

Minutes of Cross Party Group on Nuclear Disarmament 7 January 2015

MSPs present: Bill Kidd, Patrick Harvie, Christian Allard, Kevin Stewart, Jean Urquhart and Sandra White

MSP Apologies: Claudia Beamish and Elaine Smith

Also present: John Ainslie, Veronika Tudhope, Brian Quail and Siobhan Healey (Scottish CND), Judith Macdonald and Duncan Macintyre (MEDACT), Brian Larkin (Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre), Greg and Trish Mello (Los Alamos Study Group) plus others.

Trish and Greg Mello gave a presentation. They pointed out that spending on nuclear weapons is contested within the US establishment, although there was little prospect of real progress towards disarmament in the US. Modernisation programmes are underway in order to provide work for the nuclear weapons' laboratories.

In December Trish and Greg attended the conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Vienna. Many nations took part and a significant number now support the proposal for a ban on nuclear weapons. Bill Kidd delivered a letter from Nicola Sturgeon to the conference. Before the main event there was a conference by the International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). Veronika Tudhope and Judith Macdonald had also taken part in this. It was an inspiring event, involving many activists from around the world.