

# **NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT CROSS PARTY GROUP**

**Wednesday 14 March 2018**

**12:30pm – 1:30pm**

**This was rescheduled at short notice from the previous day because Beatrice Fihn was able to come to Scotland for one day only as part of a UK trip.**

## **Present: (Visiting speaker)**

**Beatrice Fihn** Beatrice Fihn is the Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize-winning campaign coalition that works to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons. Along with Setsuko Thurlow, Hiroshima survivor, she accepted the Nobel Peace Prize and they jointly delivered the Nobel Peace Prize lecture in Oslo on behalf of the campaign.

## **The meeting was chaired by Convenor, Bill Kidd MSP**

### **Other Parliamentarians also present were:**

Willie Rennie MSP

Linda Fabiani MSP

Bill Kidd MSP

Patrick Harvie MSP – deputy Convenor

Emma Harper MSP

Sandra White MSP - member

Richard Leonard MSP - member

Elaine Smith MSP - member

John Finnie MSP - member

Ash Denham MSP

Gail Ross MSP

Claudia Beamish MSP - member

Fiona Hyslop MSP

Paul Wheelhouse MSP

Derek McKay MSP

Mike Russell MSP

Keith Brown MSP

Emma Harper MSP

Clare Adamson MSP

Claire Haughey MSP

Rona McKay MSP

Joe Fitzpatrick MSP

Joan McAlpine MSP

Ashley Douglas (Parliamentary Reporter)

John Docherty (Constituency and Parliamentary Office Manager to Bill Kidd MSP)

Isabella Gabrovsky (Parliamentary Assistant to Bill Kidd MSP)

### **Civil Society Organisations were represented by**

David Mackenzie (Nukewatch)

Jane Tallents (Trident Ploughshares)

Steve Davies (SNP/CND)  
Dagmar Mederiois (WILPF)  
Flavia Tudoreanu (SCND)  
Dr Michael Orgel (MEDACT)  
Lesley Orr (Iona Community)  
Jean Gilour Anderson (SCND)  
Clare Conboy (Acronym)  
Samantha Ku (University of California student in Nuclear Non Proliferation)  
Dani O Kane (ICAN intern)  
Carol Acutt (Soko Gakai International)  
Brian Larkin (Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre)  
Ivon Bartholomew (Photographer)

Janet Fenton (ICAN/SCND) as secretary of the CPG.

## **1. IMINUTES, MATTERS ARISING**

**The minute of the previous meeting was accepted.**

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Civil society organisations were invited to say a little about their main activities and relation with the CPG in the form of a go-round.

Brian Larkin (Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre spoke about the centre's history of upholding the CPG and building good links to MSPs in this way. He described the Centre's 140,000 Oregami Cranes Project which aims to raise awareness of the terrible loss of life and ongoing suffering resulting from the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. He presented a paper crane to each of the Government Ministers present and to Beatrice.

Carol Acutt offered a presentation of her recent trip to Hiroshima which she will share with a future CPG.

Michael Orgel spoke about the contribution that MEDACT and others working together on ICAN's Don't Bank on The Bomb have made towards a new report to be compiled for use in divestment campaigning in Scotland, and we heard from David Mackenzie and Jane Tallents about their hopes for a response from the Scottish Government to their Unready Scotland report, which highlights an opportunity for the Scottish Government to seek action on the lack of preparedness by first responders to any accident involving the convoys that travel through Scotland transporting nuclear warheads.

Scottish CND participants highlighted the Nae Nukes Anywhere events scheduled for September which aim to bring international campaigners to stand beside us at the nuclear base that the UK Government forces upon Scotland against the expressed will of its parliament and government.

Lesley Orr spoke of the Iona community's commitment to nuclear disarmament as a global necessity, and was warmly welcomed as this is the first time that the Iona Community has been represented at the CPG.

## **2. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY**

Members of the Scottish Parliament attending had the opportunity to speak personally to Beatrice and she was able to hear about their work in this way before her presentation of the story of ICAN's part in gaining the TPNW. She stressed that the Nobel Prize was awarded to everyone who had been involved in the campaign since ICAN's inception ten years earlier and explained the importance of the part that civil society had played in bringing our understanding of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences to the fore, rather than the arguments about strategy and politics. The evidence presented by the survivors had been necessary to convince the diplomats that nuclear weapons must be prohibited and eliminated as they are indiscriminate and could never be used in compliance with international humanitarian law.

A small delegation, with a small number of civil society participants included, allowed Bill to introduce Beatrice to an informal off-the-record exchange between Beatrice and the Cabinet Secretary and other government ministers before the session was closed with photograph opportunities for everybody in the Garden Lobby.