

# HEDDWCH



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Kristen Dvergsdal/Atomwopen



## ***DEFEND THE RIGHT TO PROTEST***

Our freedoms are hard won. We owe many of them to struggles fought in the past by rebels, chartists, strikers and suffragettes, to campaigners for social justice and political change. CND has always been at the centre of protest, but now we face harsh new laws designed to shut down protest and dissent. These must not and will not succeed.

HIROSHIMA—LESSONS UNLEARNED?

Paul Peter Piech (1920-1996)



The G7 summit in May this year was held in Hiroshima. A sobering location, and surely a time and place to pause for thought. The ensuing communiqué called for strengthened ‘disarmament and non-proliferation efforts’.

However the same G7 communiqué also called for the war in Ukraine, currently the most likely source of nuclear conflict, to be pursued for ‘as long as it takes’. The Wagner group mutiny on 24th June raises the danger level and

IN MEMORIAM

Bruce Kent

22<sup>nd</sup> June 1929

—

8<sup>th</sup> June 2022

made outcomes even more unpredictable. The decision of Biden to provide Ukraine with cluster bombs is appalling.

The communiqué also refers to security in the Indo-Pacific, clearly in the context of the (unmentioned) AUKUS pact, which heightens tensions with China and undermines the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Recently, minimal diplomatic contacts between the USA and China may offer a small crumb of comfort.

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The arms race is back with us: the number of nuclear warheads in the world has now risen to 12,512. The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) warn us that Britain alone has enough plutonium stockpiled to make nearly 20,000 nuclear warheads.

The 1945 victims of Hiroshima deserve more than mere lip-service.

# DEFEND OUR RIGHT TO PROTEST

*Angie Zelter is an international champion of non-violent direct action and author of *Activism for Life* (Luath Press, 2021).*

The UK has probably never had so many protesters, nor so many reasons to protest. Climate activists are trying to stop the fossil fuel and nuclear energy industries, while promoting renewables. Environmentalists are trying to loosen the grip of corporate agri-industry. Peace protesters are trying to stop arms 'fairs' selling weapons to human rights abusers including Israel and Saudi Arabia, as well as resisting deployment of nuclear weapons. Human rights activists are working against the silencing of free speech.

Concerned, peaceful citizens are marching and blockading, but also breaking windows and machinery, throwing red paint and occupying the offices of greedy corporations, whose only concern is increasing profits, regardless of human and environmental costs.

We are having an impact, costing money, changing public perceptions. This is why the government has introduced even more draconian laws to stop our democratic right to protest. Our elected government would rather protect the fossil fuel and weapons manufacturing industries than respect the views of its own people. They refuse to recognise that protest is essential to any truly democratic system; it ensures social justice, and prevents great injustice.

New legislation, introduced in 2022-23, included the Public Order Act which is largely concerned with stopping disruption to corporate or business interests. It restricts effective protest by limiting the amount of noise we can make, criminalising 'locking on' and charging us with



Trident Ploughshares

**'Locking on' has been a common tactic at the Faslane protests over many years.**

'public nuisance'. Serious Disruption Prevention Orders prevent an individual from associating with named others, going to certain areas, or attending protests, and can result in electronic tagging as part of its enforcement.

Crown Court judges are refusing to allow jurors to hear the motivations of campaigners, who may be charged with contempt of court for using the words climate change, oil or gas!

**We are witnessing the largest number of campaigners being incarcerated in prison in decades, along with a massive increase in intrusive intelligence-gathering. This has a chilling effect on people's willingness to protest. Our government is becoming an authoritarian, oppressive dictatorship aligned with corporate and banking interests.**

Instead of being intimidated, we must ramp up non-violent resistance. This April's Big One protest, organised by XR in London, showed how many organisations can put aside their differences and work together. Now more than ever we have to reach out to the public and alert everyone to what is really happening—before it is too late.

**ANGIE ZELTER**

# IT'S TIME TO STOP THE DRIFT TOWARDS 'KILLER ROBOTS'

PETER BURT is a researcher with Drone Wars UK



**A Reaper Drone can carry bombs or missiles, or be used for surveillance.**

MoD

computer-controlled and increasingly autonomous features.

