

Press release

Women say: No to nuclear weapons - No to violence

At 7 a.m. on Monday 15 February, scores of women will gather outside the south-west gate of the Atomic Weapons Establishment, at Aldermaston, in Berkshire. Other groups of women and men will assemble at AWE's other gates. The Big Blockade of Aldermaston is being organized by Trident Ploughshares, along with CND and the Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp.

Our collective aim is to close access to the Aldermaston base that day, in order to impede AWE's multimillion £ project to research, design and test a new generation of nuclear warheads. We wish to draw public attention to the fact that this programme is going ahead despite the fact that Parliament has not yet voted to manufacture new warheads to be used in any replacement of the current Trident missile system.

At the Women's Gate will be women from the networks Women in Black against War, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, from the local Aldermaston Women's Peace Campaign, from the London Feminist Network, the Europe-wide e-group Women Against NATO, and other organizations. In a nonviolent, colourful and creative action for peace we send this message to British political parties as they write their manifestos for the general election, and to the British government as it prepares for the review conference of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in New York 3-28 May 2010.

Our message is simple. As women we believe the renewal and modernization of the British nuclear arsenal and fleet of Trident submarines, at an estimated cost of £97 billion over the next 40 years, is illegal, immoral, pointless and profligate. The millions of pounds to be spent on nuclear weapons will be at the cost of services such as housing, education, health and welfare that are crucial to the quality of everyday life. And this in a time of financial crisis when all political parties are threatening 'cuts'! Women need more, not less, support from public funding for the caring work so many of us habitually do, paid and unpaid. We need more, not less, spending to protect the environment, the natural world that sustains life.

Women in every country are the objects of domestic and sexual violence, in times of peace and war. Nuclear weapons are the extreme manifestation of the endemic violence in our culture that is on a scale from the personal to the international, that stretches from bedroom to battlefield, that is inflicted by fists, boots, knives, guns, fighter aircraft and warships. Nuclear weapons are the ultimate in this obscene continuum of violence.

Here at the Women's Gate of the Big Blockade of the Atomic Weapons Establishment in Aldermaston, we unite in saying:

**No to male violence, no to military violence, no to genocidal violence.
No to all violence.**

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