

Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy

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ACRONYM INSTITUTE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

prepared by Dr Rebecca Johnson, Executive Director

1. Narrative Report

The Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy is a not-for-profit civil society organisation with UN consultative status through ECOSOC. We provide research, ideas and practical strategies to strengthen humanitarian disarmament and security agreements, environmental sustainability and progress for women, peace and security.

The year 2015 was challenging in many ways, with both the unsuccessful NPT Review Conference and UK general election taking place in May. Wars and various forms of patriarchal violence continued to blight lives and block the already sluggish diplomatic and civil society channels for making progress on disarmament, peace and security. Working hours and output were reduced due to health challenges, staff changes and the director's involvement in the general election and efforts to tackle violence against women. On a smaller budget than in past years, Acronym gave priority to laying the groundwork for a new legal instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, as well as the implementation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Cluster Munitions Convention (CMC) and Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT) generously provided a further two-year grant in August 2015 to continue our research and educational work on humanitarian disarmament, with emphasis on the risks of use, deployment, transporting, production and proliferation of nuclear weapons. This grant enabled Acronym to continue playing our strategic role on the International Steering Group of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and participate in various international and UK civil society networks.

Acronym employed two part-time staff members: executive director Dr Rebecca Johnson, who focussed mainly on nuclear weapons proliferation and humanitarian disarmament, women, peace and security; and Clare Conboy, who developed outreach and communications strategies to reach wider audiences, including a new interactive website (launched in 2016) and social media. Dr Natalie Goldring, Acronym's director for Conventional Arms and Trade, has continued to lead our work on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and small arms, funding herself through her academic position in Washington DC. As well as managing ICAN-UK, Acronym was able to support the UN participation of various ICAN partners, notably Article 36, while they sought to get formally established and accredited.

Acronym's work in 2015 included:

- highlighting the implications and options for British security and defence policy, including nuclear reliance, Trident replacement and proliferation;
- attending the NPT Review Conference and UN First Committee, and building support to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons; and
- addressing forms of violence through collaborative legal and diplomatic efforts, and promoting potential new legal approaches to promote the protection of women and

prohibit inhumane weapons, including lethal and coercive autonomous weapons systems.

As noted in the appendix on meetings and presentations, Acronym engaged actively in various international civil society networks, including ICAN, Control Arms, IANSA, and the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, with which we shared information, work and strategies. We also engaged actively with UK-related civil society including Nukewatch, the No Trident Replacement Core Group (NTR), ICAN-UK, the Nuclear Weapons Policy Liaison Group (NWPLG), and Religions for Peace, as well as jointly coordinating with Compass to bring 'move on from Trident' arguments to a broader, cross party audience.

Dr Johnson participated in the NPT Review Conference, including speaking at two side events with European parliamentarians and US and Russian experts and diplomats respectively. She was also an invited panellist on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues at various UN meetings in Brussels, Geneva, US and Japan. Dr Johnson contributed to meetings of the European Parliament Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE), roundtables with CD and NPT diplomats in Annecy and Geneva, the InterAction Council of former government leaders, and panels at the CTBTO Academic Forum on Strengthening the CTBT through Academic Engagement. Without drawing on Acronym's funds, she also participated in meetings on women, peace and security and served as a member of the international jury for the World Court of Women against Violence and War, held in India in November.

While working mainly on designing and establishing a new website for Acronym, Clare Conboy also participated in the Quaker United Nations Office Summer School and attended the UN First Committee and international humanitarian disarmament forum's civil society events in New York in October 2015. She represented Acronym at meetings in Parliament, and discussions organised by Chatham House, Medact, the Quakers and other faith groups during 2015. Acronym staff also participated fully in meetings of the NTR Core Group, NWPLG and Nukes of Hazard.

As in previous years, Dr Goldring continued to be part of the Control Arms Coalition's policy leadership team. She was actively involved in preparatory meetings and the first ATT Conference of States Parties in Mexico in August 2015. With the treaty's entry into force, Dr Goldring prioritised encouraging compliance by all countries and efforts to persuade the US government and others to adhere to the ATT. As well as her continuing work on strengthening the Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and the UN Register of Conventional Arms, Dr Goldring chaired the panel on "Norms and Norm Compliance in Foreign Policy" at the International Studies Association's annual meeting, and was panellist on "Challenges and Prospects for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime".

