

Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy

ICAN Partner

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ACRONYM INSTITUTE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016

prepared by Dr Rebecca Johnson, Executive Director

1. Summary

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

In 2016, Acronym launched a new, interactive website and social media platforms and worked mainly on the following issues:

- Humanitarian disarmament – collaborating closely with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) to achieve a UN mandate to negotiate a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, working through the UN's 2016 Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on "taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations" in Geneva, and the UN General Assembly's First Committee in New York;
- Education and outreach to strengthen implementation of existing agreements, ranging from the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW PoA);
- Development and launch of the 'Nukes of Hazard' collaborative project (with ICAN-UK) on the local and humanitarian risks and consequences of UK nuclear weapons production, deployment and warhead convoys on public roads in England and Scotland; and
- Highlighting concerns about the international security, humanitarian and environmental impacts of UK nuclear and military policies, taking into account climate destruction, space, cyber and new weapons developments.

Acronym was grateful to be funded in 2016 through grants from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and Polden Puckham Charitable Foundation, which covered two part-time staff members. Executive director Dr Rebecca Johnson focussed mainly on strategic developments, networking, research and education, prioritising alternative security thinking, nuclear dangers, humanitarian disarmament, treaty formation and implementation, and women, peace and security. Clare Conboy developed outreach and communications strategies to reach wider audiences for Acronym and the Nukes of Hazard project. Dr Natalie Goldring, Acronym's director for Conventional Arms and Trade, has continued Acronym's work on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and small arms, augmenting her academic position in Washington DC.

Acronym engaged actively in various international civil society networks, including ICAN, International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM), Pugwash, Control Arms, the International Action Network on Small 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 the No Trident Replacement Core Group (NTR), ICAN-UK, the Nuclear Weapons Policy Liaison Group (NWPLG), Nukewatch, Trident Ploughshares, Religions for Peace and other interfaith networks.

Acronym's work with governments and ICAN was especially effective in 2016, culminating in the UN General Assembly's adoption of resolution 71/258 on 23 December. This built on the OEWG's conclusions and contained a mandate and provisions for multilateral negotiations in 2017 on a "legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination".

When the OEWG opened in Geneva in February, Acronym's director was invited by the Chair of the OEWG to present an overview of "Effective legal measures: Possible pathways towards a nuclear-weapon-free world", and respond to questions and discussions arising in the first three plenary sessions. During the OEWG, Acronym worked closely with ICAN, and from May to October served as Facilitator of ICAN's International Steering Group (ISG). As well as the presentation being featured on UN and NGO websites, Acronym Institute's further analysis on "Security and humanitarian implications of relying on nuclear weapons for deterrence, and effective legal alternatives" was published as an OEWG working paper, as A/AC.286/NGO/22/Rev.1. Dr Johnson and Clare Conboy also attended the follow on sessions of the OEWG, spoke at associated meetings and organised side events on humanitarian impacts on nuclear weapons.

To support conventional arms control efforts, Dr Natalie Goldring attended the Biennial Meeting of States on the SALW Programme of Action (BMS6) in New York and the Second Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty in Geneva. She worked with diplomats and nongovernmental organizations to evaluate progress and enhance areas of synergy between the PoA and ATT. In addition Dr Goldring served as the North American lead for the NGOs participating in both conferences, and in support of the objectives of IANSA, working to reduce and prevent gun violence. Acronym also enabled various ICAN partners to participate in UN meetings and events.

In May, Acronym participated in the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, on the invitation of the governments of Austria and Mexico. Dr Johnson spoke at the session on Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons, giving a presentation on preventing further nuclear uses, risks and dangers. She also gave presentations on verification and technical issues at Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) meetings in Vienna, and a lecture at the UK's Defence Academy, Shrivenham, on the role of defence services in war prevention and building peace and security.

The Acronym Institute and UNA Scotland organised a major conference at the Scottish Parliament in December with local and international speakers on the Humanitarian and Environmental Impacts and Responsibilities of Hosting Nuclear Weapons. Acronym also provided oral and written contributions to both the Labour and Liberal-Democrat parties' 2016 reviews of security, defence and nuclear policies.

