

## CPG on Nuclear Disarmament

26 February 2013

Attendees: Bill Kidd MSP, Kevin Stewart MSP, Dave Thompson MSP, Isobel Lindsay, Veronika Tudhope (Scottish CND), Brian Larkin

Agenda:

1. AGM and re-election of office bearers
2. Abolition 2000 event
3. PNND meetings report

### AGM and re-election of office bearers

It was decided unanimously that all office bearers were re-elected. Bill Kidd MSP and Patrick Harvie MSP will remain co-convenors of the group; John Ainslie (SCND) will continue in the role of Secretary.

### Abolition 2000 event

Abolition 2000 has selected Scotland as the venue for their AGM which is to be held 17-19 April 2013.

Bill Kidd has already arranged for a Parliamentary reception to be held for attendees on Thursday, 18 April, however he was unable to secure further gatherings due to restrictions on use of the Scottish Parliament premises while the Parliament is in session.

Veronika and Brian have ensured that St Columba's has been secured as a venue for Wednesday, 17 April and St Augustine's as a daytime venue for Thursday. It also has been noted that there may be availability to hold an evening event at Edinburgh City Chambers with the Lord Provost potentially contributing as a speaker (NFLA to confirm). On Friday the 19<sup>th</sup>, attendees will be invited to visit Faslane; though it has been pointed out that this conflicts with the NFLA AGM that day, numbers should be fine.

The Group is aware of concerns over press coverage given the timing of the event in midweek and the fact that the event will be moving location several times. It was suggested by Kevin Stewart that the Group should look more into working with Edinburgh City Council, as local authorities can provide event resources, potential accommodation for the Event headquarters as well as more opportunities for meaningful press coverage.

Other press-related suggestions included:

- Finding linkages between high profile guests and areas with well-known connections to ensure stories in local/regional papers
- Pursuing Scotland Tonight media coverage format for guests to debate topics raised at the event whilst it happens

- Establish event headquarters so press have a specific location to access information and interview, etc (Parliament or City Chambers);
- Emphasise the importance of Scotland as a leader in nuclear disarmament being selected to hold this high profile event well in advance of event date;
- Invite high profile bloggers to the Event to get stories out that way;
- Link story of event in with Scrap Trident demos on the weekend prior (13-15 April).

### PNND meetings report

Bill Kidd shared the outcome of several recent meetings he has attended in his capacity as Co-President of PNND.

- Paris: a PNND meeting held at the French Parliament where much influence was established in a country that is typically very pro-nuclear.
- Berlin: attended last week and noted that there were no representatives from the UK Government.
- Oslo: upcoming event that will see participants from 115 countries attend. Bill will be attending on behalf of PNND, but hopes to share what Scotland is doing on the global stage to end nuclear proliferation.

### Other comments:

Brian wanted to make sure the group was aware of the Scrap Trident campaign which is putting together a weekend of demonstrations just before Abolition 2000 on 13-15 April. The campaign will be writing to MSPs to ask for their support and would love to see MSPs joining in on the weekend demos which will culminate in a blockade of Faslane on Monday 15 April. They would be grateful if MSPs could come to any or all events. More info at [www.scraptrident.org](http://www.scraptrident.org)