There are three main causes for failures: the speed at which the systems operate; the complexity of

In 2018, Drone Wars UK published *Off the Leash*, a study into the development of armed autonomous drones – 'killer robots' able to operate without human control. Five years later, many of the areas we researched have evolved into actual military capabilities. The navy is now operating uncrewed minesweepers and trialling uncrewed submarines. The air force is testing drones which can operate together as an autonomous swarm.

These systems use advanced computing and robotics and are just a fraction of many AI (artificial intelligence) programmes which the Ministry of Defence is pioneering. As yet, these systems are only able to conduct straightforward tasks in relatively simple environments, but the MoD is keen to exploit the potential of AI.

## Risks and rights

Experience from recent conflicts shows that we are beginning to see a new generation of weapon systems with decreasing levels of human control. Automated air defence systems have long been in common use. While they are not completely autonomous, with a human operator supposedly in command, they do have complex

the tasks they perform; and the demands their use places on human operators. As more and more tasks have been delegated to computer systems, human operators of air defence systems have changed from active controllers to passive supervisors. This has resulted in some tragic mistakes.

Computer-enabled autonomy is based on complex and often opaque technologies which may not be clearly understood by the operator. It threatens human rights and raises issues over compliance with the laws of armed conflict.

## Current conflicts

AI and autonomous technology is currently playing a significant role in the Ukraine war. US company Palantir, which specialises in the development of AI technologies for surveillance and military purposes, boasts that its software is 'responsible for most of the targeting in Ukraine'.



Cymdeithas y Cymod

**A drones protest at Llanbedr in Gwynedd. Many firms based in Wales are now engaged in developing the latest attack and surveillance technologies.**

There has also been speculation that 'loitering munitions' operating in autonomous modes, such as the Russian-made KYB-BLA system, may have been used on the battlefield. These can hover high above an area and then attack whatever has been identified as a target, either by a human or by automated recognition.

It is unclear just how 'killer robots' have been used in Ukraine. Public knowledge about the autonomous capabilities of such weapons is vague and perhaps based on exaggerated claims by the manufacturer. The weapons can be operated in autonomous mode or under human control. There is as yet no evidence to indicate whether those used in Ukraine have operated autonomously.

There have also been claims that loitering munitions operating autonomously may have been used in combat in Libya. These are based on a report to the UN security council by the UN's expert panel on Libya, which stated that a Turkish-manufactured Kargu-2 drone had 'hunted down and remotely engaged' Libyan national army forces in 2020. Again, this appears to be based on a manufacturer's claims rather than clear evidence.

These two examples show that caution is necessary in relation to media reports. At the same time, it is also clear that AI, combined with the use of sophisticated sensors, is allowing increasing levels

of autonomy to be assigned to complex weapon systems. At present a human operator is able to approve an attack using these weapons – but the requirement for human approval can be removed with technical upgrades to the system.

What can we conclude regarding the use of loitering munitions and AI-based systems in the Ukraine war and other recent conflicts?

Importantly, we cannot say for sure that autonomous weapon systems outside human control are now being routinely used – or that the use of such systems in conflict is inevitable. Neither does it mean that the Russians are taking the lead in developing AI-based weapons or that the West needs to develop equivalent weapons of its own to 'keep up with' the Russians, Chinese, or any other military rivals. However, these developments do mean that modern weapon systems are becoming increasingly autonomous in their capabilities, and that this poses risks.

## ***Calls for a treaty***

Action is needed now. The global Campaign to Stop Killer Robots calls for a new treaty, banning systems which target humans, or which cannot be effectively controlled by humans. Human operatives must understand the system's functions and be held responsible for any consequences. A majority of nations currently support negotiating a new treaty, including China and Iran. Opponents include Russia and the USA and its allies, including the UK.

