



HEDDWCH

Number 89 > April 2025 > CND Cymru > Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

'DIFFICULT CHOICES': REALLY?



AID ~~NOT~~ ARMS

AI and Weapon Systems • Global Nuclear Ban • Militarism in Wales



AND DEATH SHALL HAVE NO DOMINION

Dylan Thomas 1943



Ploughshares into swords?

Keir Starmer's government has not only decided to boost growth by investing heavily in the arms trade, but to enable this by slashing the foreign aid budget – money well spent in forestalling conflict. What is more, Westminster politicians have been urging financial institutions to waive ethical provisos when investing in 'defence'.

A missed opportunity

The fracture of the 'Western alliance', for the first time since CND was founded, is a seismic geopolitical shift. It opens up the possibility of US withdrawal from overseas bases, of ending NATO and Trident renewal. CND Cymru has always shared such aims, believing that militarism perpetuates war rather than deterring it. This could be the ideal time to convene a UN conference, with

the aim of restructuring European security on principles of peace, reinforcing arms limitation and international humanitarian law.

Instead, European nations have rushed headlong into a new arms race and reckless talk of nuclear weapon expansion or 'boots on the ground' in Ukraine. Arms races are generally a fast track to world war. We've been there before.

Peace requires justice

Donald Trump has indeed opened up talk of peace, but in much the same way as a gangster might claim that turf wars are now over – as long as it's he who runs the neighbourhood. Trump is the lord of misrule, replacing diplomacy and democracy with extortion, falsehood and bluster. His personal narcissistic, capricious, selfish nature, and contempt for the law, is scaled up into national and global policy diktats.

Trump may well trip over his own shoelaces in the end, but it's up to us ordinary citizens around the world to keep on and on, raising our voices and organising: there can be no enduring peace without justice.

Happy 90th Birthday to
Dr JOHN COX
with best wishes and
gratitude



Chair, British CND 1971-77
Vice-Chair of CND Cymru
over many years

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The worldwide surge in militarism is being challenged here in Wales, as at the above event in Cardiff Bay on 5 March 2025. Gary Roberts

IN THE HEADLINES

Voices of sanity

‘In this era of geopolitical uncertainty when international law and multilateral cooperation... are being undermined, the strength and credibility of multilateral institutions are critical...’ States parties to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) met again in New York on 3-7 March 2025. They went on to declare that ‘the complete, verifiable and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons... is an imperative for global security and the survival of humanity.’ There are currently 94 signatories and 73 states party to the Treaty.

ICAN Europe (the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons) has deplored the knee-jerk response of European nations to the Ukraine crisis and urged politicians to build a lasting peace through the TPNW.

Doubling down on war, 2025

With hindsight, the January 2025 resetting of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists’

Doomsday Clock at 89 seconds to midnight seems to have been on the optimistic side!

Wars, conflict and political unrest still dominate news headlines around the world this spring, from Sudan to South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, from Turkey to Iran, and Syria to Yemen, to North Korea, China and Taiwan. Ceasefire calls are proving elusive in the Ukraine war, and in Palestine have already been violated with impunity by Israel’s far-right government. Double standards prevail, diplomacy is upended, the media distort. Trump seems to

assume that he alone dictates the world order. The USA has started an erratic, destabilising trade war, in which it seems to despise friend and foe alike.

Barrow-in-Furness says ‘Scrap Trident’

On Saturday 22 March CND’s British regions and nations held an impressive and timely protest at Barrow-in-Furness, calling for the Trident programme to be scrapped – ‘Invest in Peace, Not Weapons!’

Nuclear ‘deterrence’ Is very much in the news again. Poland has been calling for the USA to station nuclear weapons on its border and changes in the deployment of the French and British nuclear arsenals have also been mooted. On 26 February the MoD repeated the old myth that the UK deterrent is independent. Structurally it is US-dependent, and operationally it is compromised in so many ways. On 13 March Scottish Labour’s Anas Sawar took a tilt against Scotland’s SNP government for its opposition to keeping nuclear weapons on the Clyde. Yet the costs for the new Dreadnought class of nuclear-armed subs are eye-watering, with a predicted final bill of £205 billion.





BEFORE OUR VERY EYES



The endless war. Gaza is parcelled up, and paramedics are executed by the IDF.

