

Government cuts public spending, but there's money for the military

This year's Autumn Statement by the Chancellor Jeremy Hunt displayed a determination to both increase tax revenues and cut spending across many government departments.

Core military spending, however, rose from £45.9bn in 2021/22 to £51.6bn in 2022/23, an increase of 12.4%, slightly higher than the current inflation rate.

These levels are still far higher than those for environment or foreign affairs and we should remember that the Conservative Government already made major increases in the military spend from 2020 onwards.

But it looks like the big decisions on above-inflation increases in military spending in future years are being left to the Spring Statement, when the current "Review of the 2021 Integrated Review" will have been completed, taking into account the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It is unclear how much of the UK's military budget is actually being spent on Ukraine.

More at www.demilitarize.co.uk

Colin Archer

For an electronic version of this newsletter please email Gill Hurlé at gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk

The next edition of *Abolish War* will be published in March 2023.



Thanks to CND General Secretary Kate Hudson, who gave the 22nd Annual MAW Remembrance lecture in November on *Nuclear Risks in the Light of the Ukraine War*. Her lecture ranged over the arguments as to why nuclear weapons actually threaten peace and have not "kept the peace for 75 years" as is often claimed. www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVecVwDhyJgx

Maintaining the momentum as we face new year and new challenges

At the end of a difficult year, our chair, Tim Devereux, reflects on MAW's work - and how we plan to focus our efforts in 2023.

Tim says: "For me and, I am sure, many other MAW members, two events cast a particular shadow over the year - war in Ukraine and the death of our dear friend and founder, Bruce Kent.

"In February, Russia's threats turned into war, and the so-called 'special military operation' began. The situation continues to be awful, but would undoubtedly be worse if Ukraine had kept the thousands of nuclear arms left on Ukrainian soil by Moscow after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

"Bruce passed away in June and will continue to be missed personally by MAW members and in the public square for many years to come. One lesson which Bruce left us is that we can honour his memory by campaigning relentlessly for peace."

With that in mind, MAW's campaign priorities for 2023 will be:

■ Military-Related Greenhouse Gas emissions

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Meet the team for 2023

Following November's AGM, the following were elected to represent MAW

Chair: Tim Devereux
Vice-chair: Hilary Evans

Treasurer: John Dowbekin
Secretary: Sally Reynolds

Membership Secretary:
Gill Hurlie

Executive members: Sue Gilmurray, Helen Horton, Heather Speight, Arthur West plus David Collins (co-opted)

Abolish War editor: Helen Riley. **Proofreader:** Valerie Flessati

President: Paul Rogers
Vice-presidents: Colin Archer, Martin Bell, Christine Blower, Diana Francis and Mererid Hopwood

Renewed pressure on military to reveal climate cost of emissions

MAW has long campaigned to deliver the message that **"War Causes Climate Change and Climate Change Causes War"** and lobbied thousands of delegates at both COP 25 in Madrid and COP 26 in Glasgow with this message. No doubt this had a marked effect. However, learning from the success of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) campaign, it was realised that without the support of one or more UN member states there was little prospect of achieving change. In December 2021, MAW formed an alliance with Tipping Point North South (TPNS) to find a State (or States) willing to formally request that military and conflict emissions are considered separately in UNFCCC reporting. Following joint preliminary groundwork to find "countries of high international reputation but modest military interests",

MAW co-sponsored Deborah Burton of TPNS to attend COP 27 in Sharm El Sheikh and speak at a Blue Zone Side Event on *Dealing with military and conflict-related emissions under the UNFCCC* hosted by the government of Ukraine and CAFOD, which received widespread publicity. Contacts made by both MAW and TPNS in the UK and at previous COPs were followed up, as well as with new country groups such as *Climate Vulnerable Countries*, *Climate Islands* and the *Association of Low Lying States*.

Joint work on the project is planned to continue through 2023 as the first step in our ultimate aim, not just of accounting for military-related emissions but also of reducing militarism as a whole. Follow this link for the COP 27 event - <https://transformdefence.org>

Hilary Evans and David Collins

MAW banner flies high in Canterbury

As in previous years, MAW was among the many organisations represented at the service of Choral Evensong to mark United Nations Day, which was held at Canterbury Cathedral on 23 October and organised by Canterbury UNA. In addition to celebrating the work of the United Nations, there was a recognition of the various challenging humanitarian crises around the world at the present time and, in the run-up to COP27, of the need for urgent climate action.



A very thoughtful address was given by special guest Her Excellency Linda Scott, High Commissioner for Namibia and Chair of the Commonwealth Board of Governors.

The service, including the procession, can be viewed here - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNQ4n_9RFFU

Above: MAW supporter Pam Brivio, left, with the MAW banner

Tea for two with Bruce coming up!

