

Senedd Election 2021 Candidates Questionnaire

Dear Senedd candidate,

CND Cymru would like to ask you to reply to this brief questionnaire, which we are sending to all candidates in the 2021 Senedd election, so that we can inform our supporters of candidates' views on nuclear issues.

There are 5 questions: the first three concern nuclear weapons, followed by one question each on nuclear power and nuclear waste.

Thank you for your time.

1

CND Cymru's main concern is, of course, nuclear weapons, which are not a devolved issue. However Senedd Members can sign the ICAN¹ Parliamentary Pledge in support of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons²:

I, the undersigned parliamentarian, warmly welcome the adoption of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 7 July 2017 as a significant step towards the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

I am deeply concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from any use of nuclear weapons, and I recognize the consequent need to eliminate these inhumane and abhorrent weapons.

As a parliamentarian, I pledge to work for the signature and ratification of this landmark treaty by my country, as I consider the abolition of nuclear weapons to be a global public good of the highest order and an essential step to promote the security and well-being of all peoples.

What are your views on nuclear weapons, and in particular, if elected, would you be prepared to sign this Pledge ?

Answer: I am opposed to both the possession and use of nuclear weapons and would be happy to sign the pledge.

2

As well as banning nuclear weapons, the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons also prohibits the financing of nuclear weapons. Would you support measures to ensure that the Senedd pension fund has no investments in companies involved in nuclear weapons production ?

Answer: Yes, I would support a ban on such investments and the ending of government support for research and development of nuclear weapons and the closure of facilities such as Aldermarston.

3

In 1982, Wales was declared a Nuclear Free Country, following motions passed by every County Council in Wales. Country Council were, at that time, the highest democratic tier of government in Wales.

The Senedd is now the highest Welsh democratic forum. The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons bans “allowing ... nuclear weapons to be stationed or deployed on their territory”. For states that have ratified the Treaty, this prohibition is now part of international law.

Would you support a Senedd policy of prohibiting the transporting, stationing or deploying nuclear weapons in Wales, in Welsh air space, and in Welsh coastal waters ?

Answer: Yes. The 1982 decisions were clear. The Welsh government should do nothing to facilitate possession or movement of nuclear weapons in Welsh territory and the Senedd should affirm this.

4

Wales currently generates more electricity than it uses, without any operating nuclear power stations. How would you react to any proposal for new nuclear power generation in Wales, whether that be a new nuclear power station at Wylfa, or Small Modular Nuclear Reactors at either Wylfa, Trawsfynydd, or any other site ?

Answer: I have always been opposed to nuclear power generation. The short and long term risks posed by using fissile material are not justified. In addition Britain uses the plutonium by-product of the uranium cycle in our reactors to produce the material for UK nuclear warheads.

5

Although nuclear power is not a devolved issue, nuclear waste is a devolved matter. How would you react to any proposal for storing nuclear waste in Wales ?

Answer: I would totally oppose this. There would be serious risks associated with transportation to the storage sites and the half-life of the nuclear material would make it a health risk for many decades at least.

Mike Sheehan, Liberal Democrat Senedd candidate for the Gower Constituency.

Footnotes

1. The International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for the creation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons www.icanw.org
2. For further information on the Treaty www.cndcymru.org/information/TPNW including a list of current Welsh signatories of the ICAN Parliamentarian Pledge. To see all signatories <https://pledge.icanw.org/>