As part of Acronym's educational remit, Dr Johnson gave lectures and presentations, including ISODARCO/Pugwash courses in Italy, CTBTO courses in Vienna, and ICAN campaigners meetings in Geneva, Princeton University in the United States, and at Meiji University and Nagasaki University in Japan, as well as a private roundtable with Japanese Parliamentarians. Speaking engagements in the UK included Manchester, Bristol, Edinburgh, Norfolk, Essex, Hereford, Reading and London. The topics included humanitarian initiatives to end reliance on nuclear weapons, nuclear and security challenges, and UK nuclear and defence policy developments.

Publications and media outreach during 2016 included nine articles by Dr Johnson in *openDemocracy* and six pieces by Dr Goldring in various publications, as well as interviews on the BBC, NHK and in Asahi Shimbun (Japan).

Though Acronym's management role in ICAN-UK was transferred during the year to Medact, Clare Conboy took the communications lead in the collaborative project on the risks and dangers of the Trident warhead convoys, producing five short films and materials for the Nukes of Hazard website. Acronym produced and printed the Nukes of Hazard report, authored by Rob Edwards, and related leaflets, and Clare cross-referenced ICAN and Acronym's various publications and events using facebook and twitter as well as the two websites. By offering a more visual and youth-friendly way into the complex issues of disarmament and security, these tools are increasing outreach and understanding of security and disarmament issues beyond the academic and diplomatic audience that Acronym has previously served.

The Board of Directors, chaired by David Atwood, met electronically (to save cost and time) with additional face to face meetings between the Chair and staff, as possible. Two long-standing directors, Sir Hugh Beach and Tim Caughley retired from Acronym's Board in June and October 2016 respectively, and will be very much missed.

2. Communications, Social Media and Publications

After launching the Acronym Institute's new website in April 2016, Clare Conboy took responsibility for setting up a new website for the Nukes of Hazard, and increasing the visual content across the range of social media platforms. There were some glitches when academics were unable to access past content due to archiving the previous websites, but that has now been resolved to provide online access to Acronym's 20 years of articles and reports on disarmament and arms control, including issues of *Disarmament Diplomacy* 1996-2009.

Using visual and social media tools, Clare highlighted the humanitarian imperative for banning nuclear weapons in five short film pieces. In particular, the introductory film about the warhead convoys for YouTube and Facebook was viewed over 3,500 times, and an interview with Caroline Lucas MP, chair of Parliamentary CND, reached over 21,500 people. Clare's longer interview with a British nuclear test veteran served to explain to a new generation the radiation dangers of nuclear weapons, with compelling personal testimony about the experience and human costs of being contaminated by the UK nuclear test programme in the 1950s.

In addition to taking overall responsibility for the Nukes of Hazard website, Acronym produced and printed the Nukes of Hazard report written by Scottish investigative journalist Rob Edwards about the risks, accidents and problems besetting the UK's transports of nuclear warheads on public roads between AWE Burghfield and RNAD Coulport in Scotland, as well as leaflets and posters for the NoH project.

As listed below, Natalie published various articles on the ATT and conventional arms control, and *openDemocracy* published nine articles from Rebecca, ranging from analyses of the humanitarian initiatives and Open-Ended Working Group to the security impact of Brexit, international grassroots resistance to violence against women, as well as a three-part series critiquing the UK Parliament's 18 July debate on Trident.

Articles published in 2016

Rebecca Johnson, 'World Courts of Women: against war, for peace', *openDemocracy*, 25 January 2016

Rebecca Johnson, 'Britain's boycott of the UN multilateral nuclear disarmament talks', *openDemocracy*, 26 February 2016

Rebecca Johnson, *openDemocracy*, 'Millions rising to stop male violence', 15 March 2016

Rebecca Johnson, 'Trident or the EU: which is better for peace and security?' *openDemocracy*, 16 June 2016

Rebecca Johnson, 'What if? Security consequences of Brexit and Trident renewal', *openDemocracy*, 20 June 2016

