

Here is the text of the Motion (GS 2095):

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.*

**Counted vote of the whole Synod:
IN FAVOUR 260 AGAINST 26 ABSTENTIONS 21.**

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Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Historic Motion on Nuclear Weapons from Church of England, 8 July at the General Synod at York. (full text on back page)

The Church of England joins the majority of churches and faith groups worldwide with their historic Motion GS 2095. This welcomes the UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and calls on the UK government to honour its obligations under the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and publish a plan for the elimination of its nuclear arsenal.

This Motion is historic, the Church of England is now in line with all the other churches worldwide, as well as with the Baptists, Catholics, Church of Scotland, Methodists, Quakers, URC here in the UK.

The debate on 'The Ethics of Nuclear Weapons' was introduced by the Bishop of Chelmsford, the Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell. Then there was a wide-ranging debate covering most aspects of nuclear weapons. It is to the credit of the Church of England that it can have such a debate.

Brief indication of contributions to the debate:

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 TPNW Treaty the new reality; Thomas Seville (Religious



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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.

CND's Annual Conference, 20th October in Bristol, passed CCND's resolution calling on CND to congratulate the Church of England on its motion, and calling on CND's members and local groups to use the C of E Motion to reach out to their local churches, members of faith communities and the general public.

CND received the following response to these congratulations from the Rev Canon Dr Malcolm Brown, Director, Mission and Public Affairs, Archbishops' Council:

"I shall certainly pass on your message to the Archbishop of Canterbury who took a keen interest in the debate from its inception. The debate was supported by a background paper from my team and, if you haven't seen it, it can be found on our website.

As the debate called for action by Her Majesty's Government, motion and the voting figures were duly conveyed to the MoD. We do recognise that such exchanges of letters are essentially a formality, but we continue to press our arguments wherever we can, not least through the Lords Spiritual in the chamber and behind the scenes.

With all best wishes, Yours Malcolm Brown"



For more information:

Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament:

<http://christiancnd.org.uk>



this includes a page of links to many useful web pages including the background paper to the C of E debate

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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 (ICAN). ICAN received the 2017 Nobel Prize for Peace for achieving the UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

The Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament attended the General Synod, with stall/exhibitions and a Fringe Meeting for a number of years working for this result.

Going forward:

The first thing to do is to make all this as widely known as possible; use it. That means talk about it, write about it, hold meetings about it. It is perfectly natural and easy to do, just conversations.



Everyone lives in a mesh of networks, let's use them
chat, talk, converse with all and anyone

I found myself doing it one Sunday to a bloke next to me in the pew, so I'm writing this with half an eye/ear on his tiny church on the Ridgeway. A couple of people fixed up a meeting in Nottingham. Church people can hold a meeting to which they invite the general public; non-church / non-religious people can do the same and get in touch with their local churches. Sect. C of the C of E Motion must apply to next year's Lambeth Conference (July 2020) mostly at Canterbury. We need to prepare for this, who can help us – have links, done it before, live in Canterbury?

We hope for a locally based nationwide campaign.

We want a nuclear weapon free world.

Use the CCND website members page: tell CCND what you want to do. You know your area, what would help you?

More leaflets? More contacts? Copies of the UN Treaty?



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