

Update

August 2018

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Nuclear weapons - the work on the Treaty continues



NFPB was represented at the ICAN UK partners meeting in Manchester in late June.

Following the signing last year of the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**, groups in the UK associated with Nobel Peace Prize recipients International Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) continue to meet to share ideas and develop campaigning initiatives to encourage our own government to sign up to the Treaty. See <http://uk.icanw.org/>

A Scottish-based action in September will be the **international rally at Faslane on 22nd September**. Friends are encouraged to join the rally; a number are already committed and if you would like to be in touch with them, contact the NFPB office. For information about the rally - <http://www.nuclearban.scot/sep-rally>

Lobby Training Day

in relation to the U.N Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Manchester, 8th September

UK WILPF (Womens International League for Peace and Freedom) with Greater Manchester CND

Info and Bookings: <http://www.wilpf.org.uk/3521-2/>

Workshops

We have run workshops for three groups of Friends over the past three months. As part of their preparation for the Ride for Equality and the Common Good, we did an afternoon workshop with those involved in the cycle-ride of witness, on having productive conversations on difficult issues and on engaging with media.

Media engagement was also the focus for a workshop at Manchester Meeting House, looking at developing and articulating alternative narratives for peace. Friends from a number of different Area Meetings participated. Finally, we facilitated a short workshop with Lancaster Central & North Area Meeting Friends on Building Peace Together, prior to their Meeting for Business in early July.

Get in touch if you would like a workshop for your Meeting or group.

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Rethinking Security

We participated in the first national conference of the Rethinking Security project in June. Bringing human rights, sustainability, economic justice and concerns about militarism into a broad discussion, the conference addressed the need for a different vision and approach to building security in the world. We are looking at further ways in which NFPB can help promote this conversation and action amongst Friends and more widely. More about Rethinking Security -

<https://rethinkingsecurity.org.uk>

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The peace and hope to end war

Course at **Charney Manor**, Oxfordshire,

Monday 19 to Wednesday 21 November, facilitated by Philip Austin, NFPB Coordinator.

A time for reflection and discussion, sharing hopes and ideas for action.

Details: www.charneymanor.com/events/

International Peace Bureau

We were reminded at our gathering of NFPB members and other Friends, in Lancaster on 12th May, of the maxim to 'think globally, act locally'. At the meeting we heard about the work of the International Peace Bureau (IPB) - <http://www.ipb.org> - of which we have been a member for many years but without being very

actively so. Dave Webb, one of IPB's Vice Presidents, described the recent and current work of the organisation and encouraged us to consider how we could get involved and make more use of the network it provides. The Global Days of Action on Military Spending (<http://demilitarize.org/>) are one area of its focus, alongside advocating sustainable development for non-military security. NFPB agreed to continue its membership of IPB.

WW1 Centenary

Marking our own centenary in 2013, we reproduced a number of historic posters. This one on the theme of **Never Again** is particularly appropriate for the 100th anniversary of the armistice in 1918. We are hoping to have online sales available soon, but in the meantime an order form for this and other materials is available on our website at: <http://nfpb.org.uk/publications/peace-publicity-sales> – or contact the NFPB office directly. (See overleaf)

We have a set of the WW1-era *No Conscription Fellowship* journal '**Tribunal**' in the office and have been adding excerpts from this to our website. These can be read online at: <http://nfpb.org.uk/tribunal>



NFPB in Glasgow - worship, witness and discussion

Two years on from the killing of MP Jo Cox (and when NFPB also met in Scotland), we began our meeting this June on the day of the Great Get Together, an idea of the Jo Cox Foundation, reflecting on the opportunities and the challenges of getting together.

NFPB members heard from Janet Fenton regarding the further work of ICAN in relation to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (see front page). We agreed to take forward the suggestion of publishing an awareness-raising leaflet from a faith perspective.

We were pleased to again welcome to our meeting Mairi Campbell-Jack, Parliamentary Engagement Officer for Friends in Scotland. She updated us on the progress of the Petition that Friends and Forces Watch had submitted to the Scottish Parliament in relation to military visits to schools. The impact of such visits is now being monitored. <https://www.forceswatch.net/content/scottish-parliament-petition>

Mairi is at the early stages of looking into what work she could usefully do to advocate for peace education in Scotland.

Our final item for consideration was the issue of identity and peace. Some years ago, NFPB published a

collection of individuals' thoughts on national identity in Britain; whilst some of the points addressed in that publication remain the same, others have shifted dramatically. Friends spoke from the heart. Some talked of the importance of including the vulnerable and marginalised into our concept of our own community; some of their own feelings of rootedness whilst have a strong sense of being world citizens. We need to hear and engage with differences honestly, we were urged. The consideration will continue.

Following the meeting, NFPB members were among the nearly 30 Friends at a Meeting for Worship at Faslane on Sunday, and others at the protest on Tuesday morning around the Glasgow UDT (Undersea Defence Technology) conference.

Our next members' meeting will be at Lincoln Meeting House on Saturday 29th September

Please get in touch if you would like information about our plans for that day, or for our subsequent meeting on Saturday 1st December in Sheffield.

Other news and diary dates available on our website at: <http://nfpb.org.uk/calendar>