During 2015, *openDemocracy* and *Interpress Service News Agency* (which syndicates to many countries) ensured wider audiences for Acronym analyses on humanitarian disarmament, nuclear weapons and the NPT, conventional weapons control, and the United Nations, security and development. Acronym received a small consultancy fee from the CTBT implementing organisation in Vienna for Dr Johnson's CTBT work, including dissemination of her book on the CTBT "Unfinished Business" and publication of her analysis on 'Banning nuclear weapons and the quest for nuclear disarmament' in their journal *CTBT Spectrum*, which is widely read by UN governments and diplomats. In addition, our analyses featured in news programmes by the BBC, CNN and NHK.

Acronym's Board of Directors, chaired by David Atwood, changed by one in 2015, as Madeleine Rees stepped down after moving to South Africa. The Board met once, in July 2015, and fulfilled its duties of oversight, support and management for Acronym's director and staff.

2 Meetings and Presentations

In addition to the meetings listed below Rebecca Johnson and/or Clare Conboy participated in frequent organising meetings of the No Trident Replacement Core Group (NTR), ICAN-UK, the Nuclear Weapons Policy Liaison Group (NWPLG), Compass, Religions for Peace, and other UK-based networks associated with peace and security. As a parliamentary candidate for the Green Party in the 2015 General Election, Dr Johnson reduced her working hours for Acronym and carried out a large number of election-related meetings until the election took place on 7 May. Though consistent with the aims and objectives of the Acronym Institute, these responsibilities and meetings are not listed here. Similarly, Natalie Goldring has only listed the meetings directly associated with her UN conventional arms work on behalf of the Acronym Institute.

Meetings and presentations – Rebecca Johnson

January 28-29, 2015, Brussels, European Parliament Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE), presented on "NPT in 2015: State of play and possible evolution"

February 5, 2015, Nuclear Information Service Strategy Day.

February 5, 2015, London, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Civil Society Outreach Forum accompanying the sixth P5 Conference on nuclear issues.

February 17-20, 2015, ICAN international steering group strategy retreat.

February 27, 2015, London, Faith leaders at Church House, Westminster, presented on the humanitarian initiatives for a nuclear ban treaty, together with Bishop Gunnar Stisett.

February 28, 2015, London, gave presentation on UK approaches at Religions for Peace meeting on humanitarian disarmament.

March 12-14, 2015, Geneva and Annecy, Monterey Non-Proliferation Seminar and meetings with various UN ambassadors and diplomats on NPT and humanitarian pledge.

April 20, 2015, London, Fawcett Society, spoke at meeting on women, security and the economy.

April 28, 2015, BBC Daily Politics debate on defence and security, presented along with Michael Fallon MP (Defence Secretary), Vernon Coaker MP, Angus Robertson MP and Sir Nick Harvey MP.

May 13-22, 2015, United Nations, NY, participated in 2015 NPT Review Conference.

May 20, 2015, United Nations NY, at NPT side event co-sponsored by Russian Federation and Moscow Centre for Policy Studies, presented on "From Words to Actions: Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament from 2010 to 2015 and beyond".

June 2-4, 2015, Newport, Wales, InterAction Council AGM, gave presentation on State of the World.

June 5, 2015, London, Nuclear Information Service Strategy meeting with UK NGOs

June 18, 2015, United Nations Geneva, presented at joint UNIDIR-Moscow Centre for Policy Studies (PIR) event on Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament: Where to after the 2015 NPT Review Conference?

June 24-26, Vienna, CTBTO Academic Forum on Strengthening the CTBT through Academic Engagement, presented on 'Technical education for policymakers and policy education for scientists'.

July 6-7, 2015, London, ICAN Campaigners Meeting, gave an opening presentation on the humanitarian and nuclear histories and coordinated break-out workshop on *Different strategies for cross-border and regional cooperation on parliamentary issues.*

August 6, 2015, London, Acronym and ICAN UK nuclear weapons convoy campaign and funding strategy meeting.

August 26-28, 2015, Hiroshima, 25th UN Conference on Disarmament Issues (UNCDI) Our panel brief is Session 4: Collaboration with Civil Society: The Role of Civil Society in Creating a World Free of Nuclear Weapons; Education on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation.

August 29, 2015, Nagasaki, meetings with Mayor Taue, Hibakusha and other leaders. Spoke at Symposium in the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, together with former UN Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament H.E. Sergio Duarte, US Arms Control and Disarmament director Daryl Kimball, Professor Nobumasa Akiyami of Hitotsubashi University, Dr Tatsujiro Suzuki of Nagasaki University, Hibakusha and civic officials.

August 30, 2015, Nagasaki University RECNA, gave two lectures: one on "Next steps for nuclear disarmament".

October 31-November 5, 2015, Nagasaki, Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs, promoted arguments for Pugwash to support international negotiations on a nuclear prohibition treaty.

