITARY SPENDING COSTS US THE EARTH



ARTWORK BY ESCIF

Peace & Justice Review: Get Involved

Origami Peace Cranes Exhibition Volunteers Wanted

Feminist Conscientious Objection in Israel

Nuclear Weapons, Risks, Consequences and Solutions

Ask City Councillors to Divest from Nukes

Take Action Against Military Spending

Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre

Working in Scotland since 1980 to promote:
Nonviolence ♦ Conflict Resolution ♦ Human Rights ♦ Ecological Sustainability
Creating a Culture of Peace

Peacebuilding for Primary Schools – Promoting Nuclear Disarmament –
 Origami Peace Cranes Project - Don't Bank on the Bomb
 Opposing War Memorial
 Desk & meeting space – Peace & Justice News

Coordinator: Brian Larkin **Editor:** Angus Doyle **Cover Design:**

Management Committee: Arthur Chapman (Chair), David Sommervell, Judy Russell (Secretary), Jan Benvie, Frank Thomas (Treasurer) **Patrons:** Bishop of Edinburgh John Armes, Joyce McMillan, Kathy Galloway, Prof. Toby Kelly **Volunteers:** Jill McClenning, Anna Karisto, Lane Deamant. **Development Coordinator:** Emma Quayle

Peacebuilding Programme: Project Coordinator: Fiona Oliver-Larkin, **Facilitators:** Romina Mazzotta, Toni Dickson, Elsa Rodeck, Julia Fernandez, Haley Reid, Joanne Power, Elena Ramos, Nik Vafeiopoulos, Ciara Killick, Anna Chaney, Michele Goldie.

PHOTOS not otherwise attributed are by Brian Larkin.

***Become a Member and Support our Work!**
 Membership is £25 per year or more £12 concession. Peace & Justice News is published quarterly in January, April, July and October. Contributions do not necessarily reflect the views of the Centre. We invite contributions to by the 18th of the month before publication to coordinator@peaceandjustice.org.uk.*

Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre
Central Edinburgh Methodist Church
25 Nicolson Square, Edinburgh EH8 9BX
contact@peaceandjustice.org.uk
Tel: 07512868687
Facebook: edinpeaceandjusticecentre
Twitter: @EdinPandJ
Closed for Drop In due to COVID 19.



Editor's Introduction

In these unsettling times as we hear daily news of lives taken by the COVID-19 virus we bring some very good Peace & Justice News.

We're planning to re-launch as Peace & Justice Scotland in time for our 40th birthday. In Centre News we invite all who hold the P&J dear to contribute to renewing our vision and reshaping how we work in line with our values.

*There's also great news on the **Origami Peace Cranes project**. We've been planning an exhibition of the cranes at the Just Festival for this summer – that's been postponed until 2021. That's a setback and an opportunity. **We have appointed Iliyana Nedkova as Curator**. With over 25 years of experience curating contemporary art, drama and design Iliyana aims to attract artists with socially proactive practice to contribute work and to take the exhibition to a number of European cities too. You can meet her online this week. She'll outline volunteer opportunities and how to input ideas to help shape the exhibition.*

*There are ways to **take action from home this month globally on the GDAMS 2020: HEALTHCARE NOT WARFARE** campaign, locally to **call on Edinburgh City Councillors to divest from nuclear weapons** and by joining an online **CO Day vigil**.*

Don't miss Lane Deamant's article on "Feminist Conscientious Objection in Israel", part of our Opposing War Memorial project, and P&J intern Anna Karisto's report from the Paris ICAN forum: "Nuclear Weapons: Risks, Consequences and Solutions"

As ever we bring you News from the Movements, with Margaret Ferguson Burns account of work she's been involved with at Refugee Community Kitchen in Calais, and in our Editorial Brian Larkin asks us to think about the impact of COVID-19 on the most populous and poorest parts of the world.

Lastly there's a reflection on the contradictions inherent in arms dealers making ventilators.

Contents:

| | |
|--|---|
| Editors Intro | 3 |
| Editorial:How about everyone else? | 4 |
| Centre News | 5 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Feminist Conscientious Objection in Israel | 11 |
|--|----|

| | |
|---|----|
| Nuclear Weapons: Risks, Consequences & Solutions..... | 12 |
|---|----|

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| News from the Movements..... | 15 |
|------------------------------|----|

Editorial: What about everyone else?

When Donald Trump cut US funding to the WHO the editor of The Lancet tweeted, “Trump’s decision is... a crime against humanity. Every...citizen must ... rebel against this betrayal of global solidarity.” Rebellion starts with awareness. We hear daily reports of numbers of deaths here, in Europe and the US. Debates about ventilators, PPE, testing and job losses. It’s right we think about where that will cause suffering, but it takes effort to get a broader perspective. This is a global pandemic and requires a global response.

