



Hiroshima-Nagasaki Remembrance Four Day “Peace Gathering” in Bristol August 2020

Supporters of Bristol-CND, Trident-Ploughshares, and XR-Peace worked together to run a four day “Peace Gathering” on Castle Park in central Bristol on the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombs dropped on Japan in WW2.

Events started with a die-in at 8.15 on Thursday 6th August, the time the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. This was covered by both BBC and ITV local television news.



This was followed by an ambitious banner drop along the full length of Finzel’s Reach Bridge – at 91metres long this is the longest bridge over the harbour so organisers could claim the “*longest banner drop in Bristol*”, as reported in Bristol24/7



Both Ujima and BCFM community radio stations also carried interviews and report of the event.

The “Peace Gathering”, which was carefully Covid-Compliant, maintained an eye-catching giant Never-Again-Mushroom-Cloud banner plus a literature stall next to the busy footpath and cycleway through Castle Park. Each day further banners were also hung along the harbour wall. The “Peace Gathering” provided “craftivism” workshops - making peace-lanterns, screen-printing and embroidery.





There were also drop-in “Discussion Workshops” on the nuclear and arms industries, war and climate-change, refugees, the carbon-boot-print of the military, as well as veterans from Greenham and other campaigns sharing their personal experiences.

Each evening a “pop-up cinema” showed anti-war films including Dr Strangelove, The Coming War on China, and Beating the Bomb.

On Friday 7th a second group organised a leafleting and banner action outside the gigantic MOD Defence Procurement Centre at Filton Abbey Wood. This was to raise awareness among workers to alternative employment and to draw attention to the massive arms industry in north Bristol including companies such as Lockheed Martin, BAE Systems, Rolls Royce, Airbus, Babcock International, Leonardo, MBDA, Qinetiq and Raytheon.



The four day event concluded with a die-in at 11.02 on Sunday 9th August, the time the second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. Following a guided meditation and a period of silent reflection events drew to a close with a shared “Peace Picnic”, especially appreciated by those who had been fasting.



This event was one of many similar acts of remembrance throughout the UK and around the world. Each evening there were zoom calls to similar groups in Plymouth, London, Oxford,

and Knighton, plus others in Scotland, Europe and the US. With better technology it would have been good to also link up with the four-day Gensuikyo online conference in Japan (www.antiatom.org).


The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki led directly or subsequently to the deaths of over a third of a million civilians (<https://cnduk.org/resources/hiroshima-and-nagasaki/>). Deliberate targeting of civilians in this way is rightly widely condemned. But shockingly, just one British Trident submarine could kill some 45 million people (<https://tridentploughshares.org/postcard-together-we-must-stop-trident/>) Plus the Government plans to spend £200b+ on upgrading Trident, yet austerity and the pandemic shows the urgent need for investment in better social provision. This rightly unites us all in opposition to this madness.

The concluding debrief session decided the “Peace Gathering” had been a success and hopefully could be repeated and developed further in future years.....Row


Photo-credits to Simon Holliday and others

Together we must stop Trident


4 British Vanguard submarines based in Scotland
at least one on patrol at all times



Each submarine has 8 American Trident missiles



Each missile has upto 5 British warheads



Each warhead is around eight times as destructive as the bomb which flattened Hiroshima in 1945, killing over 140,000 civilians
If one submarine fires all its missiles, which it's designed to do

1 x 8 x 5 x 8 x 140,000 = 45 million dead

... and will probably trigger a “nuclear winter” too !

Trident replacement will cost us £200+ billion
Production and transport in the UK is very risky
Using Trident is illegal under International Law
It's immoral and could even kill the entire planet

Tridentploughshares.org