As a Church in Wales priest, I strongly believe in one of our main commandments – ‘thou shalt not kill’. It’s simple, unambiguous, there’s no room to play around with ‘except for...’. Do not kill. In our sorry history as humanity, war, violence and conflict have arisen many times, beyond our ability to count the lives lost. We have just marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau and now scenes of genocide fill our screens once more. How easy it is to forget our ‘never again’ promises.

A reign of terror

But there is a ceasefire in Gaza, you say? (*now ended by Israel, ed.*) Yes, on paper. A ceasefire where the IDF has continued to target and kill the citizens of Gaza and the West Bank... women, children, the elderly. On a daily basis soldiers use snipers to kill innocent people, drive families out of their homes, occupy property and arrest people without cause, capture and

imprison them, all with no rebuke from world leaders, or the popular press.

Is there peace? No, not in Gaza, nor in the West Bank – and this in the midst of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan and Christian Lent.

Peace is not just the absence of war, but something greater and deeper than the guns and rockets falling silent. Without a solid basis of justice, every truce, or temporary peace will shatter once more and the captive population of Gaza and the occupied lands and the West Bank will bear the price of our failure on their own bodies – and raise a new generation of rebels who see no choice but to take up arms in order to demand their freedom.

A deafening silence

The overwhelming silence of our political leaders and the popular press regarding the situation in Palestine is shameful and brings disgrace to our claims that we are seeking peace and doing so without bias. It

is not possible to build peace, or justice, while playing the game – ‘it’s so complicated/they’re as bad as each other/we have to be balanced in our judgement’.

Choosing not to say or do something is a choice in itself and ‘silence is violence’, as the saying goes. Israel’s confidence that it will be allowed to act in contravention of all laws and all understanding of international justice is based on the fact that it has succeeded in doing so for decades, all in the name of its own ‘peace and security’ while other countries meekly comply with its racist policies and ignore the suffering of the Palestinians.





Haverfordwest supporters call for Solidarity with Palestine.

Hetfield Hellana

On the basis of justice

It's now been a week since Israel stopped all supplies of aid from entering Gaza – no food, no water, no medicine, and since yesterday no electricity. The fact that one country can control the life of its citizens in this way is a clear example of the situation – this is not peace of any kind, but a basic tactic in the permanent war and the genocide and the ethnic

cleansing that is happening before our eyes.

If we want to declare that we are looking for 'peace', then we will have to accept completely honestly that you cannot do that by denying the rights of the Palestinians to live in their own land, and that Israel's ideology is incompatible with a better future for the Israelis and the Palestinians. The voices of ordinary people across

the world have been raised more and more loudly over the last 17 months and the number of countries willing to call Israel's actions illegal is growing. It is crucial that we all put pressure on our leaders and use every peaceful method we have to demand that peace be built, and that on the basis of justice.

SARA ROBERTS

Support the tent school in Gaza

Since October 2023, West Wales Friends of Palestine has held a weekly peace vigil in Carmarthen. It was through this that we established links with the family of a local doctor, who had been brought up in Gaza. His relatives were still there, at that time displaced and living in tents. His nephew, a trained aid worker, asked if we would help set up a 'tent school'

in the area. Their children had known no normality or education for over a year. We committed to funding a tent school for 50 children. The Sumud School opened on Christmas Day 2024, and over 500 children turned up with their families asking for a place. By offering only part-time schooling, the school was able to offer 120 children places.

District of Gaza City. Despite huge problems they managed to re-open the School on 19 February 2025. However the collapse of the ceasefire has now made made it too dangerous to keep the school open. It is very difficult to predict what the future will hold. Nevertheless we believe it is important to do what we can NOW.



The School is called Sumud, an Arabic word meaning persistence and resilience - something Palestinians have developed a lot of in the last 75 years.

During the 'ceasefire' thousands of displaced people started to move back home. The Sumud teachers also moved back to the Alshejaya

>>> Please donate to the Gaza Sumud School Appeal from this website:

<https://westwalesfriendsofpalestine.wordpress.com/>

SUSAN DAVIES



MASS MURDER BY ALGORITHM

“Machines with the power and discretion to take lives without human involvement are politically unacceptable, morally repugnant and should be prohibited by international law.”

UN Secretary-General António Guterres

Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS) use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to identify, select and kill human targets and destroy infrastructure without human intervention. The decision to fire is made by an algorithm alone. Algorithms are incapable of comprehending the value of human life or understand moral obligations. They obey whatever is in their instructions. If they are



programmed to massacre a whole village, they will without hesitation.