An Oxfam [report](#) found the pandemic could push more than half a billion more people into poverty. In Bangladesh, a million garment workers were laid off, 80% of them women. 80% of workers on Earth have no health insurance. 5.7 million people live in close quarters in slums in Karachi, Mumbai, Cape Town, Nairobi and Mexico City with no physical distancing possible and no healthcare systems. In some countries there are just two ventilators.

To enable poorer countries to deal with the crisis Oxfam is calling for a global economic rescue package cancelling \$1 trillion in debt payments. Paul O’Brien of Oxfam said “The health systems in 45 countries are a quarter the size of their debt payments. The G7 and the IMF agreed to a debt moratorium and some debt relief for 25 countries.” “That’s not enough. We don’t want to see debt payments suspended in a moratorium where interest will accrue and countries forced to pay that over the following years.”

But debt relief is not enough either. We must also redirect the vast resources that currently are spent on weapons, maintaining militaries, fueling jet fighters, building bombs instead to healthcare. If we did, there would be enough ventilators and PPE to meet the needs of everyone on earth.

While locked down we are not powerless. Get informed and write to your MP. Download the Oxfam report at oxfam.org/en/research/dignity-not-destitution.

You can also to sign and share the petition to the UN General Assembly calling for governments to invest in healthcare not militarization.

www.change.org/p/general-assembly-of-the-united-nations-invest-in-healthcare-instead-of-militarization

Brian Larkin

Centre News

P&J Renewal: Get Involved

In time for our 40th birthday in September 2020, Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre plans to relaunch as Peace & Justice Scotland. We have a deep desire to be a more effective advocate for peace, nonviolence, conflict resolution, and ecological sustainability for the next generation.



Responding to the Coronavirus Pandemic AND the Climate and Ecological Emergency, we see this relaunch as an opportunity to deepen our work and become a beacon for the change we believe these crises demand. The message we take from the Coronavirus Pandemic is that our exploitative ways of living cannot continue.

We plan to restructure the P&J to play a significant part in modelling a socially responsible organisation - deeply anchoring our values to embody peace, nonviolence, conflict resolution, and ecological sustainability.

This is no small task; it will take the same sort of time, commitment, and passion that has sustained the P&J since 1980 by the dedication of those who work here, our volunteers, interns, and members.



For this next phase, we seek to gather the wisdom of those who hold the Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre dear - to remodel the foundations of a new Peace & Justice Scotland.

Visit our website where you will find more details about this invitation and to sign up to be

involved. <http://peaceandjustice.org.uk/get-involved/>

140,000 Origami Peace Cranes Exhibition 2021:

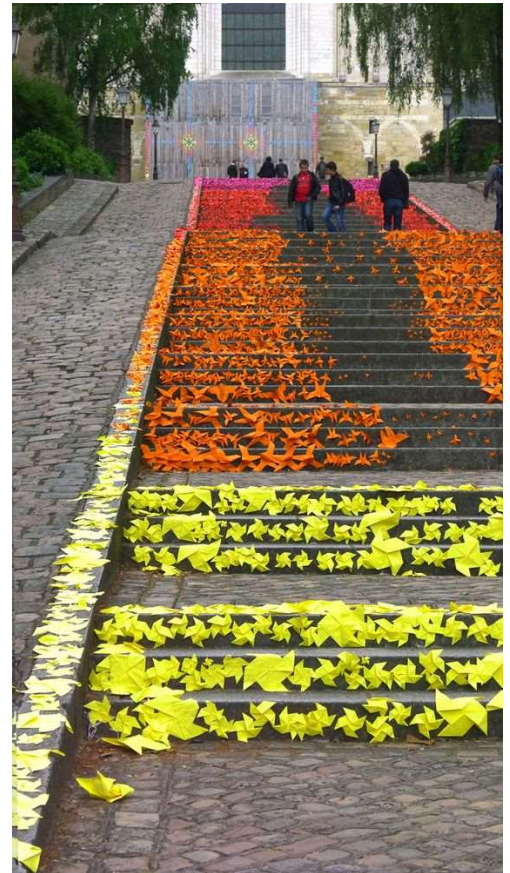
Before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic we received confirmation of a venue for the exhibition to take place at the Just Festival in August, to coincide with the 75th anniversary of Hiroshima. As the Festival has been cancelled we are now planning for the exhibition to be part of the August 2021 Just Festival and for it to travel to other venues internationally during the course of the year.

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Iliyana Nedkova as Curator for the Peace Cranes exhibition.

Here's a note from Iliyana:

"I am delighted and honoured to have been appointed the Curator of the Origami Peace Cranes exhibition. With a background in curating contemporary art, film, dance, drama and design with over 25 years of experience, I can't help but aim to attract Scottish and international artists with socially proactive practice who are passionate about the issues of nuclear disarmament and environmental breakdown as much as I am - I grew up on the other side of the Iron Curtain and was terrified of the nuclear war waged by the two evil empires of Soviet Union and USA!

