Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty to enter into force

As a member of the ICAN coalition, and a partner of Mayors for Peace, the NFLA is delighted to see the milestone of 50 states ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). This now allows it to enter into force in late January.

Jamaica, Nauru and Honduras all ratified the Treaty on the 23rd and 24th October to take ratifications to the all-important 50 mark.

The milestone has been warmly welcomed in the UN, by many states and civil society, who have worked hard since the TPNW was agreed upon in July 2017. Entry into force will mean that it now becomes a part of international law. A full conference of States Parties will take place in 2021.

There is obviously now work to do be done to persuade those states opposed to it to engage. More states are likely to join the TPNW soon. NFLA’s media release is on its website.

NFLA commemoration plans in place for 40th anniversary

With the welcome news that the TPNW will now enter into force in early 2021, NFLA have a real opportunity to celebrate their relevance as they reach their 40th anniversary in early November.

In 1980, many Councils passed resolutions of concern as the Cold War heated up to declare themselves as ‘nuclear free’.

Manchester’s resolution committed the Council to look to build up an association of like-minded Councils, and the NFLA was created.

A special webinar will take place after the 6th November NFLA Steering Committee. It will include leading figures involved in the early days of the NFLA and presentations from some of its partners, like KIMO, CNFE and Mayors for Peace. It will also look to its relevance today.

A special webpage with original NFLA images will also be on the NFLA and Manchester websites.
NFLA submits response to NDA Strategy 4 consultation

NFLA have submitted a detailed response to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) on its planned strategy for 2021 – 2025. A model response has also gone on the NFLA website.

The NDA have to consult every 5 years on their planned strategy for the future. The proposed strategy outlines in detail their plans not just for the next 5 years but for the many decades hence in both starting decommissioning of all redundant reactors and the safe management of radioactive waste.

In its response, NFLA urge the NDA to provide an inventory of current and expected waste and its destination. It asks them to follow Scottish policy on near surface waste facilities and queries Sellafield discharges. Plutonium should also be immobilised.

See the full response on the NFLA website.

NFLA publishes Irish transboundary Sizewell C report

The NFLA has published a model response on its website for all Irish Councils, environmental groups and residents so as to respond to the transboundary impacts to Ireland of the proposed Sizewell C plant.

The response arises from discussions between the UK & Irish Governments over Sizewell C, and the Irish Government seeking local views on the impacts to Ireland of the development.

In its response NFLA argue there has been an inadequate consideration of risks to Ireland from the UK Government. It raises particular risks around the duration of a radiation release, Brexit and the UK leaving Euratom, Covid-19 and its economic effects, wider concerns on existing aging reactors and waste and flooding risks. It also looks at severe accident scenarios. It can be found on the NFLA website.

Welsh Senedd holds debate on 'Hinkley mud’ issues

Members of the Welsh Senedd held a detailed and welcome debate on the health and safety issues around EDF’s second application to dump large amounts of sediment from Hinkley Point to a site close to Cardiff Bay.

The debate only came about due to a petition organised by the Geiger Bay campaign which NFLA is supportive of.

As a result of such pressure, EDF has agreed to additional works and the Government has set up an expert advisory panel. A full independent assessment is still required.
NFLA NEWSLETTER

NFLA holds Scottish, English & Welsh Forum webinars

October saw 3 of the NFLA National Forums hold their meetings.

First was the NFLA Scotland Forum, who held a useful business meeting and a special webinar on Hunterston B and EDF’s aging AGR nuclear fleet. Pete Roche outlined all existing nuclear reactors may have to close a lot earlier than planned.

The NFLA English Forum looked at decentralised energy. This included an overview of why Council energy companies had got into trouble, and what may follow on from them.

The NFLA Welsh Forum looked at Hinkley mud, the ICAN Cities Appeal, N Wales nuclear issues & local energy. All the presentations are on the NFLA website.

NFLA plans European webinar with ICAN & Mayors for Peace

The NFLA Secretariat has been working with ICAN and colleagues in the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace on a joint webinar around peace and security in Europe.

The webinar will take place on the 4th December and has a number of high profile speakers taking part in it, starting with a video message from the Mayor of Hiroshima.

The webinar will have two distinct parts – first looking at the TPNW and the prospects for nuclear disarmament. It will seek to encourage Councils to pass resolutions supporting it.

It will also consider how to create safe, peaceful and sustainable towns and cities.

Invited speakers for it include the Mayors of Oslo, Manchester, Barcelona, Granollers and Braga (who are representing the Global Parliament of Mayors). ICAN speakers and a speaker from SIPRI will also be present. It will be disseminated soon through our networks.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>NFLA Steering Committee and special webinar on its 40th anniversary</td>
<td>6th November 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mayors for Peace / NFLA and ICAN joint webinar on peace, security and disarmament in Europe</td>
<td>4th December 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>NFLA Steering Committee</td>
<td>29th January 2021</td>
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NFLA ALARMED ON FUKUSHIMA MARINE DUMPING

The NFLA is talking with Japanese env- groups over their concerns that the Government is considering allowing TEPCO to dump a huge amount of contaminated water from the Fukushima site into the Pacific Ocean. A decision has been postponed for now. See the NFLA website for details.

NFLA PUBLISHING FURTHER REPORTS IN NOVEMBER

The NFLA will be publishing a number of detailed reports over the next few weeks as requested by its Steering Committee.

These include a full and detailed analysis of prospects for a ‘green recovery’ to respond to the Covid-19 crisis and the climate emergency.

An overview of the issues around a ‘no deal’ or agreement on Brexit will also be provided.

Updates on nuclear emergency planning and on nuclear transport are also being prepared.

These reports will be placed on the NFLA website.