Plans are well underway for a pair of commemorative bone china mugs. One will feature a delightful photo of Bruce and the opening words of the Preamble to the UN Charter while the other is of a gently illustrated quotation to remind us of some of his wise words. These somewhat diverse designs will be brought together by unifying decorative features. Coming soon (but sadly not in time for Christmas). Keep an eye on our online shop.

Tim takes the peace message on tour



Hitting the road: Tim with Fabian Hamilton MP (who rode on the first day) and Tore Naerland, on the ride for peace

At the end of August, our chair, Tim Devereux, took part in a five day, 222 miles *Bike for Peace* ride with blind peace campaigner Tore Naerland and two other Norwegians - Åse Simonsen and Tordis Landvik.

Tim says: "We met Mayors of whichever Yorkshire or Lancashire town we were in and spread an anti-nuclear weapon message. Our route was Leeds - Skipton - Carnforth - Preston - Rochdale - Bradford and I rode tandem with Tore."

Bike for Peace is a non-governmental organisation in Norway which works for a world without nuclear weapons, for peace and disarmament, improved life for disabled persons and for a better climate. Mayors for Peace is an organisation which also works for a world without nuclear weapons. It was founded in Hiroshima in 1982.

The organisation has 8,188 member cities in 166 countries and regions.

www.bikeforpeace.no

UK signs declaration on better protection for civilians facing war

All war is dreadful, but some aspects are worse than others. Bombing or blowing up civilians (especially in densely populated cities) is morally abhorrent and contravenes international humanitarian law. However, it still goes on and few are brought to justice. So a fresh initiative has been going the rounds over the last 10 years - the *Political Declaration on strengthening the protection of civilians from the humanitarian consequences arising from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas*.

This grew out of civil society campaigning, which resulted in the adoption of the Declaration at a high-level conference in Dublin in November.

So far, 82 states have endorsed which is a similar number to the initial signatories to other international declarations that have created new standards in warfare.

The list includes the UK, though it still falls behind allies in terms of transparency on evidence collection around civilian harm.

See: <https://airwars.org> and <https://www.inew.org>

IPB pulls together ceasefire proposals

The International Peace Bureau (of which MAW is a member) has put together a very useful collection of proposals and possibilities for a ceasefire and resolution to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. This includes the full texts of previous or recent inter-governmental peace proposals, as well as the resolution adopted by IPB itself on 19 October 2022.

Regardless of your view of the war - and of the protagonists - there is much merit in considering these documents.

See: <https://www.ipb.org/ceasefire-and-peace-for-ukraine/>

Lend us your ears: Audio of MAW's *On Peace* event, held to mark the UN International Day of Peace on 21 September, is available to hear. MAW Vice-President Martin Bell exchanged ideas with Ben Griffin, a former SAS soldier, with satirist Darren Cullen in the chair. <https://www.mixcloud.com/AbolishWarUK/>



Now it's paws for peace

The Remembrance ceremony at Tavistock Square is a highlight of the peace year - and in November was enhanced by peace dog Lilo.

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New year and new challenges

and the climate crisis. David Collins is working with Tipping Point North-South and we made a financial contribution to the expenses of sending a representative to COP27 to speak at a side event about dealing with conflict-related emissions.

■ Arms control and military spending. The Global Day Against Military Spending (GDAMS) will be in May 2023.

■ Nuclear disarmament and support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Hilary Evans attends International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN UK) meetings on behalf of MAW, and we have called on our members to sign up their civic authorities to TPNW. We also encourage them to check whether their bank is investing in nuclear weapons using via <https://investinginchange.uk/> or www.dontbankonthebomb.com

■ Peace education. This includes raising awareness of the UN. Helen Horton attends the Peace Education Network (PEN) to represent MAW.

■ Rethinking Security. Gill Hurle and Diana Francis are our representatives on the committee and Diana sits on the council. The public seem to be much more receptive to the message now that there is war in Europe.

The Movement for the Abolition of War – join us, or renew your membership

We aim to create a world where war is no longer seen as a way to solve a problem; where it has ceased to be an option; where conflict resolution means resolution. Working through education and dialogue, nationally and locally, we have the tools, skills and laws that we need, but we also need you - ordinary people can help us realise our goal, the abolition of war.

To join MAW or renew your membership, complete this form or download the membership and standing order forms from our website at <http://www.abolishwar.org.uk/join.html>.

Send the completed form (and cheque if applicable) to: Movement for the Abolition of War, 1 Old Mill Place, Haslemere, GU27 1NE

Membership application / renewal

Name

Address

Postcode

Tel no.

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Type of membership (please tick):

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Abolish War is published by the Movement for the Abolition of War, 1 Old Mill Place, Haslemere GU27 1NE