We will aim to put all the 140,000 cranes and the efforts of all the incredible volunteers who have contributed so far centre stage in the exhibition and the wide public engagement programme not only as part of the Just Festival but also as part of Edinburgh Art Festival in August 2021. Thereafter, we will try to tour the exhibition to partner museums in London, Zaragoza, Leiden and Hiroshima. I am really looking forward to meeting most of you in these strange times of isolation via Zoom to discuss our exhibition ideas further." Check out Iliyana's curatorial portfolio here: <https://iliyananedkova.wordpress.com/>



Cranes Exhibition Group

Want to help with the exhibition? There will be lots of opportunities for volunteers to help with the exhibition, from threading cranes into long strands at home during the lock down, to contributing ideas, to teaching exhibition visitors to make cranes.

Thousands of origami cranes sent to us from Ekhine Coop in Japan.

Curator's Initial meeting with prospective volunteers via Zoom 11am – 12noon Friday 24 April. All welcome.

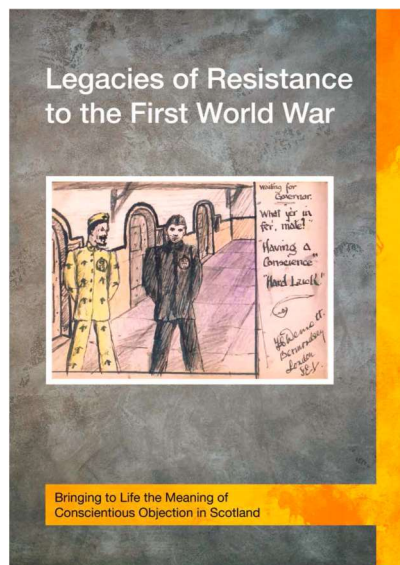
Apr 24, 2020. 11:00am. Doors open 10:45am.

Click the link to Join the Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96408735293>

Meeting ID: 964 0873 5293

Let us know if you can't make the date but want to be part of this project.



Legacies of Resistance to the First World War

Legacies of Resistance to the First World War celebrates the lives of about 30 First World War Conscientious Objectors from Dundee, Glasgow and Edinburgh. *The booklet is available to download as a pdf from our website or contact us to request print copies.*

P&J Intern Anna Karisto took part in the ICAN Youth Conference in Paris

University of Edinburgh Law student Anna Karisto travelled (by bus!) to Paris in February to attend the

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear weapons Campaign Forum in Paris. Young people who wanted to campaign to ban nuclear weapons were especially encouraged to attend.

Upon return Anna arranged a Nuclear Weapons Symposium which was to take place at the University of Edinburgh and which had sadly to be cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. Anna has now been accepted at the prestigious Geneva Academy where she will study for a Masters in International Humanitarian Law.

The P&J sponsored Anna's travel which cost just £200. Can you make a donation to help us cover those costs?

