

Peace Round-up – 25 July 2019

A selection of items from a range of sources. Inclusion here does not imply full endorsement, but is based on current concerns of NFPB and its members.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list for these mailings, please contact nfpb@gn.apc.org

Church leaders question a no-deal Brexit

Representatives of seven Christian denominations – including Quakers in Britain – have written an open letter to the new Prime Minister expressing concern that failing to agree a deal on Brexit will “hit those held back by poverty very hard indeed”.

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/news/church-leaders-question-a-no-deal-brexit>

Rethinking Security message to new PM

<https://rethinkingsecurityorguk.files.wordpress.com/2018/03/parliamentary-briefing-march-20181.pdf>

“Today we call on new PM @BorisJohnson to change the course of current policy & rethink security. Our 5 priorities translate into 10 key actions the Government can take to ensure the UK contributes to global peace & security”

NFPB joins with others in calling on the new PM to prioritise peace

<http://www.nfpb.org.uk/news/2019-07-25/nfpb-joins-others-calling-new-pm-prioritise-peace>

As Boris Johnson became Prime Minister, members of the Network of Christian Peace Organisations have written an open letter to new government.

A seventeen-year-old Quaker's urgent call for climate justice

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/our-stories/a-seventeen-year-old-quaker-s-urgent-call-for-climate-justice>

Youth climate striker and London Quaker, Anya Nanning Ramamurthy, addressed faith groups with this call to climate justice ahead of the climate lobby of parliament on 26 June 2019. Here is the full text of her speech.

Quaker Activist Gathering 2019

Hosted by Quaker faith in action and Quakers in Britain

Saturday, 2 November 2019 from 09:30-17:30

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/events/quaker-activist-gathering-2019>

Conscientious objectors of first world war – their untold tales

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jul/19/conscientious-objectors-of-first-world-war-their-untold-tales>

Project recognises names of 400 men held in Richmond Castle in North Yorkshire

How Historians Are Reckoning With the Former Nazi Who Launched America's Space Program

<https://time.com/5627637/nasa-nazi-von-braun>

"To Americans, he sold the dream of men in space and flags on the moon. And by and large, the nation bought it, no questions asked."

Spiritual preparations for stopping an arms fair

Sam Donaldson, a Quaker and seasoned anti-arms trade activist, calls on Quakers across Britain to 'let us see what love can do!' ahead of the DSEI arms fair.

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/our-stories/spiritual-preparations-for-stopping-an-arms-fair>

Five play tag at faslane

<http://www.nuclearban.scot/five-play-tag-at-faslane/>

Campaigners Reclaim UK Nuke Base for Peace on Anniversary of Nuke Ban Treaty

Hiroshima and Nagasaki

<https://cnduk.org/remembering-hiroshima-and-nagasaki>

from CND: ... events are planned across the UK for Hiroshima Day on the 6th August and Nagasaki Day on the 9th August. The following are the events we know about so far ...

And from Scottish CND

<http://www.banthebomb.org/index.php/102-uncategorised/2035-anniversaries-of-hiroshima-and-nagasaki>

New Report Launched In Congress

<http://www.nuclearban.us/new-report-launched-in-congress/>

Warheads to Windmills: How to Pay for a Green New Deal was officially launched in Congress on June 20th, with the endorsement of the Sierra Club and support of Representatives Jim McGovern and Barbara Lee. Rep.

End the cycle of violence: Take action against UK DSEI Arms Fair

As healthcare workers, health academics and public health professionals, we write to add our voice to the movement challenging the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) in London...

<https://www.medact.org/2019/actions/sign-ons/end-the-cycle-of-violence-take-action-against-uk-dsei-arms-fair/>

Government given go-ahead to appeal against ruling on arms sales to Saudi Arabia

The Government has been given the go-ahead to appeal to the UK's highest court against a ruling on the legality of arms exports to Saudi Arabia.

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/government-given-go-ahead-to-appeal-against-ruling-on-arms-sales-to-saudi-arabia-38306061.html>

Srebrenica genocide: a mirror for all Europeans

This happened with the complicity of a passive international community which knew what was happening but chose to look away.

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/can-europe-make-it/srebrenica-genocide-mirror-all-europeans>

OSCE resolution on nuclear weapons ban

The Organisations for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly has called on member states to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons following its latest meeting

<https://christiancnd.org.uk/2019/07/10/osce-resolution-on-nuclear-weapons-ban/>

RAF Menwith Hill: Base in bid for extra radar antenna shelters

9 July 2019

Plans for extra radar shelters at a communications and intelligence base have been lodged by the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-48920515>

The carbon boot-print of the military

Dr Stuart Parkinson, SGR, summarises the latest data on the large but neglected carbon emissions of military activities. ... Presentation at the Save the Earth, Abolish War conference, London; 29 June 2019

<https://www.sgr.org.uk/resources/carbon-boot-print-military>

Quakers stand for peace on Armed Forces Day

<https://thefriend.org/article/quakers-stand-for-peace-on-armed-forces-day>

As Quakers gathered to promote peace on Armed Forces Day, this year's occasion got off to a shocking start with news that a nursery allowed preschool children to dress in real military body armour during an event.

Is peace too controversial for the classroom?

Isabel Cartwright explores why teachers shouldn't shy away from 'controversial' issues in the classroom.

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/blog/is-peace-too-controversial-for-the-classroom>

Kids with guns

Young children and teenagers are encouraged to handle weapons and interact with military vehicles at armed forces promotional and recruitment events.

Why is this happening, is it right and how can it be challenged?

<https://www.forceswatch.net/kids-with-guns>

Armed Forces Day is a propaganda tool for arms firms and the military – and the public are footing the bill

The day is not just about offsetting the reputational damage inflicted after the disastrous wars in Iraq and Afghanistan – but preparing the ground for the next conflict

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/armed-forces-day-salisbury-weapons-manufacturers-arms-bae-systems-a8980321.htm>

Britain not prepared for nuclear accident, says MoD

A nuclear convoy exercise has exposed serious safety risks, according to a Ministry of Defence report passed to The Ferret.

<https://cnduk.org/britain-not-prepared-for-nuclear-accident-says-mod>

New education pack on peacebuilding in Palestine and Israel

Quakers in Britain are launching a new education pack to help young people learn about the impact of conflict and stories of peacebuilding in Palestine and Israel.

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/news/new-education-pack-on-peacebuilding-in-palestine-and-israel>

U.S. arms giants in running for £2bn Faslane contract as chiefs privatise submarine training

The training of Royal Navy recruits at Faslane nuclear base could be delivered by multinational arms firms bidding for a £2bn Ministry of Defence contract.

<https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/u-s-arms-giants-in-running-for-2bn-faslane-contract-as-chiefs-privatise-submarine-training>

IPB marks Bruce Kent's 90th Birthday with award of Peace Prize

<https://www.ipb.org/yesterdays-news/ipb-newsletter-special-bruce-kent-turns-90>

War with iran is not a solution

On Thursday 20 June in response to the suggestion of war with Iran members of Veterans for Peace deployed outside the Ministry of Defence building on Whitehall and displayed the banner "War is not the solution to the problems we face in the 21st Century".

<http://vfpuk.org/articles/war-with-iran-is-not-a-solution/>

The Elders call for end to Gulf brinkmanship, urge Iran to continue to abide by JCPOA

The Elders today called on all states to refrain from any actions or rhetoric that could further inflame tensions in the Gulf region and the wider Middle East.

They specifically called on all concerned to encourage Iran to continue to abide by its commitments under the nuclear deal reached with the international community in 2015.

<https://theelders.org/news/elders-call-end-gulf-brinkmanship-urge-iran-continue-abide-jcpoa>