Rebecca Johnson, 'Trident in a time warp: party politics vs defence needs', *openDemocracy*, 5 August 2016

Rebecca Johnson, 'Hiroshima: do the British Members of Parliament remember?' *openDemocracy*, 6 August 2016

Rebecca Johnson, 'Will Nagasaki be the last use of nuclear weapons?' *openDemocracy*, 9 August 2016

Rebecca Johnson, 'Historic UN vote to negotiate a Nuclear Ban Treaty in 2017', *openDemocracy*, 30 October 2016

Natalie Goldring, 'The Programme of Action, the Arms Trade Treaty, and the UN Register of Conventional Arms: Seeking Synergy and Overcoming Challenges', International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) Briefing Paper, June 2016.

Natalie Goldring, 'First Thoughts on Ways Forward After BMS6', *Small Arms Monitor*, Vol. 8 #6, June 2016.

Natalie Goldring, 'Growing Pains' *Arms Trade Treaty Monitor*', Vol. 9 #2, August 2016.

Natalie Goldring, 'Words Versus Deeds in Implementing the ATT', *Arms Trade Treaty Monitor*, Vol. 9 #3, August 2016.

Natalie Goldring, 'When a Vote is not a Vote,' *Arms Trade Treaty Monitor*, Vol. 9 #4, August 2016.

Natalie Goldring, 'Arms Transfers' *The SAGE Encyclopedia of War: Social Science Perspectives*, SAGE Publications, October 2016.

Natalie Goldring, 'Small Arms and Light Weapons', *First Committee Briefing Book*, Reaching Critical Will, October 2016.

Media appearances

Rebecca Johnson on BBC Radio 4's 'Agree to Differ' debate on Trident with Sir Malcolm Rifkind, first broadcast on 6 April 2016.

Rebecca Johnson on BBC Good Morning on revelations about 1980s Cabinet concerns about nuclear weapons and peace movement protests, 13 July 2016

Rebecca Johnson on BBC Radio 5 on Trident debate, 18 July 2016.

3. Meetings and Presentations

In 2016, the Acronym Institute, represented by Clare Conboy and Rebecca Johnson, participated fully in the three sessions of the UN Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on 'Taking forwards multilateral nuclear disarmament' in Geneva (February, May and August).

Clare Conboy, Natalie Goldring and Rebecca Johnson attended the UN General Assembly First Committee meetings in New York in October. Natalie Goldring represented the Acronym Institute at the Biennial Meeting of States on the Programme of Action (BMS6) on Small Arms and Light Weapons in New York, the Second Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty in Geneva.

The Acronym Institute also participated fully in international and national networking and strategy meetings of relevant NGOs. Rebecca attended the fortnightly ICAN International Steering Group skype meetings and the monthly UK meetings of the No Trident Replacement Core Group (NTR), with Clare alternating as necessary. Clare attended the weekly ICAN-UK staff meetings held from April-September 2016, and Rebecca participated when possible in the periodic meetings of the Nuclear Weapons Policy Liaison Group (NWPLG). Natalie participated wherever possible in meetings of Control Arms and IANSA dealing with the Arms Trade Treaty, small arms and light weapons, and gun control initiatives.

In addition, **Rebecca Johnson** undertook a range of public and educational meetings, lectures and roundtables in 2016 on behalf of Acronym and ICAN, as listed here.

9-14 January, 2016, Italy, 29th ISODARCO Winter Course on Nuclear Governance in a Changing World, gave lectures to a group of students from various countries in science and international relations student on 'The humanitarian initiative and Pledge: an effective route to achieve nuclear disarmament?' and on 'Non-proliferation, disarmament and civil society' and ran an additional seminar at the students' request on the humanitarian disarmament approach.

15 January, London, Friends House Euston, chaired Nuclear Convoy strategy meeting on behalf of ICAN-UK.

16 January, Manchester Friends Meeting House, spoke for ICAN-UK at a meeting of Manchester peace groups, MPs and local council representatives on the nuclear convoys and humanitarian and environmental imperatives to ban nuclear weapons.