**PETER BURT**

*With thanks to Peace News.  
For an unabridged version  
of this article with links to  
further information, visit [www.peacenews.info](http://www.peacenews.info). See also [www.ukstopkillerrobots.org.uk](http://www.ukstopkillerrobots.org.uk) for  
campaign news and action.*



***Ever more remote: attack drones challenge humanity's moral choices***

## A MOVE TO THE DARC SIDE?

DAVID WEBB is convenor of the *Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space*

In July 2021 the BBC reported that the US Space Force wants to build three huge radar bases around the world, as part of a global system to track objects in deep space. They were to be located in Texas, Australia and Britain. The exact location of the British site has not yet been confirmed, but one possible candidate is Cawdor Barracks near Brawdy, just outside the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. If developed, the site would include a total of 21 receiving antenna dishes about 20m high and 15m in diameter; six transmitting dishes of the same size; an operations building, and perimeter and security fencing.

### **Deep space**

The powerful radar would be part of a new 'Deep Space Advanced Radar Capability' (DARC) system, an enhancement of the US Space Surveillance Network (SSN) which includes the pyramid-shaped radar at Fylingdales in Yorkshire. DARC will be able to 'see' much

further than Fylingdales. The radar would be used to "detect, track, identify and characterise objects" in geosynchronous orbit, at 36,000 km, where many military surveillance and communications satellites are stationed. It would contribute to the US Space Domain Awareness (SDA) programme.

SDA data comes from various space sensors and ground-based telescopes and radars, and is combined with intelligence sources to produce a picture of the space environment. It enables the military to monitor the activities of others in space and can provide data for the targeting of anti-satellite systems. The war in Ukraine is showing how important space resources are to the military, and US Space Command stated its aim of dominating and controlling space in its 1997 'Vision for 2020'. But domination of a region requires an ability to monitor everything that goes on there and that is where SDA comes in.

The US is saying that its dominance in space is under threat and in May, Brig Gen Jesse Morehouse from US Space Command was reported as saying that Russian aggression and China's vision to become the dominant space power by mid-century, had left the US with "no choice" but to prepare for orbital skirmishes, "the United States of America is ready to fight tonight in space if we have to."

**If DARC is sited at Brawdy, the UK government will be ensuring that the people of Wales become part of any future war in space.**

*A video about DARC and the US military's control of the 'space domain', created by Paul Mobbs in 2021, can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkhdjqSNic>*

DAVID WEBB



## THE VIEW FROM BRAWDY

*Déjà vu? ROY JONES was a founder member of the Pembrokeshire Against Radar Campaign (PARC) in 1990. If DARC does come to Brawdy, renewed opposition is assured.*



I know the power of a community when it unites to stop a military installation from being built. PARC started off as a group of just four households in Whitchurch, just outside Solva. The group grew rapidly until the plans were finally scrapped.

### **Campaign history**

Roger Coghill, a scientist who had researched the negative effects of electro-magnetic radiation, spoke at village halls. The local newspaper helped us spread the word about risks to health, environment and tourism. We held all sorts of fund-raisers. Information packs were sent to any public figures who might be able to put pressure on the government. We also used channels in the USA to reach Senators sympathetic to our cause. At a meeting with the Minister for Defence Procurement, we filled the hall with people holding placards saying NO. Plaid Cymru organised a march and a rally from St David's Cathedral, with Dafydd Iwan and Dafydd Wigley. Speakers calling for the scrapping of the proposal included Councillor Nick Ainger (later a Labour MP). Support also came from Tony Benn and eventually Neil Kinnock.

### **And now what?**

The current proposal for DARC is likely to raise similar concerns, including health (weakened immune systems and increased susceptibility to

leukaemia) and environmental impact. Advice given by Natural Resources Wales to Pembrokeshire Council considers that 'there may be significant visual impacts on the National Park.'

It is difficult to be sure, given currently available information, of the exact siting of the 27 dishes. My research suggests that there is no way that the villages of Trefgarn Owen, Landeloy and Penycwm will not be extremely close to the dishes, as well as the Brawdy Business Park (the old US Navy Base) and Park Hall Village.