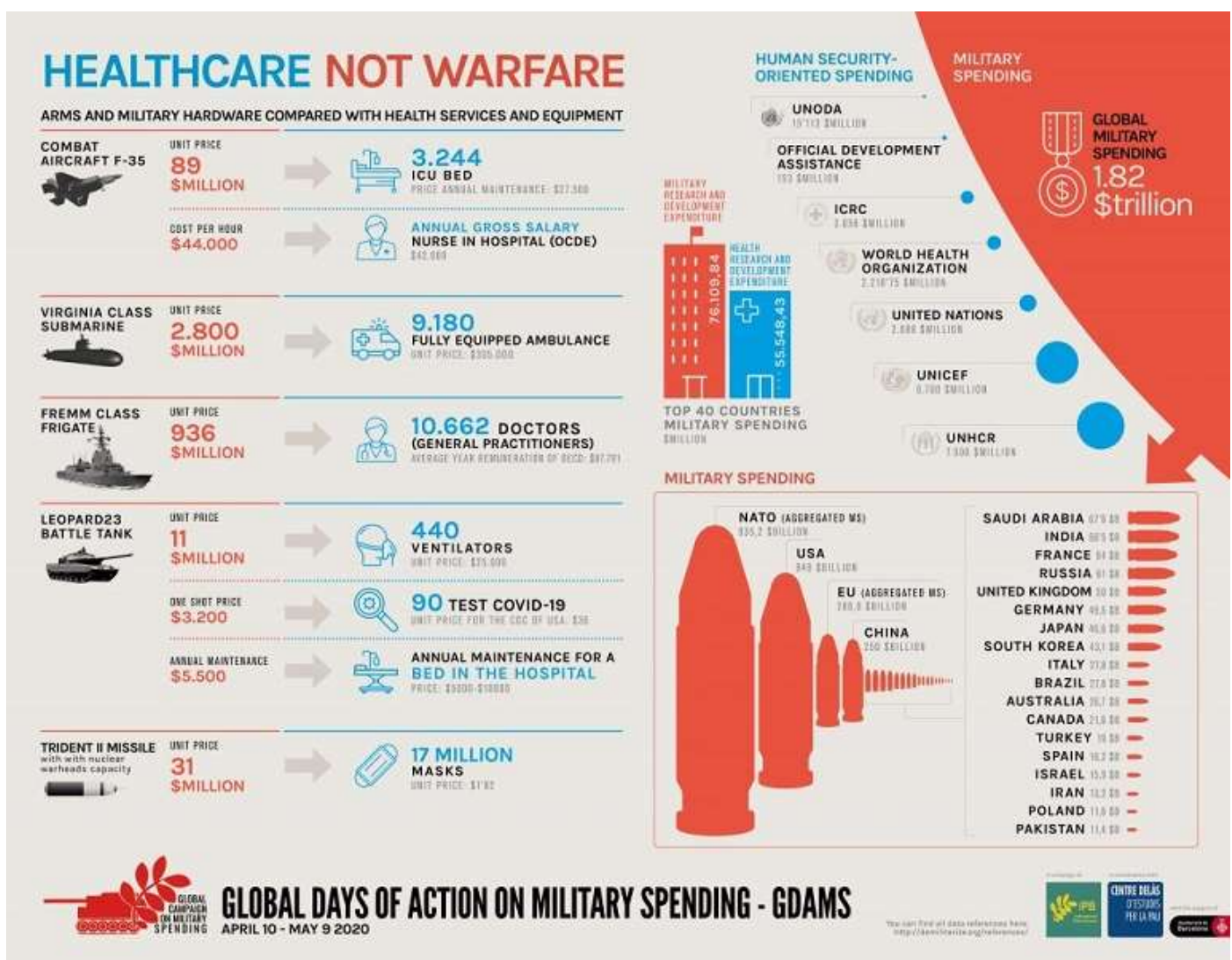


Young and hip campaigners from Scotland at Paris ICAN forum. Anna K is at far right. Photo Credit: Scottish CND.

GDAMS 2020: HEALTHCARE NOT WARFARE

The COVID-19 pandemic crisis has shown the world where humanity's priorities should lie. This major attack on people's security across the world shames and discredits global military expenditures and prove them an outrageous waste and loss of opportunities. What the world needs now is to focus all means on vital security threats: healthy living conditions for everyone, which necessarily entails more just, green, peaceful societies.

The **Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS)** 2020 bring attention to the vast opportunity costs of the current levels of military spending, 1,82 trillion US\$ a year, almost \$5 billion per day, \$239 per person. When a minority of the global population decides to finance war preparations, we all lose the opportunity to fund policies that tackle our real security threats. **The military could not and will not stop this pandemic.**



Such a crisis can only be addressed by supporting healthcare and other life-sustaining activities, not with military equipment and personnel prepared for war. Read the full GDAMS 2020 Statement and find lots of great resources for how to take action from home at: <http://demilitarize.org/>

Take Action: Ask Edinburgh City Councillors to support nuclear weapons divestment

Did you know that Edinburgh City councillors invest in nuclear weapons through their pension fund?

Lothian Pension Fund manages the pension contributions of Edinburgh City councillors and other council employees, and currently holds shares worth over **£105 million** in nuclear weapons companies.

Edinburgh City Council has already passed a resolution supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as part of the ICAN Cities Appeal. It's inconsistent for the City Council to say it backs a nuclear weapons ban but for Councillors to continue to benefit financially through their pensions from investment in nuclear weapons.

What can you do?

If you live in Edinburgh, **write to**

your local councillors to explain why Lothian Pension Fund should divest from nuclear weapons and ask them to put a resolution to council that calls on the fund to divest.



For a copy of the resolution and to download a template letter and to find out who your local councillors are visit the Don't Bank on the Bomb Scotland website: <https://nukedivestmentscotland.org/divesting-lothian-pension-fund/> .

The more of us who write to our Councillors the greater the chance of success. The Peace & Justice Centre is a founding partner in the Don't Bank on the Bomb Scotland Network.



New Volunteer: Lane (Elena) Deamant

Lane is an undergraduate student at the University of Edinburgh, studying Social Policy and Politics. They are from Chicago, Illinois, so they are excited to be able to get involved in Scottish politics through the Centre and to have the opportunity to learn from the peace movement in Edinburgh. They are especially interested in feminism, human rights, and international cooperation - they hope to keep exploring these areas as an intern and through their studies. Their work for

the Centre is currently remote due to the coronavirus pandemic, focusing on writing for the Opposing War Memorial website.

Upcoming Events

Conscientious Objectors Day Vigil.

