

Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament



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Dear Christian CND members,

Thank you for getting in touch with your Synod Representatives and Bishops to attend the debate 'The Ethics of Nuclear Weapons' at the General Synod at York on Sunday 8th July.

I only heard from those of you who had difficulty in getting hold of their representatives. We did try to help by looking them up on the Synod website, but without a great deal of success.

One person who rang up was quite decisive, he said, 'I'll just ring up my Deanery Office'. So he obviously knew what to do. So those of you who do know what to do, could you please tell us, send an email to the office, or to me. We do want to know. Send us the letters you sent to your reps so we can put them in the next Ploughshare and on the website.

For the immediate future, we are publicising the Motion as much as we can. We will put a Resolution in to the CND Conference at Bristol October 20th, something on the lines, 'CND congratulate the Church of England on passing the Motion, ...' has to be in by the 29th July. Bishop Stephen Cottrell thinks it a good idea.

When the Synod has the agreed written record I think we should just make the whole debate into an A5 booklet, to have on Stalls etc, for the future. Motion on the front, all the speeches, including those that disagree with us inside.

This Motion is historic, it turns a corner, the Church of England is now in line with all the other churches worldwide, as well as with the Methodists, Baptists, Quakers, URC, Church of Scotland here in the UK. The World Council of Churches, to which most Protestant Churches belong, is a Partner organisation with the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons, which received the Nobel Prize for Peace for achieving the UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We are partners with ICAN, and so are you, so you too have received the Nobel Prize for Peace. Congratulations.

Best Wishes, send me, or the Office, your experiences, thoughts,
Caroline Gilbert maassgilbert@hotmail.com

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Text of the motion overleaf.

Text of the Motion.

That this Synod, mindful that a faithful commemoration of the centenary of the 1918 Armistice must commit the Church afresh to peace building; and conscious that nuclear weapons, through their indiscriminate and destructive potential, present a distinct category of weaponry that requires Christians to work tirelessly for their elimination across the world:

- (a) welcome the 2017 UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the clear signal it sends by a majority of UN Member States that nuclear weapons are both dangerous and unnecessary;*
- (b) call on Her Majesty's Government to respond positively to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by reiterating publicly its obligations under Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and its strategy for meeting them; and*
- (c) commit the Church of England to work with its Anglican Communion and ecumenical partners in addressing the regional and international security concerns which drive nations to possess and seek nuclear weapons and to work towards achieving a genuine peace through their elimination.*

Synod voted by counted vote 260 for, 26 against, 21 abstained.

Brief indication of contributions

Martin Gough (Chaplain to the Navy) and Gemma Winterton (Armed Forces Rep. to the Synod) both spoke on the hardships for the families of serving Trident submariners; Rachel Mann (Manchester) on Barrow workforce; Christopher Foster, Bishop of Portsmouth, 'we live in a world where they are necessary' as did former Brigadier Ian Dobbie (Rochester).

For the Motion were Hannah Grivell (Derby), Sean Docherty (London) who proposed a strengthening amendment which was defeated, Catherine Pickford (Newcastle), Peter Adams (St Albans) vision of peace & conflict resolution, Bishop Christopher Cocksworth (Coventry) UN TPNWTreaty the new reality, Thomas Seville (Religious Communities) Theological imperative, cold peace & warm peace, Peace should be warm, not just an absence of war; Gill De Berry (Salisbury) pointed out the cost of Trident; John Mason (Chester) visited Hiroshima., Paul Bayes, Bishop of Liverpool, time for the Church of England to do something.