

A national urgency; an international fast

Every year, an International Fast is held in France, Britain and Germany between Hiroshima and Nagasaki days (6th-9th August). Initiated over thirty years ago in France, the fast takes place in sorrow and in commemoration of the 300,000 deaths at the atomic bombings of Japan.

This year, the fast takes on particular significance in Britain. In the final year before the decision on Trident renewal, we will be fasting near the seat of military and political power in Britain: Whitehall, Downing Street, the Ministry of Defence.

The fast is organised:

- in France by *Maison de Vigilance* and *Sortir du Nucléaire*

<http://maisondevigilance.com/projets.htm>

- in Germany, by the *Gewaltfreie Aktion Atomwaffen Abschaffen* (GAAA), and *atomwaffenfrei.jetzt* campaigns

www.versoehnungsbund.de/2014-fasten

- In Britain, by Trident Ploughshares

<http://tridentploughshares.org>

It is supported by ICAN, an International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

www.icanw.org



Why are we fasting?

As well as an act of remembrance, the fast is an *Action-fast*, to protest against the ongoing possession of nuclear weapons by 9 states. These include the United Kingdom, whose government and establishment are poised to push through the replacement of Trident, after minimal public consultation. Such a replacement, if enacted, risks perpetuating the UK's status as both a target and a threat to the world, whereas the UK could, by renouncing Trident, make an extraordinary and decisive contribution to world peace.

Worldwide, numerous distinguished public figures have called for the elimination of all nuclear weapons. Three quarters of UN member states have voted in favour of a Convention to abolish nuclear weapons. Several nuclear-armed states including France and the UK are opposed to such a convention.

We will be fasting to convey a double message:

To the UK government and people:

No Trident replacement!

To all nations and their peoples:

Abolish all nuclear weapons: we can and we must!

Come and join us!

Whether to fast with us or simply to join us in peaceful protest, you will be welcome. Our program includes:

All night vigils in Whitehall Gardens on 6th, 7th and 8th August from 7p.m. onwards.

Thursday 6th August, 8.15 a.m.

Commemoration and vigil at the time of dropping of Hiroshima bomb in Whitehall Gardens (near Ministry of Defence), SW1.

Friday 7th August

Peaceful protest outside parliament. Skype meetings with co-fasters across Europe

Saturday 8th August

Peaceful protest outside Downing Street. Skype meetings with co-fasters across Europe

Sunday 9th August

11a.m. Nagasaki Lament in Whitehall Gardens. 12 noon join the Pax Christi stall for prayers and vigil in the Piazza at Westminster Cathedral and then the 7p.m. walk to Battersea Peace Pagoda for Commemoration Ceremony.

Even if you cannot make it do join us in spirit or by fasting, wherever you are.

For more details contact:

Marc Morgan at 07563 725 829 or marcwmorgan@btinternet.com

Angie Zelter at 074565-88943 or

reforest@gn.apc.org