

# NUCLEAR WEAPONS And THE CHURCHES

The Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is a specialist section of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. It seeks to put forward CND's message in the light of the Gospel in churches of all denominations.

Christian CND continues to work in Churches and other Faith Communities encouraging them to see work for nuclear disarmament as part of their Faith commitment, to engage with the government of the day and make public statements on this subject.

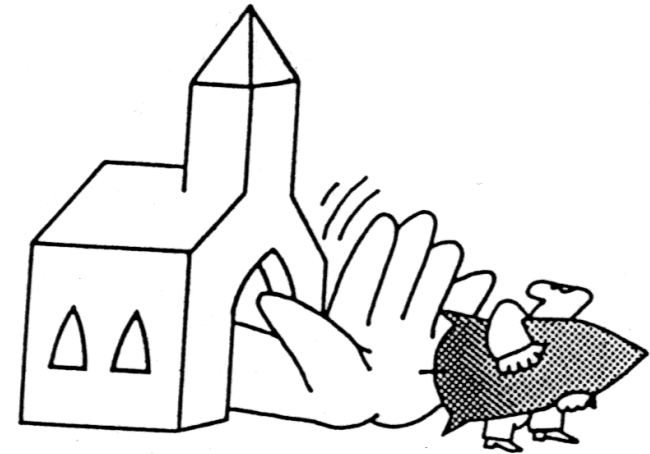
As part of its aim to dialogue with decision makers, it holds an annual walk visiting the London embassies of Nuclear Weapons States, the New Agenda Coalition and other relevant nations. In 2010 this also incorporated interviews with representatives of 13 of these embassies.

Conferences and day schools are arranged on both the theology and politics of nuclear disarmament in solidarity with other Faith Communities. Liturgies and demonstrations are held at significant sites.

CCND also helps schools with their curriculum requirements on War and Peace

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# Some STATEMENTS from Church Leaders against Nuclear Weapons

**The Church of England** voted against Trident (Synod Resolution GS 1644, 2007)

**Pope Benedict XVI:** “The truth of peace requires that all – whether those governments which openly or secretly possess nuclear arms, or those planning to acquire them ...strive for a progressive and concerted nuclear disarmament. The resources which would be saved could then be employed in projects of development capable of benefiting all their people, especially the poor.”

In Wales, all the bishops of the **Church in Wales**, all the **Welsh RC** bishops, the leaders of the **Presbyterian Church of Wales**, the **Baptist Church**, the **Methodist Church**, the **United Reformed Church**, the **Union of Welsh Independent Churches** and the **Religious Society of Friends:** “We believe the proposal to spend £25bn on replacement of the Trident system is a denial of our Treaty obligations and an encouragement to more non-nuclear states to develop their own weapons.”

The Moderator of the **Church of Scotland** and Cardinal Keith O’Brien’s joint statement to the 2007 Non-

Proliferation Treaty Meeting: “This planned renewal of Trident is contrary to international law and opposed by the majority of people in Scotland –is contrary to the objectives of the NPT –is contrary to the teachings of all the world’s faiths.”

**Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Church** leaders: “Our churches urge the British Government to work tirelessly to rid the world of weapons of mass destruction ... Replacing Trident would send the wrong message to aspiring nuclear powers. ... ”

**More extracts are in ‘Nuclear weapons – What can Christians do?’ a pack for the Churches obtainable from the Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, [ccnd@gn.apc.org](mailto:ccnd@gn.apc.org)**

*The campaign also has statements from His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Rabbi David Saperstein, Dr. Muzzami H. Siddiqi, and from Pope John Paul II. In 1988 we obtained signatures from over 100 Anglican bishops worldwide for nuclear abolition.*