The use of LAWS was first documented in a 2021 report by the UN Panel of Experts on Libya, where they were used to hunt down retreating forces. Since then, there have been numerous reports of Swarms and other autonomous weapons systems being used on battlefields around the world. It would seem very credible that AI-directed weapons have been used in Gaza, where so many ‘targeted’ killings have ended up killing non-combatants.



Just who is accountable?

Increasingly we witness each day International Law and Treaties being totally disregarded in the name of ‘self-defence’ and ‘security’. Who is responsible if an autonomous weapon kills civilians, destroys hospitals? The international order appears unable to hold perpetrators to account in any meaningful way. Who should be accountable – the programmer, the commanding officer, the software developer, or the government?

AI Timeline

- **1949-50** Alan Turing develops a test to determine if a computer can have ‘human intelligence’.
- **1956** John McCarthy, a computer and cognitive scientist, coins the term ‘artificial intelligence’.
- **1957** Frank Rosenblatt designs the first neural network for computers, simulating the human brain.
- **1958** The US Department of Defence forms the Advanced Research Projects Agency to facilitate research and development of military and industrial strategies.
- **1960s** US Department of Defence begins training computers to mimic basic human reasoning.
- **1970s-90s** AI is increasingly developed in all walks of life, medical, industrial and military.
- **1997** IBM’s Deep Blue supercomputer defeats the world chess champion Garry Kasparov.
- **2007** Noel Sharkey warns of an “emerging arms race among high-tech nations to develop autonomous submarines, fighter jets, battleships and tanks that can find their own targets and apply violent force without the involvement of meaningful human decisions”.
- **2014** the US Department of Defence unveils ‘Third Offset Strategy’ which posits that rapid advances in AI will define the next generation of warfare.
- **2015** Steven Hawking, Elon Musk and Steve Wozniak (Apple) and 3,000 researchers in AI call for a ban of the development of autonomous weapons.
- **2018** Google pledges not to develop AI weapons and releases a new AI policy, but says it will not be working with the military.



LETHAL AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS



Protests at the United Nations in Geneva – but since 2013 support for a Convention has been effectively paralysed.

Attempts to regulate

The UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) has been discussing autonomous weapons since 2013, but by 2021 the CCW Review Conference were still unable even to start negotiating a protocol. The CCW has 127 signatories for a legally binding treaty on autonomous weapons, including China, but there are 12 countries not supporting it, including Russia, UK and the USA. As this treaty operates on the basis on consensus, those not supporting it block any progress. Increasingly there are urgent Regional Conferences calling for regulation.

Fine words – or arms race profits?

In February 2025 Alphabet, Google's parent company lifted its ban on AI being used to develop weapons and surveillance tools. It dropped the section which ruled out applications that were "likely to cause harm" and increased its AI budget by 29 percent. Back in 2018 the European Parliament adopted a resolution calling for an urgent negotiation of 'an international ban on weapons systems that lack human control over the use of force'. Yet in 2024 certain exemptions to the regulation were introduced. The military, regardless of the type of entity carrying out

those activities, is now exempt; (as indeed under the Kyoto Climate Agreement). Zero accountability or scrutiny.

Into the moral vacuum

The worst predictions of science fiction have become a reality. 'Super' AI is coming and no-one has any idea of its power and whether there will be any ability to stop it once released. Who then makes any decision on how weapons are used, who is the 'enemy' or who needs to be exterminated? Individuals in power and global companies can decide the fate of the world. The United Nations and the other International bodies have lost all influence.

Low risk, low cost, who needs a human army any more? Or border guards? AI weapons dehumanise conflict and abrogate moral decision making. The targets could include protesters, migrants, dissidents, civilians, you or me. So we must demand a ban and legally binding laws. Collectively we can make a difference and ensure that the world has a future.

ALI LOCHHEAD





O FÔN I FYNWY MONA TO MONMOUTH



Eisteddfod 2025 and Hiroshima

The National Eisteddfod this summer comes to **Wrexham**, from 2-9 August. The site is located at the village of **Isycoed**, about 8 km from the city centre. CND Cymru and other fellow peace campaigning organisations such as Cymdeithas y Cymod will be found on the

Maes at the Pabell Heddwh ('peace tent'). Events and discussions will mark the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in 1945. Please let us know if you are planning any commemorations where you are.