15 May. 5:30 – 6:30pm. Online.

Due to COVID-19 we are not planning a public vigil. Instead we will come together for an online CO Day vigil. We'll share poems and reflections and **Penny Stone** will lead songs. Details will appear on the Facebook event page in May. **If you indicate there that you are Interested or Going we will message you with the updates.**

www.facebook.com/events/215790349746205/



Kites Not Armed Drones planned for early June is postponed until later in the summer. Details in the next P&J News or on Facebook.

Third Culture Society Raises Funds for Peace & Justice

Many thanks to University of Edinburgh student Third Culture Society for raising over £125 in support of our work. **Why not organize a fundraiser in support of our work? This could be in support of our Peacebuilders programme, the Opposing War Memorial or the Origami Peace Cranes project. Contact us to invite a speaker or for any assistance you might need.**

Feminist Conscientious Objection in Israel

By Elena Deamant

Lane Deamant is a volunteer researcher on the P&J Opposing War Memorial project. A longer version of this article will appear at www.opposingwar.scot

Israel is one of only a few countries around the world where military service is compulsory for women, resulting in a unique and on-going anti-military feminist



Photo: Israeli women in the military stand at attention. Source: Wikimedia Common

movement that encompasses women with many different views. The military is constantly present in Israel, as the feminist group New Profile has documented. From armed soldiers stationed in many neighborhoods to children learning numbers by counting tanks, (New Profile, 2014), militarism pervades

daily life. The situation is further complicated by the fact that citizenship is largely decided by

completion of military service, providing the basis for Israeli women's claim to equal rights and treatment (Lerner: 55 in WRI Anthology, 2010). Challenging military culture is thus a complex and difficult decision - this article will explore various reasons why Israeli women may choose not to serve in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

The most serious way to refuse military service is objection on grounds of selective political conscience, an act that can mean jail time (Lerner, 2010: 60). Several young conscientious objectors (COs) have cited the Palestinian Occupation in their refusal, choosing not to engage in what CO Tamar Zeevi calls a "circle of violence, hate, and fear" (Times of Israel, 2016). In specifically naming Palestine, COs open themselves to the risk of imprisonment because the Israeli army does not consider the conflict a valid justification for objection. Furthermore, the movement to end the Occupation is linked by some COs to feminism, like Idan Halili who describes the army as inconsistent with her feminist principles of equality and respect for all (2005, in Natenel, 2012: 85).



Haredi Jewish couple. Source: Wikimedia Commons.

For Idan, feminism is inherently opposed to the IDF and being a feminist factored into her decision to be a CO. Idan and Tamar were both imprisoned for their conscientious objection, with Idan serving 14 days in prison in 2005 and Tamar serving 115 days during 2016-17. Alternatively, COs may choose to object as an absolute pacifist, an

identity that they must defend with evidence in front of a military “conscience committee” in order to avoid jail (Lerner, 2010: 60) In both types of refusal, these young Israelis are defying the system from within, seeking an end to the subjugation of Palestinians despite immense societal pressure.

There are, however, only a small number of COs who get sentenced to jail each year. The vast majority of women who do not serve fall under the category of “grey refusal” where they are exempted from the military rather than overtly objecting. Grey refusal can include motherhood and pregnancy, medical conditions, and religion. While these are officially neutral reasons, New Profile has sought to publicly support all forms of refusal so as to reveal the political meaning underlying any and all challenges to militarist culture (Natenel, 2012: 86). Mothers being exempt because they recently had a baby still puts an important limit on the power that the military has to conscript people, and this is connected to the goals and values of feminism for women to be able to prioritize their children over the concerns of the state.

One of the most common areas of grey refusal comes from the ultra-Orthodox, or Haredi, Jewish community. The Haredim make up more than 10% of the Israeli population and they have been exempt from conscription for decades to ensure that their religious traditions are maintained (Library of Congress, 2019), primarily for men to study yeshiva and for women to follow rules of gender separation. Haredi women occupy a space of feminist complexity - some religious women, citing freedom of choice, have joined the army despite their community discouraging this (Maltz, 2018, in Haaretz). On the other hand, the freedom for women to practice religion as they see fit, especially

from a minority group, deserves equal consideration. Haredi women who refuse service in the IDF on grounds of their religion can serve as a model for accessible ways to challenge militarism that do not carry a threat of incarceration.

While grey refusal may not be explicitly political, the end result certainly is. The most recent data from the IDF shows that 44.3% of women are exempt from military service (Arhronheim, 2020, in Jerusalem Post), a significant cut to the power of the army. In recent months, right-wing factions of PM Benjamin Netanyahu's government have attempted to address this gap by removing the service exemption for the Haredim (Srivastava, 2019 in FT), a move that brought hundreds of Haredi protesters into the streets of Jerusalem in 2019 (Times of Israel). The fight to prevent automatic conscription will continue to evolve, but more work is needed to ensure that women, especially from the insular Haredi community, are given a voice and priority in the discussion of objection from military service.