The EIA Scoping Document from Pembrokeshire Council expresses concern about the (as yet undetermined) area to be occupied by the dishes, and suggests given the 'significance of the receptor at Carn Llidi, this area too should be included in the impact assessments. As there doesn't appear to be any existing 'receptor' on Carn Llidi, this suggests that the spread of the dishes could be much wider than currently expected.

If this were the case I believe the strength of public opposition would be unstoppable. I intend to reboot PARC and stop the DARC from gaining a foothold in our precious Dewisland peninsula.

**ROY JONES**

## SEEKING PEACE IN UKRAINE

**WENDY JONES** is a Quaker from North Wales, who studied in Russia. She travelled to Vienna for the recent International Summit for Peace in Ukraine.

Wendy Jones



***The original venue was cancelled after the Ukrainian ambassador and some press objected to the Conference even taking place. The event was moved to this concert hall.***

On 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> June 2023 an international peace conference took place in Vienna. It was held there as Austria is a neutral country and a 'United Nations City'. It is also home to the Secretariat of the OSCE (the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe), which has been monitoring the situation in the Donbas region since signing the Minsk II agreement in 2015. Despite the last minute change of venue, the Conference went ahead and gave voice to a variety of attitudes about the origins of the conflict and ways to solve it.

Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine was condemned by the Conference, but at the same time NATO's shared responsibility for the conflict in the longer term was acknowledged. The conflict is destroying the country's environment and infrastructure,

increasing the price of food and energy around the world, exacerbating poverty and famine – especially in the global South – and threatening the whole world with nuclear war.

One thing that became obvious was the lack of any desire for peace in the press. The voices of the mainstream press in America, Britain, Russia and Europe has remained close to our governments' stance, pro-war and weapons instead of seeking peace. We are all now aware of global warming and the challenges facing humanity, a point emphasised by Noam Chomsky who addressed the Conference by video: the danger is that this war will break us all.

Dr Yuriy Sheliazhenko represented the Ukrainian Pacifist Movement: 'If you don't like the many peace plans

put forward by Ukrainian and Russian negotiators in Minsk and Istanbul, by the Vatican, by China and many countries of the global South, you're more than welcome to put forward your own peace plan.'

The following are among the main conclusions of the Conference:

- That the organisers call on leaders in all countries to act in support of an immediate ceasefire and negotiations to end the war
- Whilst condemning Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, it was recognised that the institutions established to ensure peace and security in Europe had failed, with the lack of diplomacy leading to war.

## RAF LAKENHEATH: WE SAY NO TO US NUKES

- Many more deaths and much suffering may ensue if this conflict escalates as far as the use of nuclear weapons, a risk that is higher today than at any time since the Cuban missile crisis
- Diplomacy is now urgently needed to end the war, before it destroys Ukraine and endangers humanity.

- The path to peace must be based on the principles of common security, respect for international human rights and the self-determination of each community.

- We support all negotiations that stand for the logic of peace instead of the logic of war.

- We confirm our support for the civil society of Ukraine in defending their rights

- We commit ourselves to strengthening the dialogue with those in Russia and Belarus who risk their lives opposing war and defending democracy.

- We call on civil society in all countries to join us in a week of global action (Saturday 30 September - Sunday 8 October 2023) for an immediate ceasefire and peace negotiations to end this war.

**“As members of CND Cymru, we were proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with comrades from the wider movement in voicing, loud and clear, our opposition to the siting of US nuclear weapons at Lakenheath. During a time of unprecedentedly high international tensions, this escalatory move by the Westminster and US governments not only fails to keep us safe, but increases the probability of thermonuclear war. Dragging humanity ever closer to the brink of this existential threat is totally unacceptable and we are united in our condemnation of this reprehensible provocation.”**

**SAM BANNON**

On Saturday, 20 May, a group of CND Cymru members travelled from Wales to RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk, to join CND demonstrators from all over Britain in condemning the deployment of US nuclear weapons at the base.

Demonstrators heard speeches from Dutch peace campaigner Guido van Leemput; German peace campaigner Reiner Braun; CND Chair Tom Unterrainer; Stop the War Coalition convenor Lindsey German; Roger Mackenzie, *Morning Star*; playwright Michael Mears; Cllr Gary Champion and Dr Peter Burt of Drone Wars UK.