Joining the dots...

On 24 February 2025 there were early morning banner drops from four bridges along the A55 followed by a protest at **RAF Valley, Ynys Môn**, as part of an international action called for by World Beyond War. The aim was to draw attention to the links between RAF Valley and the Gaza genocide. One of the companies embedded at RAF Valley is called Affinity



Elbit Systems protest at RAF Valley

Flying Services, training pilots. This is a 50-50 partnership between US firm KBR and Israeli-owned Elbit Systems UK. Elbit makes bombs, missiles, drones, tanks and helicopters. Their weapons have enabled the slaughter of so many thousands of civilians in Gaza and the West Bank. Children's clothing was draped onto the runway fence while jets roared overhead.



Menai Bridge commemorates Fukushima.

Fukushima – not forgotten in Wales

On 11 March 2011 a tsunami resulted in the meltdown of three reactor cores in three days at the Fukushima Daiichi plant in Japan. In the months and years that followed, anti-nuclear activists in Wales and in Japan built strong alliances, with former Japanese prime minister

Naoto Kan addressing a rally at Wylfa. The nuclear power lobby has still not given up so neither have we. On 11 March 2025 supporters of CADNO, PAWB and CND Cymru gathered on the **Menai Suspension Bridge** to support the current campaign and our friends in FoE Japan.



Urenco protest, Capenhurst.

The Fukushima anniversary was also marked across the border in Cheshire, where Radiation Free Lakeland and others picketed the Urenco nuclear enrichment plant at **Capenhurst**. They were joined by Elfed Jones who spoke of nuclear threats to the **North Wales coast**.



Face-to-face nuclear discussion

On 6 March a meeting was held at the Welsh Government offices in **Llandudno** between anti-nuclear groups (represented by Linda Rogers and Robat Idris) and Rebecca Evans, MS for Gower and Welsh Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning since last September, along with the manager of nuclear power projects. After years of being kept at arm's length, it was very good at last to have a direct discussion and exchange of views and to be able to leave documents and papers for her consideration.

'Law not war' comes to Storiel

The story of the 1923-24 peace petition to the women of America from the women of Wales, calling for 'Law not War', has captured the public imagination in recent years. A new exhibition opening in April at Storiel in **Bangor** features the story of these remarkable women, and of those who took part in the walk from Penygroes to London's Hyde Park in 1926. The exhibition includes material loaned by the National Library of Wales, Amgueddfa Cymru, Gwynedd Archives and the Welsh Centre for International Affairs.

Women Petitioning for Peace is being shown at Storiel Bangor from 12 April to 21 June 2025. <https://www.storiel.cymru/whats-on/women-petitioning-for-peace/>

UNA Menai

With a crisis in international humanitarian law In the spotlight right now, the Annual General Meeting of the UNA **Menai** Branch discussed awareness of the UN and children's rights amongst youth today, aided by two local sixth-formers. It was agreed to improve contacts with local schools, to discuss curriculum issues and to renew contacts with the Welsh Centre for International Affairs.

Wales-Palestine

The seemingly endless genocide in Gaza and the West Bank has become even more intense since Israel collapsed phase one of the ceasefire. **In every corner of Wales** the resistance to this horror has also intensified. The vigils, marches, protests and fund-raisers have never flagged, the musicians have played for free, the choirs have sung, films have been shown, all too numerous to mention... And the passers-by have hooted their horns. Let's keep up the pressure for peace and justice.



Pembrokeshire, Swansea, Caernafon.



TALKING PEACE IN CARDIFF BAY



Sam Bannon has a message for the Senedd in Cardiff. Gary Roberts

On Friday 5 March 2025 peace campaigners from many parts of Wales came to the Pierhead Building in Cardiff Bay for an event organised by Sam Bannon

for *Heddwch ar Waith*. Members of the Senedd were invited under the auspices of Heledd Fychan MS, in order to highlight the growing grip of **Militarism in Wales**.

There were stalls and speeches and a presentation by the **PARC against DARC campaign**, who are leading a fantastic movement against the US deep space radar project at Brawdy in Pembrokeshire.

There were also brief addresses from Cymdeithas y Cymod and the Quakers in Wales, Stop the War Cardiff, and the Cardiff United Nations Association. The event concluded with an outdoor gathering and the release of doves of peace – see the pictures on p3 & p15!