Nuclear Weapons, Risks, and Consequences and Solutions

By Anna Karisto

The Session on Nuclear Weapons, risks, consequences, and solutions at the ICAN Paris Forum started off with screening of Kurzgesagt and ICRC video *What If We Nuke a City?* (See link below), which was followed by a panel discussion tackling the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons by the Legal Adviser of the ICRC Julie Tenenbaum, climate scientist Alan Robock, and the founder and director of the Acronym Institute for Disarmament and Diplomacy Rebecca Johnson.

According to recent estimates, there are still 13,800 warheads in the world, possessed by 9 different nuclear armed states. It has been estimated that up to 2003, for instance, there were 13 incidents or near use of nuclear weapons, which have been caused by mistakes and accidents. In the UK, nuclear weapons travel by road between Scotland and Glasgow. There are many experts saying that the probability of a detonation of a nuclear weapon is higher now than before. However, it is not only the probability of the risk that is relevant here, but also the severity of the consequences; a detonation of a nuclear bomb poses a threat of a massive extinction.

What could the humanitarian response be?

ICRC Legal Adviser Julie Tenenbaum was asked what the humanitarian response of a nuclear attack could be like. In fact, the ICRC was in Hiroshima in the aftermath of the nuclear bombing in 1945. However, the ICRC had little success in helping people in the massive humanitarian disaster, and in this sense, there has been no advancement; sufficient medical response for a nuclear explosion is simply not possible. As ICAN has emphasised, if all the burn beds in the world would be mobilised, they would not be enough to treat the victims of one nuclear weapon.

In the beginning of a humanitarian response, the humanitarian needs have to be assessed. A nuclear explosion would kill hundreds of thousands and injure easily over a million people. The injuries would be severe and would have to be



treated urgently in a day or two, but this would not be possible. Hospitals would be destroyed and medical professionals and all the authorities who could coordinate the humanitarian response would be among the victims. The bomb in Hiroshima killed an estimated 90% of the medical professional in the city and rendered around 70% of the hospitals non-functional. In addition, the survivors would have urgent needs for medical attention, but also for food, water, and shelter, which would be impossible to provide. Accessing the attacked area after a nuclear explosion would be difficult because of the ruined infrastructure, but also dangerous because the area would be contaminated with radiation. In Hiroshima and Nagasaki, even some of the people who went to the cities after the explosions in order to assist the victims died from the impacts of the radiation.

What would the climate consequences be?

An American climate scientist, Prof. Alan Robock, is known for his research on the phenomenon of nuclear winter. He shared his expertise on the consequences, risks and solutions for nuclear weapons. The implications of a

nuclear attack would be global and long-standing. The smoke produced by an explosion would go up in the atmosphere. Some of it would come down in rain but not all of it; the rest would rise to the upper atmosphere and end up in the stratosphere. Because there is no rain in this layer of the atmosphere, the dissolution of the smoke would take years.

The smoke would absorb sunlight, which would dry the land area below and make it cold and dark. If the US and Russia waged in a nuclear war, the amount of smoke could cause a so called nuclear winter, which means that the temperatures would remain freezing even in the summer time. This would kill all the crops on the earth, which would cause a famine eventually leading to the death of most people on Earth.

Even if India and Pakistan, for instance, waged in a nuclear war, this could decrease global average temperatures by several degrees Celcius, which could destroy one third of agriculture production in the world for 5-10 years.

This would at least increase food prices drastically and create an urgent global food security problem and a humanitarian disaster.



According to Prof. Robock, this is also why the deterrence doctrine does not work. The doctrine is based on an idea that fear of

nuclear attack keeps states from attacking each other and somehow maintains peace. However, the climate consequences from a nuclear attack would destroy the agricultural production of the attacking state and “for deterrence to work, suicide mission has to be credible.” The climate changes a nuclear attack would cause together with the risk of humanitarian catastrophe stress the importance of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The full discussion can be viewed on the **ICAN Facebook page**:

<https://www.facebook.com/222268331123427/videos/143425496747324>

Kurzgesagt and ICRC video *What If We Nuke a City?*:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iPH-br_eJQ

The Peace & Justice Centre is an ICAN Partner.

News from the Movements

Taking Care of the Most Vulnerable During the Pandemic Crisis

People everywhere are responding to these difficult times setting up Mutual Aid groups and meeting the needs of those on the margins. In Edinburgh Nourishing Change are working hard with the Food For Good coalition to produce and distribute over 3000 meals a week for people whose access to food is restricted due to the COVID-19 crisis and to ensure that nobody goes without food in these difficult times. Keep us with them at:

<https://www.facebook.com/NourishingChangeEdinburgh/>

Secretary General, Pope Francis call for Global Ceasefire

On March 23, Guterres had said, "The fury of the virus illustrates the folly of war." "Our world faces a common enemy -- COVID-19. The virus does not care about nationality or ethnicity, faction or faith. It attacks all, relentlessly. "In war-ravaged countries, health systems have collapsed. Health professionals, already few in number, have often been targeted. Refugees and others displaced by violent conflict are doubly vulnerable," he said. This is why, Guterres said, he was "calling for an immediate global cease-fire. It is time to put armed conflict on lockdown and focus together on the true fight of our lives."