Useful workshops were held, such as how to identify military aircraft, as well as banner making. A plethora of banners from various peace and justice groups, trade unions and political parties were tied to the perimeter fence of the base, demonstrating the strength and unity of peace and anti-nuclear activism.



Kristen Dvergdsdal / Atomvapnen

**WENDY JONES**

**RAF Lakenheath protest, May 2023**

## "A OES HEDDWCH?" – IS THERE PEACE?



This year the Llŷn and Eifionydd National Eisteddfod comes to Boduan, near Pwllheli, from 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> August. As ever, it will offer a great opportunity for peace campaigning and networking. Do call in at the Peace Tent, y Babell Heddwch.

Come and help us! We need old and new faces on the rota and you get a free ticket if you can give at least half a day of your time. You don't have to know everything to volunteer. There will be activities for children and some goods for sale. Contact Sioned on [sionedhuws@hotmail.com](mailto:sionedhuws@hotmail.com) or leave a message on 01766 772788.

Challenging militarism together will be a theme that binds us together as peace movements at the Llŷn and Eifionydd Eisteddfod.

A huge map at the back of the

Peace Tent will draw attention to the military sites in Wales. The different organizations linked to Y Babell will organize a different activity on a daily basis...

- e.g. drawing attention to the link between nuclear energy and nuclear weapons;
- providing a deeper analysis of the wars in Ukraine and other countries in the world, and why ceasefires are an opportunity to organise a just peace, which is so important;
- how we can contribute to a contemporary Peace Appeal within the framework of celebrating 100 years of the Women's Peace Petition.

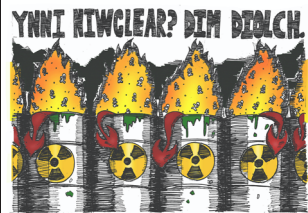
During Eisteddfod week an exhibition organised by Heddwch Nain/Mamgu – A World Without War – may be seen at Oriel Plas Glyn y Weddw, Llanbedrog LL53 7TT

### heddwch>action:

**TRAWWS > EISTEDDFOD MARCH**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>—6<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

A second long march against Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMRs) in Trawsfynydd and Wylfa will precede the Eisteddfod. This year we are setting out from Trawsfynydd on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, and arriving at the Maes in Boduan on 6<sup>th</sup> August (Hiroshima Day). Join in! If you are interested in marching or supporting, please e-mail [Sam Bannon at sampbannon@gmail.com](mailto:Sam Bannon at sampbannon@gmail.com)

GORYMORITH TRAWWS-EISTEDDFOD MARCH  
RWST / AUGUST 2023



CND CYMRU

TRAWSFYNYDD - BLAENAU FFESTINIOD 02/08/23  
BLAENAU FFESTINIOD - PORTHMADOG 03/08/23  
PORTHMADOG - CRICCIETH 04/08/23  
CRICCIETH - PWLLHELI 05/08/23  
PWLLHELI - EISTEDDFOD 06/08/23

*The violence in occupied Palestine has escalated this summer, with acts of violence by Israeli settlers and military incursion by Israel. Many children have been killed. It was to prevent further loss of life that Palestine Action protesters targeted the Teledyne Labtech factory at Presteigne in Powys.*

*Palestine Action*



**Red paint: the Presteigne factory after the protest**



**A solidarity vigil outside Caernarfon Crown Court**

*Philip Steele*

## THE TELEDYNE TRIAL

Teledyne is a US-owned company that works in aerospace and defence electronics. Teledyne Labtech has a factory at Presteigne in Powys which provides components for missiles, military drones and radar and surveillance systems used by firms supplying Israel. On 9th December last year four Palestine Action protestors broke in and destroyed equipment, said to be worth over £1.2 million. At the preliminary court hearing in Wrexham the four protestors were remanded in custody. Three pleaded guilty.