November 6, 2015 gave talk on on Scientific evidence and humanitarian initiatives for a nuclear prohibition treaty at a Japanese 'Dialogue of Scientists and Religious Leaders for Nuclear Disarmament on the Occasion of the Religions for Peace Symposium in Nagasaki: common agenda, urgent actions', with speakers from all the major faith groups in Japan.

November 9, 2015, gave lecture to Nagasaki University students on "Gender and disarmament", analysing a range of weapons and disarmament approaches.

November 16, 2015, Bangalore India, World Court of Women 'Against War, for Peace', served as one of eight jurors and coordinated the jury's closing statement.

November 17-21, 2015, India, International Women in Black Conference, participated in meetings on conflict and mediation, and coordinated workshops on humanitarian approaches to banning nuclear weapons and challenges for nonviolence, peace and security.

Dec 9, 2015, London, hosted Acronym and ICAN UK nuclear weapons convoy campaign planning meeting.

Dec 17, 2015, London, Embassy of Brazil, meetings with the Secretary-General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) on nuclear-weapon free zones.

Meetings - Clare Conboy

Feb 5, 2015, London, Nuclear Information Service, Trident strategy day.

Feb 5, 2015, London, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Civil Society Outreach Forum accompanying the sixth P5 Conference.

March 4, 2015, London, Portcullis House, British and American Security Information Services (BASIC), Launch of briefing paper - 'A memo to the next Prime Minister - The options on the replacement of Trident'.

May 13-21, 2015, New York, United Nations, Nuclear non-proliferation treaty review conference.

May 29, 2015, London, International Maritime Organisation, BASIC and United Nations Association UK (UNA UK), Roundtable discussion - Surviving nuclear zero.

June 5, 2015, London, Friends House, Nuclear Information Service, Trident strategy day.

June 23, 2015, London, Parliament, FCO's Counter Proliferation Department (CPD), Roundtable discussion - The outcomes of the recent Rev Con and ideas on the challenges facing the NPT as we move into the next review cycle.

June 24, 2015, London, Portcullis House, Nuclear Information Service, Report Launch - 'British military attitudes to nuclear disarmament'.

July 5-17, Geneva, Quaker United Nations Office Summer School.

August 6, 2015, London, Acronym and ICAN UK nuclear weapons convoy campaign and funding strategy meeting.

Oct 17-18, 2015, New York, Humanitarian Disarmament Campaigns Forum.

Oct 19-23, 2015, New York, United Nations First Committee.

Nov 2-3, 2015, London, Chatham House, Department of International Security roundtable - 'Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Testing'.

Nov 10, 2015, London, Portcullis House, Article 36 and ICAN APPG - 'Don't Bank on the Bomb'.

Nov 13-14, 2015, London, Friends House, Medact Conference - 'Health Through Peace'.

Dec 8, 2015, London, No Trident Replacement core group meeting.

Dec 9, 2015, London, Acronym and ICAN UK nuclear weapons convoy campaign planning meeting.

Dec 17, 2015, London, Embassy of Brazil, SG of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), 'current challenges of disarmament and non-proliferation from the perspective of a nuclear free zone'.

Meetings - Natalie Goldring

February 23-24, Port of Spain, preparatory meeting for the first Conference of States Parties for the Arms Trade Treaty.

August 24-27, Mexico, first Conference of States Parties for the ATT (CSP1).

3. Publications and Media

This summary includes articles authored by or containing substantial quotes from Acronym Institute staff and associates. In addition, background information and insights from Acronym were featured in the Guardian, Washington Post, Scottish Herald, Asahi Shinbun, Chugoku Shinbun, CNN, BBC, NHK as well as local and internationally syndicated articles not listed here.

Rebecca Johnson, '[Banning nuclear explosions and the quest for nuclear disarmament](#)', CTBTO Spectrum, April 2015.

Rebecca Johnson and Daniela Varano, '[NPT: Nuclear Colonialism versus Democratic Disarmament](#)', *openDemocracy*, 21 May 2015.

Rebecca Johnson, '[NPT: nuclear cornerstone or stumbling block?](#)', *openDemocracy*, 28 May 2015.

Rebecca Johnson, '[From Hiroshima to Trident: Listening to the Hibakusha](#)', *openDemocracy*, 6 August 2015.

Ray Acheson and Rebecca Johnson, '[The UN: are development and peace empty words?](#)', *openDemocracy*, 24 September 2015.

Natalie J. Goldring, '[Will U.S.-Russian competition make it more difficult to control the global arms trade?](#)', Forum on the Arms Trade, Looking Ahead, 11 March, 2015.

Natalie J. Goldring, '[Which UN will we see this week?](#)' *ATT Monitor*, Reaching Critical Will, vol. 8 no. 2, 25 August 2015.