25-28 January, Vienna, CTBTO Symposium on Science and Diplomacy for Peace and Security, spoke on the panel on 'The Future of Multilateral Arms Control Verification: Lessons from the CTBT' and chaired the panel on 'Civil Society in Support of the CTBT'

2 February, Bristol, spoke at a public meeting organised by Bristol CND and Stop the War on "the connections between banning nuclear weapons, preventing war and tackling poverty and inequality".

4-5 February, 2016, Geneva, participated in the Independent Commission on Multilateralism (ICM) meeting, chaired by former Australian PM Kevin Rudd and India's former UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, ICM Secretary-General, on "WMDs, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament".

22-23 February, United Nations, Geneva, UN Open-ended Working Group on Multilateral Disarmament, plenary presenter both days on "Effective legal measures: Possible pathways towards a nuclear-weapon-free world".

24 February, BBC London, recorded "Agree to Differ" hour-long debate with former foreign and defence secretary Sir Malcolm Rifkind, hosted by Matthew Taylor (RSA).

29 February, 2016, Chatham House meeting with Sharon Dolev, Israeli Disarmament Movement (ICAN Partner), hosted by Dr Patricia Lewis.

14-15 March, International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM) meeting at AAAS Washington DC, spoke on UK nuclear developments.

16 March, Ploughshares, Washington DC, presenter at roundtable on the humanitarian initiatives to ban nuclear weapons, co-hosted by the Ploughshares Fund, ACA and Physicians for Social Responsibility.

16-17 March, Washington DC private meetings with State Department and White House officials.

21 March 2016, SOAS, London, gave lecture on Nuclear Governance at Pugwash Students conference.

22 March 2016, House of Commons, private meeting followed by open Parliamentary discussion hosted by Emily Thornberry, Shadow Defence spokesperson, with members of the Parliamentary Labour Party and Nick Ritchie, Westminster Parliament.

4 April 2016, Liberal Democrat Party HQ, London, gave testimony to Liberal Democrats nuclear weapons consultation process.

20-21 April 2016, London Goldsmiths University, spoke on the parallels between initiatives on space weapons control and robot arms control at the International Committee on Robot Arms Control (ICRAC) Summit.

22 April 2016, Gresham School Norfolk, lecture to school students on humanitarian initiatives to ban nuclear weapons.

30 April-1 May, Geneva, ICAN Campaigners Meeting, spoke on current developments and strategies to achieve the nuclear ban treaty.

2 -12 May, United Nations Geneva, active participation in OEWG on multilateral nuclear disarmament, including speaking at an event organised by CND on the potential impact of a nuclear ban treaty on UK nuclear policy and Trident renewal (2 May), and organising and chairing a side event on 'Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons, from 1945 to Future Security', with Setsuko Thurlow, Dr Ira Helfand (IPPNW and PSR) and Ambassador Thomas Hajnoczi, Permanent representative of Austria to the UN (3 May).

12 May, Friends House Euston, co-organised and introduced Setsuko Thurlow, Hiroshima Hibakusha at public meeting on humanitarian imperatives to ban nuclear weapons.

13 May, London FCO, Dialogue on Non-Proliferation, followed by farewell dinner for Setsuko Thurlow hosted by Acronym.

20 May, Hereford, Trident Renewal Debate with local MP Jesse Norman, organised by Hereford Peace Groups.

23-25 May, Istanbul, World Humanitarian Summit, gave powerpoint presentation on "Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons: regional and global risks, accidental, mistaken or intentional detonations" at session organised by the Austrian and Mexican governments.

4 June, London, ICAN-UK Hackathon on Nukes of Hazard.

5-7 July, Edinburgh, UNA House and UNA Scotland, preparatory meetings for the Edinburgh Conference

13 July, Westminster Parliament, briefed CND members to meet their MPs.

25-28 July, Tokyo, Forum on Nuclear Issues meeting on the OEWG and nuclear ban treaty (Meiji University); Komei Party's Nuclear Abolition Committee seminar (Japanese Parliament) with additional meetings with MPs and Soka Gakkai leaders.

