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### Useful website / partner links:

**NFLA:** <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>  
**CNFE:** <http://www.cnfe.eu>  
**Mayors for Peace:** <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>  
**2020 Vision:** <http://www.2020visioncampaign.org>  
**KIMO:** <http://www.kimointernational.org>  
**ICAN-UK:** <http://www.ican-uk.org>



The 'Kalinka' band playing Russian music at the UK Chernobyl commemoration concert in Manchester (source - Linda Walker. CCP)

## Remembering Chernobyl

Across the world, major events were held to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

The 'TORCH' report outlines that over 5 million people in Belarus, Ukraine and Russia still live in highly radioactive contaminated areas.

It also notes increased levels of cancers not just in the most contaminated areas, but as far away as Austria, due to disaster-related fallout.

On April 26 the NFLA released all the papers from the recent 'Beyond Nuclear' set of events held to commemorate both the Fukushima and Chernobyl anniversaries.

All the presentations can be found on the NFLA website. The earlier presentations from the NFLA / NCG / Green Cross Westminster seminar in January are now also on the website.

A consideration of UK groups joining a wider 'Beyond Nuclear' network is also progressing.

## NFLA launches 'Get if from the Sun' (GIFTS) initiative

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The NFLA launched in April an important new initiative to encourage the continuing uptake and development of renewable energy in the UK and Ireland, after major UK government subsidy cuts.

The 'Get if from the Sun' or GIFTS initiative was proposed by Professor Keith Barnham at the recent 'Beyond

Nuclear' conference.

GIFTS calls on NFLA members to source their electricity from all-renewable suppliers and encourages them to consider setting up local energy models.

Professor Barnham's presentation at the conference noted that, had UK subsidy cuts not happened, an all-

renewable electricity system would have been possible much quicker than reverting to new nuclear build.

The GIFTS initiative has been sent to all NFLA members and to some non-member Councils. It will be the focus of NFLA's work in this area, and can be found on the NFLA website.

**NFLA media releases**

**April 2016:**

*(On NFLA website.)*

- NFLA supports new initiative to 'Get it from the sun' and promote local authority / community energy schemes
- NFLA remembers Chernobyl disaster and publishes Beyond Nuclear materials
- NFLA concerned over the potential dumping of contaminated water from Fukushima into ocean
- Dounreay air transports of radwaste to the USA – where is the NDA public consultation?
- NFLA Scotland report highlights huge renewable energy cuts and the way forward is promoting solar energy



The Manchester Community Choir performing songs of hope at the UK Chernobyl commemoration concert

## NFLA report uncovers level of renewable energy cuts

The NFLA Secretariat has published on its website a report for its Scottish Forum outlining the sheer scale of cuts by the UK Government to renewable energy subsidies. The report calls on Scotland to embrace solar energy as a way to achieve its 100% target of renewable electricity by 2020.

The report finds 8 areas where support to solar, onshore wind, hydro, community renewables and renewable heat have been cut since May 2015.

The report concedes that this makes it very difficult for the renewable sector to grow as fast as it has been

doing. NFLA calls on the UK Government to reverse these cuts.

In Scotland, NFLA notes that solar energy could be scaled up despite these cuts, given that costs of solar continue to fall. It advocates the new Scottish Government work with Councils to deliver this.

## NFLA provides major analysis of nuclear security concerns

The NFLA Secretariat has developed a detailed analysis of some major concerns around the area of nuclear security. The report will be published after the local and devolved elections.

The report has been developed in conjunction with Dr David Lowry, a former Director of the

European Proliferation Information Centre.

It focuses on a number of key areas including the potential for a malicious attack at a nuclear insider, cyber-security, new drone technology and the Global Nuclear Security Conferences, the most recent of which was

held in Washington DC.

The report calls for fuller discussion on such matters, taking into account the need for sensitivity and national security. NFLA and NGOs were therefore pleased to meet with DECC staff to discuss the UK nuclear cyber-security strategy.

## NFLA developing report analysing Irish energy futures

The NFLA Secretariat is developing a report looking at the future development of energy policy across the island of Ireland. It takes into account the major political change in the

Republic of Ireland and changes that may take place in Northern Ireland.

The report advocates both governments to work harder to develop

a decentralised energy future.

The report will be fully profiled in the May newsletter and at the upcoming NFLA All Ireland Forum meeting.

## G7 Foreign Ministers agree Hiroshima Declaration

### **NFLA letters to media, April 2016:** ***(Emailed to NFLA members.)***

- Incredulity over linking Chernobyl with the benefits of new nuclear
- The danger of dumping tritium into the Pacific Ocean
- Scotland should embrace solar to maintain its renewable energy revolution

### **NFLA SUBMITS RESPONSE TO LABOUR DEFENCE REVIEW**

The NFLA has submitted a full response to the Labour Party's defence policy review urging it to embrace defence diversification and move away from its support of Trident replacement.

Whilst being a cross-party body, the NFLA Steering Committee felt the Labour review was pivotal to nuclear weapons policy in the UK. The response urges Labour to be bold in its review and build up an ethical defence and foreign policy.

The response is on the NFLA website.

The NFLA welcomes the April meeting of the G7 Foreign Ministers in Hiroshima and their joint declaration on nuclear weapons. NFLA though remain disappointed more detail on how this could be achieved was absent in the declaration.

The G7 brings together

the US, Japan, UK, France, Germany, Italy and Canada. The 7 Foreign Ministers visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and laid wreaths at the cenotaph to those killed by the atomic bomb. In an impromptu decision, they also visited the A-bomb Memorial Dome. It is possible the meet-

ing may assist in a future visit by President Obama later in 2016.

The Mayors for Peace Secretariat held an exhibition on its work and member cities activities – including in the UK and Ireland – at the international media centre set up for the meeting.

## NFLA National Forum updates – June meetings planned

Dates and locations for upcoming NFLA Forum meetings in May and June are currently being finalised.

A NFLA Welsh Forum seminar is being planned, provisionally in south Wales. It will consider recent NFLA submission responses & Welsh energy news.

The NFLA Scotland Forum will meet in Dunfermline on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

The meeting will include a seminar on some key Scottish nuclear issues following the Scottish Parliament elections.

A NFLA All Ireland Forum meeting in

Swords on the 10<sup>th</sup> June will profile Irish energy futures and UK new nuclear issues.

A special seminar is also being held on defence diversification and renewable energy for the NFLA English Forum / SC on the 24<sup>th</sup> June. Flyers for all events will go out shortly.

## Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

**NFLA Welsh Forum, Civic Offices, Bridgend – location and date tbc**

**NFLA Scotland Forum, Dunfermline Town Hall, Fife, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**NFLA All Ireland Forum meeting, County Hall, Swords, Fingal, June 10<sup>th</sup>**

**NFLA Steering Committee, Room 301, Manchester Town Hall, June 24<sup>th</sup>**

**NFLA English Forum / SC joint seminar, Room 301, Level 3, Manchester Town Hall, June 24<sup>th</sup>**