Natalie J. Goldring, '[Where do we go from here?](#)' *ATT Monitor*, Reaching Critical Will, vol. 8 no. 4, 27 August 2015.

Rebecca Johnson quoted in Thalif Deen, '[As Nuke Talks Begin, U.N. Chief Warns of Dangerous Return to Cold War Mentalities](#)', Inter Press Service News Agency, New York, 27 April 2015.

Acronym Institute referred to in Ramesh Jaura, '[Perfecting Detection of the Bomb](#)', Inter Press Service News Agency, Vienna, 30 June 2015.

Rebecca Johnson quoted in Thalif Deen, '[The myths about the nuclear deal with Iran](#)', IPS News, 17 July 2015.

Rebecca Johnson quoted in Rodney Reynolds, '[World's Major Powers in Shameful Behaviour: Opt out of nuclear resolution](#)', IDN In Depth News, 10 November, 2015.

Thalif Deen, "[Middle East Conflicts Give Hefty Boost to Arms Merchants](#)," *Inter Press Service News Agency*, March 16, 2015.

Natalie Goldring quoted in Thalif Deen, "Middle East Conflicts Trigger New U.S.-Russia Arms Race," *Inter Press Service News Agency*, April 27, 2015.

Natalie Goldring quoted in Thalif Deen, "[Mideast Arms Build-up Negative Fallout from Iran Nuclear Deal](#)," *Inter Press Service News Agency*, July 23, 2015.

Natalie Goldring quoted in Thalif Deen, "[Despite Treaty, Conventional Arms Fuel Ongoing Conflicts](#)," *Inter Press Service News Agency*, September 1, 2015.

Rebecca Johnson on BBC Radio 4 World at One on NATO/Defence budget 1 June 2015.

Rebecca Johnson on BBC World Service "Newshour" 6 August 2015.

4. Institutional Establishment, Staff and Board

The Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy is a non-profit company 'limited by guarantee'. After two years of free-lance work at the UN in Geneva by Rebecca Johnson on behalf of a consortium of US and UK NGOs, the Acronym Institute was registered in England and Wales in 1996, No. 3149465.

In accordance with the mission statement and objectives in our Memorandum and Articles of Association, Acronym conducts research and analysis and through meetings, publications and outreach facilitates the fuller participation of civil society and nations in developing and implementing effective measures to eliminate nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, demilitarise relations between states, promote human security and sustain a healthy environment.

Acronym is constituted to:

- conduct research and obtain, analyse and disseminate ideas and information on peace and human security, disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation, environmental sustainability, women's security, rights and democratic participation, gender equality and international law and human rights, including international humanitarian law;
- educate or assist in the education of the public and elected representatives on all relevant aspects relating to debates, policies and negotiations on human, national and international peace and security, including the effects of weapons, security doctrines and disarmament;
- organise meetings and observe or participate in discussions, negotiations, verification and promotion of talks, solutions, negotiations, developments and implementation of agreements, resolutions and treaties in these fields; and
- distribute reports, proceedings, ideas, information and education materials, and to facilitate and assist the distribution of ideas and material collated by other researchers, scientists and activists, whether governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental, in all relevant aspects relating to human, national and international peace and security issues, as described above.

Acronym Institute Board of Directors in 2015:

David Atwood Ph.D (Chair)

Sir Hugh Beach GBE, KCB, MC

Ambassador (ret'd) Tim Caughley

Professor Christine Chinkin

David, Lord Ramsbotham, GCB, CBE

Madeleine Rees OBE (to 17 July 2015)
Nomi Bar-Yaacov Adv.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 17 July 2015, and adopted the 2014 Accounts and Annual Report. The Board faithfully undertook their duties of oversight and support, with frequent and supportive contact especially between the Board Chair and Executive Director.

Staff/Personnel

After reducing her hours to 3 days a week in 2015, Rebecca Johnson continued to serve as Acronym's Executive Director. Clare Conboy joined Acronym half time as web and communications manager in February. Natalie Goldring continued to represent Acronym at UN and other meetings relating to conventional and small arms control and the Arms Trade Treaty.

Executive Director: Dr Rebecca Johnson
Director, Conventional Arms and Trade: Dr Natalie Goldring
Web and Communications Manager: Clare Conboy
Book keeper (to 15 December 2015), Julia Clancy

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Accountants during 2015

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Accountants for 2015 accounts (appointed 3 May 2016)

Simon Kingsley, AIMS Accountants for Business, 58 Montague Road, London, E8 2HW
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Signed on Behalf of the Board

David Atwood (Chair)