NOTICE BOARD Please, we want to hear from you!

Send emails, opinions, reports, suggestions, details of events to phil_steele@btinternet.com with 'H90 ed' in the subject box. Keep it short and Include your address or email contact!

The campaign against the planned return of US nuclear bombs to the Lakenheath air base in Suffolk grows apace. If you can get over there in person, or organise transport from Wales, then April is the month for you. Spread the word, and the solidarity.



Lakenheath Peace Camp

14th - 26th April 2025

Not Just a Protest!
Themed Days

- Monday 14th**
Opening Ceremony
- Wednesday 16th**
Political and Protest
Choirs and Singers Day
- Thursday 17th**
Greenham Women's Day
- Friday 18th**
Climate Day
- Monday 21st**
War Crimes and
Genocide Day
- Tuesday 22nd**
Democracy Day
- Wednesday 23rd**
Faith Day
- Thursday 24th**
International Peace
Conference
- Saturday 26th**
Blockade Day

During these days there will be workshops and actions based on these topics. See website for more details.

<https://lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk>

WHEN PLANNING IS 'INCONVENIENT'

It is an inconvenience to governments when the people they represent object to their policies, in this instance, the building of new nuclear power stations. It is a further inconvenience when planning inspectorates, put in place to oversee due process in regards to the following of regulations and the impact of such infrastructure on a local community, also object to these policies.

Block the blockers?

Keir Starmer has promised to block the 'blockers'; he blames the people protesting against Sizewell C for massive cost overruns and delays in the project. This proposed nuclear plant was given development consent *despite* the advice from inspectors to have the project rejected, on environmental grounds, including a lack of water supply necessary for the safe working of the plant.

Planning inspectors also advised that Wylfa Newydd should not go ahead. Their report was published after the withdrawal of Hitachi from the project, when not enough UK government funds were available for the company, resulting in the failure of the development. The planning inspectors considered that the reasons for their own rejection of the project should be made public. It made for interesting reading.

On our own doorstep

They found that impacts detrimental to the area and its people outweighed any advantage. (These people are not anti-nuclear. Historically, they

have facilitated such developments). These impacts included adverse effects on the local economy, housing and infrastructure, tourism and the language and culture of Wales. Health and well-being would also be impacted. The project would also break environmental laws and habitat regulation.

It is interesting how and why the media have picked up a particular of this planning report, namely the impact on the Welsh language. We have been invited to scoff at the very notion that this should be an issue at all. We are

also invited to question the validity of planning at all. We are invited to remove the inconvenience of planners.

Undermining democracy

Clearly, removal or undermining of this planning process will result in lack of accountability and removal of democratic process. It opens the way to, again in this instance, the pre-emptive destruction of land and communities, in preparation for the construction of uncosted and dangerous nuclear infrastructure, with its legacy of waste and environmental destruction. Planning rules altogether appear to be under threat. Ignoring them, as the UK government have done in the case of Sizewell C, is not a good look. And not helping to encourage investors. Why stop at rules for nuclear power stations? Why have rules at all?

LINDA ROGERS



The Rivers Trust

Hinkley C and the fish

The acoustic fish deterrent originally agreed for Hinkley C was estimated as potentially saving the lives of millions of fish every year, in the key but fragile ecosystem of the Severn estuary and the rivers of South Wales. Keir Starmer ridiculed the project, saying 'I wish I was joking'.





A LONG ROAD TO NOWHERE

More than two years have gone by since two PAWB representatives appeared before the Welsh Affairs Committee's investigation in Westminster into nuclear energy in Wales. Also present giving evidence in favour of developing nuclear energy were GE Hitachi and Bechtel Westinghouse. Both companies declared that they were potentially keen to develop large nuclear reactors in Wales. It's worth remembering that Toshiba Westinghouse went bankrupt in 2017. Here we are in 2025, and there is absolutely no sign that GE Hitachi or Bechtel Westinghouse, without a massive public subsidy from the Starmer government, could dream of realising their foolish nuclear ambitions.

Another company that excited former Ynys Môn MP Virginia Crosbie, was Kepco from South Korea, who visited London two

years ago to hold talks about building their nuclear reactor in Britain. Mrs Crosbie emphasized that Kepco had built two nuclear reactors in the United Arab Emirates within budget and on schedule. That was not true. The only reason the work was completed was that UAE public funds paid \$16 billion of the \$24 billion cost of the project originally estimated as costing \$10 billion.

