



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

Media release - for immediate release, 25th February 2010

How should Scotland react to Trident replacement? NFLA Scotland seminar considers building a coalition to seek better alternatives to it

Nuclear Free Local Authorities Scotland are holding a special seminar considering how local government can work with the Scottish churches, the Scottish peace movement and parties from across the political spectrum to oppose the billions of pounds being proposed to replace the Trident nuclear weapons system.

The seminar, being held at Inverkeithing Civic Centre, Fife on Friday 26th February (1) considers whether developing Trident replacement goes against the spirit of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty being reviewed at the United Nation this May. It will also consider the Scottish Parliament's 'Scotland without Nuclear Weapons report' and hear from Greenpeace, who allege that the costs of Trident replacement could be as much as £97 billion. It will also hear from Bill Kidd MSP about the work of the Parliamentarians against Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND).

A growing chorus of concern about Trident replacement has emerged in Scotland, where the Trident nuclear deterrent is based at the Faslane naval base. Recently the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government have pronounced its opposition to Trident replacement whilst the Scottish Clergy Against Nuclear Arms (SCANA) has launched a very vocal campaign about the morality of possessing nuclear arms.

Speakers at the seminar, being hosted by Fife Council (current host for a large number of decommissioned nuclear-powered submarines at nearby Rosyth) include:

- John Ainslie, CND Scotland Co-ordinator
- Revd Ian Galloway, Church of Scotland and member of the Scottish Parliament committee on nuclear weapons
- Sally Romilly, a Greenpeace organiser in Scotland
- Bill Kidd MSP, Joint Chair of the Scottish Cross-party group on Nuclear Disarmament and a PNND Council member.

NFLA Scotland Convenor, Councillor Euan McLeod, said:

"Trident replacement is one of the most important foreign policy issues affecting Scotland today, with the likelihood of at least 3 Trident submarines based at Faslane. I welcome the Government's plans to reduce this programme but remain concerned of the huge costs of Trident replacement, particularly when our local government budgets are under great stress.

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities was established 30 years ago to campaign for the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons. This seminar emphasises our ongoing commitment to this aim and we will work with the Scottish churches, Scottish peace groups and Scottish political parties and the Hiroshima-led Mayors for Peace to build a nuclear weapons free world. A world free of nuclear weapons by 2020 is a realistic goal – Trident replacement is not the answer to our military commitments and the money could be spent much better elsewhere."

Further information

Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary 0161 234 3244 or 0777

Notes to Editors:

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES



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(1) NFLA Scotland seminar, Inverkeithing Civic Centre, Friday 26th February

Nuclear proliferation & Trident Replacement – what’s the best result for Scotland?

FINAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME

12.45pm	Registration: Tea/Coffee
1.15pm	Welcome: Councillor Euan McLeod, NFLA Scotland Convenor
1.20pm	What is the current status of Trident replacement in the UK? John Ainslie, Co-ordinator of Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (confirmed)
1.45pm	Revd Ian Galloway, Church of Scotland, member of Scottish Parliamentary Committee on Nuclear Weapons – should Scotland say ‘no’ to nuclear weapons? (confirmed)
2.15pm	Sally Romilly, Greenpeace Scotland – can Scotland and the UK afford a Trident replacement programme? (confirmed)
2.40pm	The work of the Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non Proliferation and Disarmament in the run up to the NPT – Bill Kidd MSP and PNND Council Member (confirmed)
3.05pm	Panel discussion
3.30pm	Conclusion

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES