

ON COURSE FOR NET ZERO?

Not while the arms trade fans the flames of war.

DSEI (Defence & Security Equipment International), one of the world's biggest arms fairs, returns to the ExCeL Centre in East London 12-15 September 2023, accelerating the international arms race.

2,800 defence and security suppliers will rub shoulders with representatives of the world's worst regimes and sell them the most lethal weapons: <u>a trade profiting from death and human rights abuse,</u> <u>facilitated by the UK government</u> and <u>subsidised by taxpayers.</u>

We already know that war is a humanitarian catastrophe but it is an environmental catastrophe too.

Around 6% of global greenhouse gas emissions result from militaryrelated activity (estimated by Scientists for Global Responsibility <u>www.sgr.org.uk</u>) yet there is no obligation on nations to count military emissions nor to include them in reduction targets.

FOR EVERY £1 WE SPEND REDUCING UK CARBON EMISSIONS, WE SPEND £7.30 ON THE MILITARY

War contributes significantly to climate change throughout its complete cycle: manufacture of equipment and weaponry; trials and training with massive fuel use; the maintenance of vast numbers of buildings; the use of fuels and explosives in warfare; the resulting fires; and the extensive reconstruction of devastated infrastructure with its reliance on carbon-hungry cement and steel.

Don't be fooled by 'greenwashing'. The UK Ministry of Defence takes the climate crisis seriously and accepts that its carbon footprint must be reduced. Its plans for this, though, lie not in reducing warfare but in increasing the efficiency and sustainability of the existing system: in finding alternative fuels for war planes, low carbon manufacturing methods in its supply chain, biodegradable explosives, even lead-free bullets! Much of this is not yet technically possible – certainly not in the brief window we have left to avert the looming climate crisis.

But there are alternatives. The current existential threats to humanity show clearly that real security has much more to do with human and planetary well-being and international co-operation than with military might. Let's put more effort into negotiation, diplomacy and international law.

HELP US RESIST THE DSEI ARMS FAIR. Visit <u>stopthearmsfair.org.uk/</u> for a full list of protest events.

For more on the arms trade: Campaign Against Arms Trade <u>www.caat.org.uk</u>

For the sake of humanity and the planet, join us in finding better, more civilised ways than warfare of resolving our disputes!



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