Therefore, there is no prospect of a company willing to invest in the bottomless nuclear pit on the Wylfa site. Work on Hinkley Point C will continue until at least 2031 and it was recently reported that another £5 billion is required for the completion of that project. All Britain's skilled nuclear workforce is in Hinkley at the moment, and were the project to be completed, the workforce would then move on to Sizewell, where EDF has

been selected to build two additional reactors. The Nuclear Energy Association says that Britain has the workforce for only one nuclear project at a time. So the Sizewell project could keep that workforce busy until around 2050.

Most of the talk from the Starmer government at the moment is about modular reactors and an announcement is expected in June as to which two nuclear companies will be chosen from Rolls Royce, GE Hitachi, Holtech UK and Westinghouse to further develop their plans. The favourite, namely Rolls Royce and its large 470MW modular reactor, is at present in dispute with its partners in the Czech Republic, who are very keen that the Czech Skoda company should have the chance to use its technology in the modular reactor there. Rolls Royce, on the other hand, believes that using technology from South Korea would better serve its purpose. That is, it would be cheaper.

So, as we look forward, the greatest hubbub will be around the competition to build modular reactors. That will be another step on the journey, but the same problems will remain regarding cost, the production of toxic radioactive waste, the risk of accidents and leaks, and the close connection between civil and military nuclear.



Enough of this nuclear nonsense! Ynys Môn 2025

DYLAN MORGAN



NUCLEAR VENTURE CAPITALISM AT ITS WORST: LLYNFI AND LAST ENERGY

In November 2024, Last Energy, an American nuclear venture capital firm, announced plans for nuclear reactors at the former Llynfi coal power station, between Bridgend and Maesteg. Last Energy has never built or operated a nuclear power station anywhere in the world...

Last Energy originally announced that their Small Modular Reactors would be entirely privately funded, owned, and operated, and were intended to supply electricity directly to local industries. They later suggested powering domestic homes; then, when AI burst onto the scene, the site was touted as a possible place for an AI data centre. The company has now begun claiming domestic use again. In short, they are looking for a niche to fill, not trying to solve an already existing problem or need.

Furthermore, the company attempted a novel approach to the “Llynfi Clean Energy Project”. Last Energy first attempted to skirt or circumvent the usual licensing and regulation process designed to ensure safety compliance in order to deploy on the site by 2026. The regulatory bodies, it seems, have been willing to comply with this effort, with Last Energy recently speed-running the site licensing process, and

no news yet that its designs even meet the requirements of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority.

Documentation has not been forthcoming, but reports and what few records are available indicate that the intended use of the site is essentially to create what Last Energy calls ‘nuclear batteries’—what we would call nuclear reactors - that, when their life cycle has ended, are stored underground on site until the site is decommissioned.

What about the waste?

With 4 reactors operating at a time, each with a life cycle of around 6 years, the site is intended to be generating electricity for 42 years, so we could be dealing with upwards of 28 depleted nuclear reactors – each one still considered radioactive waste and in need of defuelling, decommissioning, and disposal once the project’s life cycle has come to an end.

Of course the intention of Last Energy and similar companies is not to save us from climate change, or even to provide clean energy - it is to make profit. Once the electricity generation stops, the profits stop, but

the decommissioning costs start. Economics and past experience would suggest that the Llynfi operation would declare bankruptcy, with Last Energy (internationally) having first ensured their legal separation from the operation - leaving the decommissioning bill to us - as recently happened at the Ffos-y-fran opencast site.

As Last Energy continues to place experimental technology at the heart of the South Welsh valleys, we must unite to oppose these plans and stop Wales from becoming a nuclear power test ground.

**BRIAN JONES,
DYLAN LEWIS-ROWLANDS**





NUCLEAR IS NOT THE SOLUTION

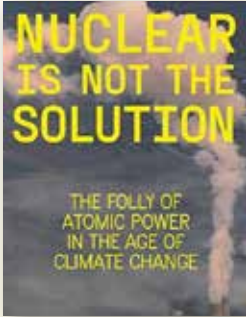
The folly of nuclear power in the age of climate change

by MV Ramana
Verso, 2024

273pp

ISBN 1804290009

£20



This clear and accessible book outlines what it says on its cover: why nuclear power is not only irrelevant

to the claims of its role in mitigating climate change, and indeed hampers such efforts, but how it serves to profit private companies and the nuclear weapons industry, at the expense of people, the environment and the future of our children.

At a time when the nuclear industry is fast losing economic and green arguments, in the face of a global increase in the use of safer, quicker, and cheaper renewables, one has to wonder why. Professor Ramana's book helps us to understand the relationship between nuclear power and power in general. He quotes Julie Wilson, from her book, *Neoliberalism*: "The idea is simple: wealth and power are accumulated by a few in the act of dispossessing

– that is, stealing from – the population at large." In this case, it is not just our land and our money that are stolen to subsidise these industries, it is our future. Professor Ramana explains, "Because profits are a priority, there is often a confluence of interests between owners of nuclear plants and fossil fuel plants, who are often the same entities."

So much for the "clean, green" image that the nuclear lobby seeks to hide behind. It is these entities now being propped up by Keir Starmer and his government, in the name of growth – failing and futile industries in the age of climate change.

LINDA ROGERS



Selwyn Williams

1945-2025

We said goodbye to Sel Williams from Llan Ffestiniog in February this year. It is impossible to evaluate Sel in a few words, but we can say that we have lost one of those rare souls who offer hope and a vision for a peaceful world.

He spent a lifetime fighting for his fellow souls, for the workers, for peace, for equality, for international collaboration and for the Welsh language; he fought against hatred, war, capitalism, fascism and oppression, but always so gently in his dealings with his fellow-wayfarers.

Emphasizing brotherhood everywhere, he put this into practice through his work with Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog, which has shown how community bodies can work together to transform a local economy, and extended this throughout Gwynedd through Cymunedoli Cyf. His dream was to extend it over the whole of Wales, transforming

our economy from dependence on capitalism – including the arms industry – to being self-sustaining. He supported PAWB and CADNO in their anti-nuclear battle. He was active in the Wales-Cuba movement, which welcomed Aleida Guevara, Che's daughter, to Denbigh in 2017.

He was a loyal friend, an engaging conversationalist, and a leg-puller – and invariably wore socialist red! He leaves a huge gap behind him, and his legacy will endure.

ROBAT IDRIS



Dafydd Elis Thomas 1946-2025

Dafydd Elis Thomas was not only a key figure in Welsh politics but also in the Welsh peace movement. He was known for his ability to reach out to those who were not traditional Plaid Cymru supporters and create an alliance on the left across Wales, which included CND Cymru.

He was a member of the Alternative Defence Commission that published the groundbreaking *Without the Bomb – Non-nuclear Defence Policies for Britain* in 1985. He challenged and inspired people in equal measure.

Dafydd actively worked

for a Nuclear Free Wales and celebrated the Clwyd Declaration in 1982.

He was outspoken against nuclear weapons, declaring that Plaid would not co-operate with a party that endorsed Trident replacement.

In his conference speech as President in 1989 he stated that the removal of weapons of mass destruction was the most important environmental challenge we faced. He went on to state that smaller nation identity "...is the way that will lead to the freedom of action of the people of Wales, to protect our part of this fragile world, to work to make our nuclear free Wales a reality for everyone in Europe..."

As party president he led and spoke at the rally against the proposed radar in St David's in 1990, which attracted over two thousand people-an echo of the PARC against DARC campaigning today.

Former Welsh minister **Rhodri Glyn Thomas** was Chair of CND Cymru when Dafydd was most active in the peace movement. He has written:

"I remember Dafydd telling me early in our friendship that his political activities were governed by situation ethics. The growing dangers of a nuclear war drew his attention to CND and the creation of CND Cymru. During the miners' strike he attempted to form a socialist coalition to fight for workers' rights. There was also the campaign for slate workers compensation and even the Irish Republican cause of Bobby Sands. As the Chair of the Welsh Language Board he turned his attention to the need for a crusade by the whole population of Wales to support the promotion of the language and lastly the constitutional battle to develop the Welsh Assembly into a fully fledged legislative parliament. All these causes remained close to Dafydd's heart; it was purely a matter of the time and circumstances where he felt he could make a difference. We in CND Cymru are forever grateful for his support and actions on our behalf".

JILL EVANS



HOPE

Photo: Gary Roberts



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.



HEDDWCH

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