

Movement for the Abolition of War, Annual General Meeting 2025

Sunday, 9 November, 1.30pm. All welcome!

Mander Hall, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BD (a few minutes' walk from Euston and St Pancras stations and close to Tavistock Square).

The AGM will include an annual report, the Treasurer's report, the election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee, plus an open discussion forum. Details of those standing for election will be available to view on the MAW website - www.abolishwar.net - from mid-October.

If you would like to nominate someone to stand for the committee (nominees must be MAW members), or if you cannot attend the AGM but have any suggestions or concerns, contact us by Friday, 31 October at info@abolishwar.org.uk or in writing to 1 Old Mill Place, Haslemere, GU27 1NE.

A proposal will be put by the Executive Committee to the meeting that, in the absence of a Chairperson and Secretary, the current co-convening arrangements, agreed at the AGM 2024, continue for one more year, to be reviewed at AGM 2026. Do come along to show support, air your views and meet other members. We look forward to seeing you!

*All are warmly invited to attend the Annual National Alternative Remembrance Ceremony, prior to the AGM, from 12noon - 1pm in nearby Tavistock Square. This is always an impressive and moving event. More details can be found at www.ppu.org.uk/events as they become available.

Remembrance Lecture 2025: *Ending Wars* by Lord John Alderdice



Our lecturer this year, John Alderdice, was a consultant psychiatrist in Belfast with an interest in long-standing violent political conflict. He became Leader of Northern Ireland's Alliance Party and played a significant role in negotiating the 1998 Belfast/Good Friday Agreement. He is the founding Director of the Conference on the Resolution of Intractable Conflict, (CRIC) based in Oxford, and recently co-edited *Ending Wars*, published in August 2025, on the challenges of war and peace - and possible ways of addressing them. It promises to be a fascinating and very relevant talk.

* You will find a leaflet advertising the Lecture inside this issue of *Abolish War* - please put it up in a prominent place and help to spread the word. Make a date yourself - Sunday, November 9, 3pm, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, WC1H 9BD.

Seventy Questions for the UK Government

Declassified UK claims to be the leading media organisation uncovering the UK's role in the world, investigating Britain's military and intelligence agencies, its most powerful corporations and its impact on human rights and the environment.

It has recently published an article saying that mainstream journalists have failed to investigate the UK's complicity in Israel's genocide. It lists 70 questions that every minister should be asked and that the UK government must answer.

See <https://www.declassifieduk.org/70-questions-the-uk-government-must-answer-about-gaza/>

For an electronic version of this newsletter email Gill Hurlé at gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk
The next edition of *Abolish War* will be published in February 2026.

Rethinking Security - your chance to find out more

MAW is a member of Rethinking Security. As the organisation says on its website: "Rethinking Security is a network of UK-based organisations, academics and activists. We work for a just and peaceful world, based on approaches that address the underlying causes of conflict and insecurity. We have a shared concern that the current approach to national security in the UK and beyond often hampers efforts for peace, justice and ecological sustainability. We are committed to building a much richer understanding of what security really means and of what is required to build sustainable security."

A large part of its work is responding to the new National Security Strategy. The RS Outreach Group is planning a series of online and in-person events, including events on sustainable security with Secure Scotland (Edinburgh, October), Medact (Sheffield) and the Northern Friends Peace Board (tbc). See www.rethinkingsecurity.org.uk and the blogs - www.rethinkingsecurity.org.uk/blog/

Gill Hurle

Tim pedals for the finish line while Nigel and Finn put the brakes on, both raising vital funds for Palestinians

MAW's indefatigable cycle and peace campaigner Tim Devereux is cycling to raise money for injured Palestinians. He tells us: "My ride raising money for Medical Aid for Palestinians is nearly at a significant milestone - I'm closing in on the 3431 mile mark - the distance from Pudsey to Gaza. With Gift Aid, the current total is past the £6,000 mark! To the recent very generous anonymous donors - and all who have supported this crucial cause, anonymous or not - huge thanks! www.justgiving.com/page/tim-devereux-map-2025

Elsewhere, MAW member Nigel Speight and his grandson Finn - pictured - pedalled for 19 days from Lands End to raise money for Medical Aid for Palestinians, cycling 1,153 miles.



BOOK REVIEW: Comparing Ukraine and Gaza

It is rare to read an analysis of both conflicts together, seeing them as symptoms of the same toxic political phenomena. Robin Luckham of Sussex's Institute of Development Studies - having spent decades writing on militarism, disarmament and development - has done exactly this.

This fine work is healthily academic in its attention to nuance, while maintaining a firm moral commitment to peaceful outcomes and a critique of imperialistic powers. Luckham confronts our key dilemma: while we rage at Israel and insist that Western powers must withdraw support, we are less united on sending weapons to Ukraine - victim of an imperialist invasion. The worst peril in both theatres is the risk of a nuclear detonation. The collapse of disarmament regimes and alarming increases in military spending do nothing to help.

Among the many insights offered are the likelihood that Israel's "garrison state" mentality will undermine its own security in years to come; that, like Russia, it has "war aims but not peace goals". While the Middle Eastern focus is strictly on Gaza, the widening of the analysis to include the effects of both conflicts on the Global South, and in diverting attention away from planetary crises, is salutary.

The author has useful things to say about just and unjust wars; and he unearths the global roots of both wars, including unresolved clashes of rival imperialisms. He shows how the post-Cold War peace dividend has been replaced by a warmakers' dividend, in which 'security' wins over all else. He ends with a rapid survey of Trump's second-term measures on both theatres.