29-31 July, Nagasaki, Asahi Shimbun International Peace Symposium on "Obama vision of nuke-free world faces paradox", with Bob Gallucci. I gave talk on the humanitarian alternative of a multilateral nuclear ban treaty and discussed alternatives for North-East Asia to address the North Korean nuclear challenge.

6 August, Brighton, spoke at Hiroshima Day commemoration organised by WILPF and Brighton Peace Groups, with Mayor Pete West.

7 August, Southampton, spoke at Hiroshima-Nagasaki commemoration, organised by MedAct and other Southampton Peace Groups.

15-19 August, United Nations Geneva, participated in the final week of the OEWG negotiations.

13 September, London, participated in meetings on "Impact of emerging technologies on future of SSBNs", organised by Pugwash.

16 September, London, panel speaker at a World Council of Churches Interfaith meeting with Dr Rufus Okikiola Oshitelu, Primate and Metropolitan Archbishop, organised by ICAN Nigeria partner Adebayo Antony Kehinde.

21 September, Birmingham, Nukes of Hazard Report launch with Nukewatch, ICAN partners and author Rob Edwards.

26-27 September, London, Pugwash roundtable on Security Challenges & Nuclear Weapons in Europe.

29 September, Swindon, UK Defence Academy Shrivenham, gave lecture on "Green Approaches on the Role of Defence Services in War Prevention and Building Peace and Security".

3 October, London, Organised and hosted public meeting at Friends House Euston with Peace Boat, Hibakusha, Mayors for Peace and Nuclear Free Local Authorities.

9-20 October, NY, United Nations General Assembly First Committee

10 October, NY Center for Constitutional Rights, brown bag lunch on "Feminist legal challenges to nuclear war preparations, from Greenham to a nuclear ban treaty".

12 October, Princeton University, presentation on "Trident Debate in UK politics", with consideration of likely impact of UN nuclear ban treaty.

15-16 October, NY Pace University, Humanitarian Disarmament Conference, coordinated break-out sessions on 'tackling consistently tricky countries' and building national networks.

22-23 October, Manchester, CND Conference, ran workshop on Trident, Nukes of Hazard and how the UN nuclear ban treaty initiatives could change UK nuclear policy.

25 October 2016, Millichap lecture, Hereford, on "Peace-building through Non-violent action and Treaty-making"

2-4 November, Brussels, EU Consortium Non-Proliferation conference.

4 November, London Friends Euston, spoke at Conscience meeting on gender and humanitarian impacts of military spending and the arms trade, with Medact, Quakers and CND.

5-7 December, Utrecht, ICAN ISG Strategy Retreat

9 December, Scottish Parliament Edinburgh, Conference on the Humanitarian and Environmental Impacts and Responsibilities of Hosting Nuclear Weapons, co-organised by Acronym Institute and UNA Scotland, with Members of Parliament and civic society. Provided opening plenary analysis on the UN resolution to negotiate, and the summary report of the Conference.

14 December, Parliamentary CND, Westminster, presented on UN nuclear ban resolution.

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 monitoring the CTBT negotiations and NPT meetings, among others, 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 2016:

David Atwood Ph.D (Chair)

Sir Hugh Beach GBE, KCB, MC (resigned June 2016)

Ambassador (ret'd) Tim Caughley (resigned October 2016)

Professor Christine Chinkin

David, Lord Ramsbotham, GCB, CBE

Nomi Bar-Yaacov Adv.

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 2 days a week in 2016, Rebecca Johnson continued to serve as Acronym's Executive Director, serving also as facilitator for ICAN's International Steering Group. Clare Conboy developed Acronym's website, facebook and communications and led our engagement with the Nukes of Hazard project with ICAN-UK, working 2.5 days per week for Acronym and 0.5 days per week from April to September 2016 for ICAN-UK. 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

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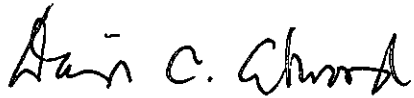
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Signed on Behalf of the Board

David Atwood (Chair)



Date

6 October 2017