The fourth, Ruth Hogg from Aberystwyth, pleaded not guilty. She was sent for trial at Crown Court in Caernarfon this May. An outstanding and principled witness, with excellent character references, Ruth spoke movingly and with clarity throughout her trial. She was found guilty. The sentencing of all four defendants took place back in Wrexham on 29 June. The three who pleaded guilty were sentenced to 24 months and Ruth to 27 months, including time already spent in custody.

## FROM CARDIFF TO GAZA

As *Heddwch* goes into production in July, the Cardiff branch of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign is welcoming the Freedom Flotilla ship *Handala* to the city. The flotilla is next year sailing once again to break the 16 year-long blockade of Gaza, and is focussing on the plight of children and young people who make up over half of Gaza's entrapped population. The four-day visit to Cardiff Bay (7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> July) includes a Senedd meeting at Pierhead, hosted by Heledd Fychan MS, and a public meeting at the Temple of Peace, with Beth Winter MP and Zohar Regev Chamberlain from the flotilla, chaired by Mairead Canavan (NEU Wales). There will be a BDS action at Barclays Bank in Working Street, a picnic and a farewell meal before the ship sails on to Bristol.



*Gaza Freedom Flotilla*

# AROUND WALES O FÔN I FYNWY

## Westinghouse to Ynys Môn

This US nuclear corporation Westinghouse is to open an Environmental Services hub at the Menai Science Park (M-Sparc) site on **Ynys Môn**. It aims to focus on decommissioning, offering support to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), Magnox and other actors in the field. That is all to the good, but Westinghouse is also a potential supplier of new reactors to the region, so there is some concern that this could be a foot in the door to create a future favourable climate for nuclear new-build, as so devoutly wished by the island's Tory MP Virginia Crosbie.

## New boundaries

In these frenzied political times, the likelihood of a general election at Westminster, or indeed multiple by-elections, is always on the cards. The balance of power in Wales come 2024 will be less predictable, as the Boundary Commission for Wales has recommended that the number of Welsh constituencies be reduced, from 40 to 32. The aim is to reflect demographics more equally, and this arrangement will not be reviewed again until 2031. In Wales only **Ynys Môn** remains the same; others have gone through a pick'n'mix process, with some current MPs not being selected for the new constituency. Whether you are

selecting candidates or voting for them, contact them in person to find out their views on nuclear weapons and nuclear power, on peace and justice and the TPNW (UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons).

## Peace and goodwill

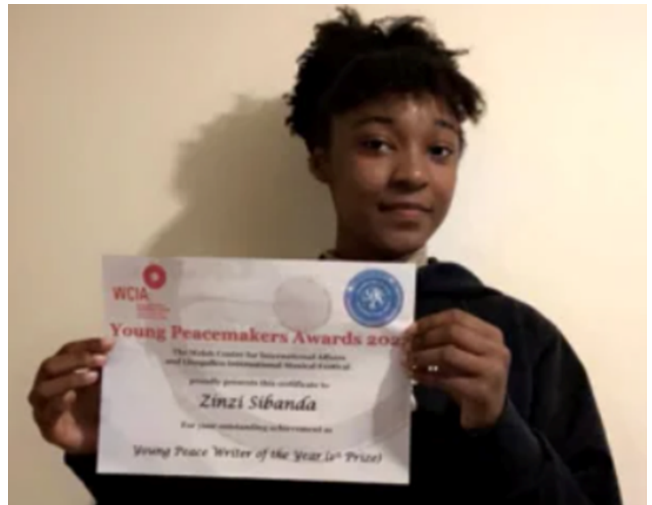
On 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 the **Urdd** sent out its Message of Peace and Goodwill from the youth of Wales to young people around the world. The tradition was started by the international peace campaigner Rev. Gwilym Davies, back in 1922. The 2023 message concerns racism: to take direct action to dismantle systemic racism; to challenge unconscious prejudices; always to call out racism when we see it.

## The next generation

As we go to press in July 2023 the WCIA (Welsh Centre for International Affairs) and the **Llangollen** International Musical Eisteddfod will again be hosting a Young Peacemakers Awards Ceremony. Categories include Peacemaker of the Year, Global Citizen of the Year, Peace Youth Organisation of the Year, Peace Writer and Peace Artist (primary and secondary). The standard of entries is always an inspiration for the future.

