

## A national urgency; an international fast

Every year, an International fast is held in France, Britain, Germany, the US and Japan between Hiroshima and Nagasaki days (6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> August). Initiated over thirty years ago in France, the fast takes place in sorrow and in commemoration of the 300,000 deaths at the atomic bombings of Japan.

As well as an act of remembrance, the fast is an Action-fast, to protest against the ongoing possession of nuclear weapons by 9 states.

These include the United Kingdom, whose government and establishment are poised to push through the replacement of Trident. Such a replacement, if enacted, risks perpetuating the UK's status as both a target and a threat to the world, whereas the UK could, by renouncing Trident, make an extraordinary and decisive contribution to world peace.

Worldwide, numerous distinguished public figures have called for the elimination of all nuclear weapons. In December 2015, 139 countries have pledged "to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons." The UN has set up a working group whose explicit brief is to develop legal instruments to enforce and monitor nuclear disarmament by all countries.

The nuclear-armed states including France and the UK are opposed to this initiative, and to all initiatives genuinely aimed at achieving nuclear disarmament by all. The voice of citizens everywhere is required in support of the majority of nations who are saying that enough is enough.

We will be fasting to convey a double message:

**To the UK government and people:**

**No Trident replacement!**

**To all nations and their peoples:**

**Abolish all nuclear weapons!**

## Come and Join us!

This year, the fast takes on particular significance in Britain: this is the year in which the decision on Trident renewal will be taken in Parliament. This year as in 2015 we will be fasting near the seat of military and political power in Britain: Whitehall, Downing Street, the Ministry of Defence.

**Whether to fast with us or simply to join us in peaceful protest, you will be welcome. Some of us will be camping out, but indoor accommodation will also be provided.**

**Our program may include vigils outside MoD building and Parliament, and forms of Direct Action.**

*For more details contact:*

**Marc Morgan** at 07563 725 829 or marcwmorgan@btinternet.com

The fast is organised:

- in France by *Maison de Vigilance* and *Sortir du Nucléaire*

<http://maisondevigilance.com/projets.htm>

- in Germany, by the International Fellowship of Reconciliation – for details see:

<http://www.buechel-atomwaffenfrei.de/>

- In Britain, by Trident Ploughshares:

<http://tridentploughshares.org/fast-2016/>

It is supported by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, by Christian CND, by Trident Ploughshares and Tottenham Quakers, and by ICAN, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