Antonio Guterres. By Eric Bridiers, US Mission. Wikimedia. No Copyright.



Photo: Pope Francis. Wikimedia. Asian Youth Day. Haemi Castle, S Korea. By CCSA 2.0

Pope Francis added his support to a U.N. appeal for a global cease-fire amid the worldwide threat of the COVID-19 pandemic saying: "May our joint effort against the pandemic lead everyone to recognize our need to strengthen our brotherly and sisterly ties as members of one human family". "May it inspire national leaders and other concerned parties to a renewed commitment to overcome rivalries. Conflicts are not resolved through war. It is necessary to overcome antagonism and differences through dialogue and a constructive search for

peace." The pope invited everyone to "cease all forms of military hostilities, promote the creation of corridors for humanitarian aid, be open to diplomacy and offer attention to those who find themselves in situations of great vulnerability."

Responding the appeal of the Secretary General Saudi Arabia declared a cease fire in its relentless five year war on the Houthis in Yemen where millions face starvation and a widespread cholera epidemic.



Photo: BAE Systems Eurofighter Typhoon demonstrator with full weapons load taking off at 2016 Royal Air Tattoo, Fairford. By Alan Wilson.

Arms Dealers make ventilators, continue to make arms

Excerpted from the Canary. Some of the country's biggest dealers in death – BAE Systems, Airbus, Thales, Meggitt, Rolls-Royce – have joined a consortium called Ventilator Challenge UK. Babcock is working with a medical equipment company to make thousands of ventilators. Babcock is now seemingly concerned with saving lives, rather than being complicit in taking lives.

Babcock's Jon Hall said "When the opportunity arose for us to get involved in helping the NHS to save lives, we knew it was the right thing to do."

Campaign Against the Arms Trade's Andrew Smith told *The Canary* "Right now, Saudi Arabian forces are using UK-made fighter jets, bombs and missiles to inflict a brutal humanitarian crisis on Yemen. The people making these deadly weapons include some of the most skilled engineers in the country. This shows how their skills can be used for something positive. It shouldn't take a crisis for the government to invest in ventilators and critical care. BAE Systems has stated that many of its sites remain open to: deliver critical capabilities to help governments and members of the armed forces and security services to protect national security at this challenging time."

When the coronavirus crisis is over, we need to continue to hold the arms industry to account. As countries will be looking to boost their economies, it could be the arms companies which see a boost in contracts. We need to

make the message clear: engineers should be using their skills to save lives, not take lives.

The Current Refugee Situation in Northern France and Nearby

By Margaret Ferguson Burns

The Refugee Community Kitchen (RCK), based in Calais, has been providing hot freshly cooked meals daily for refugees in Calais and Dunkirk for four and a half years (and around eighteen months in Brussels). The kitchen is run entirely by four unpaid founders - based in London and travelling to Calais in rotation - with a relay of volunteers from all over the world for varying lengths of time from a day to several months at a time – many returning time and again, building unforgettable friendships and a quite unique environment.

The kitchen also supplies ingredients to refugee women and family centres, church groups, squats, small encampments etc., to enable people to cook for themselves; as well as food and ingredients for other charities to distribute near where people are camping or sheltering en masse or in small groups.



The kitchen has adapted quickly to an ever changing situation - such as when the 'Jungle' in Calais, home to 10,000 people, was razed in Autumn 2016; when the Dunkirk Camp was burned down in Spring of 2017; the requirement that the kitchen be upgraded; the fluctuating numbers of refugees

(recently around 1000 in Calais and 400 in Dunkirk; and 500 in Brussels - down from around 900 in the Autumn); disruptions of food distributions. Much of this is caused by the frequent clearances (when tents, sleeping bags, personal belongings are taken and destroyed), directives and restrictions by local authorities and various police departments - local, national and security.