## Nukes and independence

Six or seven thousand people marched for independence in **Swansea** on 20<sup>th</sup> May, at a rally organised by Yes Cymru and All Under One Banner (AUOB). An opinion poll



WCIA

**The 2022 Peace Writer of the Year was Zinzi Sibanda from Penarth, who wrote about the history of the struggle for racial equality and the challenges facing us in Wales today.**

## AROUND WALES



## O FÔN I FYNWY

yes Cymru

*Independence supporters in Swansea, May 2023*

conducted on 17-18<sup>th</sup> June gave 34% in favour. Another rally will be held in **Bangor** on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Whether you support independence, or Mark Drakeford's 1<sup>st</sup> June call for increased devolution, or indeed neither, the role of nuclear weapons, nuclear power, defence industries and international military alliances are central to the constitutional debate. On 19<sup>th</sup> June the new SNP leader Humza Yousaf pledged to remove all nuclear weapons from Scotland post-independence.

**Peace Mala exhibition**

An exhibition celebrating 20 years of the multifaith Peace Mala organisation was held at Swansea Museum from 27<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July. It included exhibits from local schools. Peace Mala has produced a CD (and MP3 version) to mark the occasion, which features Steve Balsamo, compositions by Lee Michael Walton, and the voices of

three **Swansea** school choirs: Penllergaer Primary, Ysgol Gymraeg Tan y Lan (Clase) and St Joseph's RC Primary (Clydach). The CD, *Music for a More Compassionate World*, is available for £10+P&P: contact [info@peacemala.org.uk](mailto:info@peacemala.org.uk)

**Wales: a Nation of Sanctuary?**

War, persecution, poverty and a changing climate continue to drive waves of desperate

refugees and asylum seekers to ever greater risks, as the tragic loss of life at sea off Greece this summer has shown. Those crossing the Channel still face the chaos, callousness and hostile stunts that have characterised Suella Braverman's tenure as Home Secretary. In a symbolic vote on 21<sup>st</sup> June, the **Senedd** voted to withhold consent from Westminster's Illegal Migration Bill.

The Welsh Refugee Council has offices in **Cardiff, Newport, Swansea** and **Wrexham**. The decision to accommodate 207 asylum seekers at Stradey Park Hotel in Furnace, **Llanelli**, from 3<sup>rd</sup> July, instead of distributing them through the community, has inflamed public opinion. However anti-racist groups and refugee support volunteers across Wales are welcoming and helping out with the task of making often traumatised people feel at home.



Welsh Refugee Council

*In June the Court of Appeal ruled that the Rwanda plan is unlawful*

## CHANGES AT CND CYMRU

*It's not a question of farewells, more of a reorganisation within the wider peace movement in Wales. But it is a good time to take stock, and to say thank you to Jill and Bethan Siân for their hard work in recent years – along with so many of our wonderful supporters. Our new Chair will be elected at the September AGM (see p15). We are delighted to report that our new National Secretary is Dylan Lewis-Rowlands, whom we know will take the work of CND Cymru forward at this crucial time.*



### **Jill Evans completes second term as Chair**

CND Cymru would like to offer deeply felt thanks to Jill Evans who, after a long-standing and very active commitment is leaving her post as Chair of CND Cymru.

Jill, a former Plaid Cymru MEP, was Chair of CND Cymru between 2001 and 2011, then again from 2019. As an anti-nuclear campaigner since her student days in Aberystwyth, Jill participated in the 1981 march to Greenham, the same year she attended her first Rhondda CND meeting. Jill has commented, "From that moment the peace movement has been central to my life: a succession of marches, speeches, protests, peace camps and arrests! I cannot imagine my life without CND Cymru and the many friends I have made and interesting people I have met."