Overall, it is a grim assessment, offering no illusions about breakthroughs. But the work shows how our world is evolving and what must be done to rescue it from multiple cliff edges.

[War and Peace in Ukraine and Gaza \(Springer/Palgrave Macmillan, 2025, 138pp\).](#)

Colin Archer



MAW members met up at the Peace History Conference in Bradford. See the next issue of *Abolish War* for a full report.

Update from the Bonn Climate Conference

At both the 2019 COP25 in Madrid and COP26 in Glasgow MAW picketed the delegates with our leaflets and "War Causes Climate Change and Climate Change Causes War" banner.

MAW is not eligible for COP accreditation, hence our sponsorship of Deborah Burton of Tipping Point North South (TPNS) to attend subsequent COPs including both the pre-COP in Bonn and the main COP in November in Belem, Brazil. Deborah reports from Bonn.

The Bonn Climate Conference is the preparatory COP gathering and, overall, the big concern was ambition - most nations not being on track to stay within 1.5 degrees of warming and, linked to this, deep worries about insufficient plans for adaptation.

And with military spending at an all-time high, NATO's future plans for even higher spending, genocide ongoing in Palestine and the war in Ukraine with no end in sight, military-related issues were present "on the ground" if not on the official agenda.

Moreover, military spending is now being widely referenced as a potential source to tap for climate finance. Linked to this, TPNS launched its briefing, *NATO's 3.5% Spending Goal: Unsustainable on Every Count*, at a press conference with the Interfaith Liaison Committee on day one.

NATO's rapid military build-up is undermining global climate goals and diverting trillions from climate finance. As COP30 approaches, it's clear that we are on as wrong track as we can possibly be. The rich nations of the global north are massively investing in armaments while arming Israel's genocide. All this at the same time as they wilfully fail to meet mitigation targets and legal climate finance obligations.

Civil society is doing its very best to push the guilty parties - especially rich northern nations - to ceasefire; de-escalate; invest in just transition as we move towards COP30.

Culture corner: two recommendations

The **Atomic Cabaret** performances recently shown at Menwith Hill and elsewhere - performer Lynda Williams is a physicist and comedian based in Hawaii. She has now finished her tour but her extraordinary work can be accessed online: <https://scientainment.com/atomic-cabaret>

Sands Films - ongoing, often very relevant programmes with unusual films that can be watched online as well as at their studios in Rotherhithe: www.sandsfilms.co.uk

Focus on the work of the IPB

The International Peace Bureau is the world's oldest and broadest international peace movement network. The range of issues covered is impressive. It has recently highlighted the 50th anniversary of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, with its emphasis on common security. Ideally the CSCE (now OSCE) should be playing a role in bringing an end to the war in Ukraine. The IPB has also focused, in connection with the recent 80th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, on the usually-neglected colonialism dimension. Japan was not only a victim; it was, after all, a fascist regime which dominated E. Asia. See much more at: www.ipb.org/

Colin Archer

US Nuclear Weapons return to USAF Lakenheath, Suffolk

Evidence is clear that US nuclear weapons have arrived at the Lakenheath NATO base in Suffolk, deadly weapons which make us all a target and increase the risk of Britain being dragged into Trump's reckless wars. As part of the actions to condemn Trump's shameful state visit last month, CND and the Lakenheath Alliance for Peace (LAP) moved a planned demonstration from RAF Marham in Norfolk - a significant Royal Air Force base for the F-35 Lightning stealth fighter jet - to USAF Lakenheath to say loud and clear that neither Trump nor his nuclear bombs are welcome here!

Lakenheath Alliance for Peace (LAP) - of which MAW is an alliance member - also organised a Peace not War educational/mobilising Tour in England and Wales. Kate Hudson, recently retired as General Secretary of CND and now a Vice-President, was one of the speakers. More talks are planned.

We reject the plan - imposed by the US and NATO - for us to spend 5% of our GDP on weapons and war. This will destroy all that's left of our public services, plunge millions into hardship and sow social conflict. We oppose the government's purchase of 12 F35A bombers from the US, capable of carrying nuclear bombs. This will cost

us vast sums and increase the UK's nuclear arsenal. This breaks international law and increases global risks. We reject the militarisation of society, the expansion of weapons and military production, the narrative that war is inevitable, and military encroachment on our schools and universities. We aim to build on the public outrage at these developments and what they mean for our society; raise awareness of the role of our government and arms companies in war crimes and genocide; explain the impact of nuclear weapons; mobilise for the demonstrations, camps, vigils and actions against British and US nuclear bombers and weapons at Lakenheath and Marham air bases in East Anglia.

Monthly vigils continue at the Main Gate of USAF Lakenheath

For more information, see www.lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk

Ali Lochhead



Illustration left by **Darren Cullen** - Satirical political artist and illustrator aka Spelling Mistakes Cost Lives - <https://www.spellingmistakescostlives.com/>

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.

Email

Type of membership (please tick):

Life £100 ☐ Individual £15 ☐ Unwaged £5 ☐

Household (2 or more at same address) £20 ☐ Group or organisation £25 ☐

I enclose: Membership £

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OR Please send me a standing order form ☐

Membership

subscriptions: If you received this newsletter by post, the label on the envelope shows your membership status: the date to which you are paid up, eg 2025; 'Life', if you are a life member; 'SO' if you pay by standing order or 'Comp' for complimentary copy.

To join or renew your membership complete the form or download it: <http://www.abolishwar.org.uk/support-us/join-us/> .

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

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