NFLA English Forum discusses new nuclear & legacy issues

The NFLA English Forum held an informative and well attended webinar looking at issues with new nuclear, the nuclear legacy and a green recovery.

Speaking on new nuclear were Pete Wilkinson from Together Against Sizewell C and Alison Downes from Stop Sizewell C on the local environmental and financial concerns with building a third Sizewell reactor. Professor Andy Blowers also provided a brief update on the Bradwell B project.

Tony Bosworth and Ruth Balogh of Friends of the Earth outlined climate change concerns over building a deep coal mine in West Cumbria. NFLA Policy Advisor also outlined a detailed NFLA report that looks at the coal mine and the new process to consider hosting a deep underground radwaste repository. The report is a critical analysis of both developments and is a must read. The NFLA report, a media release, and presentations are on the NFLA website.

Fukushima 10th anniversary remembered

Many events were held in Japan and around the world to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Fukushima disaster.

On 11th March 2011, an earthquake and tsunami led to three of the five reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi plant being overcome and melting down. This led to a major radiation release and a large-scale evacuation.

NFLA cooperated with its European partners, the Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe (CNFE) network and the Alliance of Regions for the Phasing-out of Nuclear Power in Europe, to hold a joint meeting and webinar. It includes speakers from Greenpeace Japan and the Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan.

A major conference was held in Japan by environmental groups with over 100 speakers including a former Japanese Prime Minister. A European NGO conference was also held by IPPNW Germany. Further details can be found on the NFLA website.
NFLA prepares for Welsh & All Ireland Forum webinars

Registration is open for webinars of the NFLA Welsh Forum and NFLA All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum taking place in April.

The keynote speaker of NFLA Welsh Forum is Professor Steve Thomas who will provide a detailed overview of the proposals around developing small modular nuclear reactors in Wales.

Tim Deere-Jones will look at changes in the 'Hinkley mud’ issue and Katy Attwater will outline the concerns around a public inquiry over acoustic fish deterrents at Hinkley Point C.

UK Defence Review increases cap on Trident warheads

The NFLA, Mayors for Peace, ICAN and many other disarmament organisations raised real concerns when the new UK Government Defence Review decided to increase the top cap of nuclear warheads kept on Trident submarines.

After 30 years of gradual reductions by successive governments, the decision includes other issues suggesting a more aggressive UK defence policy. This includes a £16 billion increase over the next four years to the defence budget.

One of the most controversial parts of the review is that the cap of Trident warheads will rise from 180 to 260 warheads – a 40% increase.

The decision was widely criticized by the likes of the UN Secretary General, the Mayor of Hiroshima, ICAN and a number of other governments. NFLA are very concerned, as our media release outlines.

NFLA Scotland holds AGM and re-elects representatives

The NFLA Scotland Forum held its AGM to discuss core representatives and finances.

Cllr Feargal Dalton and Cllr Audrey Doig were re-elected as Convener and Vice Convener of the group. Cllr Bill Butler was re-elected as NFLA Steering Committee Vice Chair.

A financial report was also approved.

The short meeting also allowed a discussion on recent issues, including a detailed letter to the Scottish Government, Hunterston B issues and Dalgety Bay remediation delays.
Disarmament Parliamentary handbook launched

The NFLA Secretary, in his joint role as UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary, was invited to attend a Westminster webinar launching the Disarmament Parliamentary handbook.

In an event co-organised with two Parliament All Party Groups, the IPU and PNND, speakers included the former UN Ambassador to the UK, Lord Hannay.

Matthew Offord MP looked at issues in the handbook around dealing with explosive arms. Alyn Ware of PNND took a cross-party collection of MPs and external experts into the detail of the handbook.

The handbook has been delivered to assist Parliamentarians on how to promote a variety of disarmament initiatives in their own Parliaments.

It can be found at https://disarmamenthandbook.org.

UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter holds spring webinar

The UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter held its spring webinar on the 26th March.

The well attended meeting was opened by the Lord Mayor of Manchester and it was chaired by Cllr Eddy Newman.

The Chapter Secretary outlined progress with the Mayors for Peace at the cross-national, European and global level.

Rebecca Johnson of ICAN outlined its policy work and the campaign to encourage Councils to pass resolutions on nuclear weapons and divestment.

Anna Lubelska talked about the ‘Peaceful Schools’ initiative and Ulrike Eckhart of Chemnitz outlined its Day of Peace.

Mayors for Peace will be holding an Executive Conference in July. The European Chapter will also be holding its first board meeting shortly.

Forthcoming dates or meetings of interest to NFLA members

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NFLA Welsh Forum webinar</td>
<td>9th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>NFLA All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum webinar</td>
<td>16th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>NFLA Scotland business meeting and webinar</td>
<td>27th May (tbc)</td>
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<td>NFLA Steering Committee web meeting</td>
<td>4th June</td>
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Other meetings to be scheduled following local and Scottish / Welsh Parliamentary elections