Jill understands that Wales and the Welsh Peace Movement "bring the global situation to the community level and gives us all a role to play in the campaign for peace and disarmament." As a Board Member of Academi Heddwch, we know that she will continue to work for peace, human rights and disarmament. Remaining part of the CND Cymru team, she reassures us that this is stepping back – not standing down.

**JILL GOUGH**



### **Bethan Siân takes up new post**

Congratulations to Bethan Siân Jones, CND Cymru's National Secretary since 2020, who has been appointed as the first Project Development Manager of Academi Heddwch Cymru, Wales's own peace institute. CND Cymru wishes to record its heartfelt thanks to Bethan for all her work.

Bethan researched the role of women in the Welsh peace movement in the 1980s and led the 2022 CND Cymru march from Trawsfynydd to Wylfa to protest against new nuclear power.

Although she has given up her paid post, she remains an active member of our Pwyllgor Gwaith and will continue to play a key role. Bethan is committed to the goal of a nuclear-free Wales and she will not stop working to make it a reality. She is an inspiration to all of us.

**JILL EVANS**



### A word from Dylan

I am Dylan Lewis-Rowlands, and I have replaced Bethan Siân as National Secretary. May I start by thanking her for all her amazing work. Going forward, I hope to work with the Pwyllgor Gwaith, the membership, and our sister organisations to further build and strengthen

the peace and disarmament movement. If recent events have taught us anything, it is that our movement is as valuable as it ever was. We must come together and make the case for peace, for conversation over conflict. Over the next 12 months, I hope to begin a programme of encouraging our members and partners to engage on a deeper level with our campaigns and our work. Our members are our strength.

If you wish to contact me, please do so with the details on p16. I would love to hear any ideas you have.

**DYLAN LEWIS-ROWLANDS**

## THEATRE ON TOUR

**THE MISTAKE** by Michael Mears  
Directed by Rosamunde Hutt  
Performed by Riko Nakazono and Michael Mears  
80 mins | 14+ | English language

### SEPTEMBER 2023

- 12<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 7.30pm  
**Chester** Wesley Church Centre
- 13<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 7.30pm  
**Caernarfon** Galeri
- 14<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 7.45pm  
**Aberystwyth** Arts Centre
- 21<sup>st</sup>, Thursday 7.30pm  
**Cardiff** Sherman Theatre (Studio)

One of the successes at last year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe, this urgent new play by Michael Mears explores the events surrounding the catastrophic 'mistake' that launched our

nuclear age.

1942. On a squash court in Chicago a dazzling scientific experiment takes place, which three years later will destroy a city and change the world—forever. Two actors, one British, one Japanese, enact the compelling stories of a brilliant Hungarian scientist, the American pilot who was responsible for dropping the bomb on Hiroshima and a devoted Japanese daughter, in a fast-moving drama about the dangers

## CND CYMRU ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**16<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**St Paul's Centre,  
Aberystwyth SY23 2NN**

All welcome. Allow time for parking! Please bring a packed lunch... Submit any motions to the National Secretary at least 14 days beforehand.

### Business

**11.00—12.20**

Welcome, reports, questions and comments,

**12.30—12.50**

Election of new Chair, statements

**12.50—13.40**

Motions to the AGM, voting, discussion on strategy

### Speakers plus Q&A

**13.50—14.20**

Brawdy and the DARC project  
**14.20**

The Women's Peace Petition

that arise when humans dare to unlock the awesome power of nature.

Be sure to join the Q&A session with the cast after the show!



Simon Richardson

## CND CYMRU

CND Cymru campaigns alongside organisations in Wales and internationally for peace, environmental and social justice, and to rid Britain and the world of all weapons of mass destruction.

website [www.cndcymru.org](http://www.cndcymru.org)  
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twitter [@cndcymru](https://twitter.com/cndcymru)  
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## JOIN CND CYMRU NOW!

[www.cndcymru.org/take-part/membership](http://www.cndcymru.org/take-part/membership)

Under 25? You can join us for free!

## CONTACTS

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*Awaiting election*

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Brian Jones

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## HEDDWCH

HEDDWCH is the magazine of the Wales Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND Cymru).

It can also be read online, along with past issues, at

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