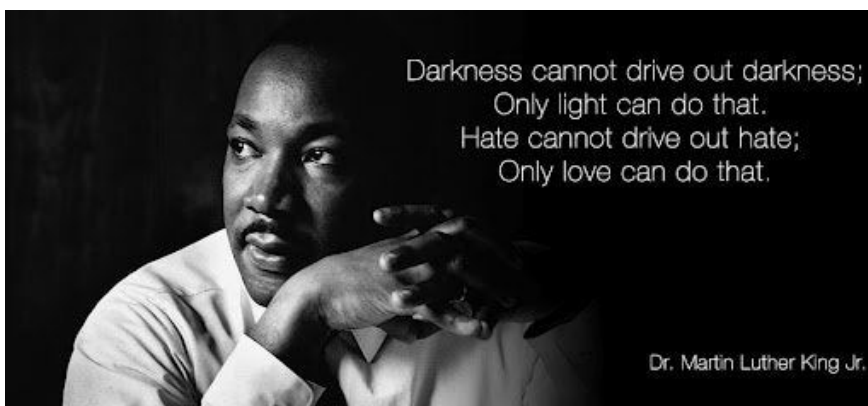
In an attempt to maintain provision as the COVID-19 virus has developed, a strict new regime was introduced in the kitchen with a reduced number of volunteers, a reduced menu, use of pre-packed meals, distancing, shorter distribution times, changes in the self-service food distributions, use of sanitisers etc. following advice on how to reduce the spread of the virus. Many

partner charities providing tents, sleeping bags, clothing, power for mobile telephones, toiletry packs, medical assistance, legal advice etc. stopped work over three weeks ago – after much inter-agency deliberation.

On 25th March, with heavy hearts, the kitchen closed its doors until it is safe to re-open and provide meals for people in need once again. The refugees are now in an intolerable situation with little support in relation to living conditions and health - though associations supporting the presence of the charities will continue to press government to help the refugees with accommodation, food and health care. The good news is there are still charities continuing to support the refugees - it's an ever changing situation, COVID-19 or no.

Reflection:

Governments are investing vast sums in fighting the pandemic but continue to spend billions on “imaginary hazards.” George Monbiot writes “Just as the coronavirus began across the UK, the government boasted that it had raised military spending by £2bn. Our military force, it claimed, was “the tip of the



spear for a resurgent Global Britain”. “The UK is acquiring 138 new F-35 aircraft. According to Lockheed, this “multi-role” fighter “has the range and flexibility to win, again and again”. But win against

what? Can it bomb the coronavirus? Can its “advanced stealth, integrated avionics, sensor fusion and superior logistics” defeat climate breakdown?”

Support Our Work

The late Geoffrey Carnall wrote appeals monthly for many years often contrasting the miniscule resources with which we work with the vast sums always available to the military. In this time of COVID-19 those vast sums continue to pay for fighter jets, warships, nuclear weapons, none of which can save us from this virus. Hopefully the pandemic will lead longer term better pay for NHS staff, care workers, food supply workers and other key workers.

We continue to work to build a culture of peace and to hope that as friends, family and neighbours die, more people will reflect that war is worse and commit to find ways to resolve conflicts without killing. Maybe one day peace work will come to be seen and supported as vital. If you believe that, and if you're not already a supporter, please consider becoming a regular donor and [complete and return the form below also found on our website](#).

Become a Member or Affiliate and support our work today!

Peace & Justice Centre, 5 Upper Bow EH1 2JN

contact@peaceandjustice.org.uk www.peaceandjustice.org.uk 0131 629 1058



Please use a tick ✓ or circle your choice or cross out as appropriate.
It very much helps us if you can tick Gift Aid and pay by Standing Order.

| How you wish to support us [fill in contact details for either] | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | EITHER I support the P&J as an individual Member Minimum £2 monthly or £25 /year (Concession £1 monthly or £13 /year) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | OR We wish to Donate to Special Opposing War Memorial Appeal |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | I Gift Aid this donation and any I make in future / made in past 4 years. I am a UK taxpayer and will notify P&J if I move home or pay less tax than Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in any tax year. [sign below] |
| I / we wish to receive newsletter by: Email <input type="checkbox"/> (preferred) / or by Post <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| First name: _____ Last name: _____ | |
| Email: _____ | |
| Address: _____ | |
| Postcode: _____ | |
| Phone: _____ Mobile: _____ | |
| Organisation: _____ | |
| Your donation to Peace & Justice Scottish Charity SC026864 | |
| Please pay monthly by Bank Standing Order: | |
| <small>(Bank, address & postcode)</small> | |
| Name of Account: _____ | |
| Account Number: _____ | Sort Code: - - |
| Your Reference (e.g. your name in capitals) _____ | |
| To The Manager: Please pay to: Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre , 5 Upper Bow, Edinburgh EH1 2JN Account: 00207018 / Sort Code: 80-11-30 at Bank of Scotland, 3 Earl Grey Street, Edinburgh EH3 9BN the sum of <input type="checkbox"/> £1 <input type="checkbox"/> £2 <input type="checkbox"/> £3 <input type="checkbox"/> £5 <input type="checkbox"/> £10 <input type="checkbox"/> £25 <input type="checkbox"/> £50 Other: £ _____ paid monthly / annually starting on / / until further notice. | |
| Alternately I / we enclose a cheque in the sum of £ _____ | |
| Signed: _____ | Date: _____ |