

Bairns Not Bombs Blockade Briefing Faslane 13 April 2015. 7am - 3pm.



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Introduction: Now is the time for Action!

This is a pivotal time both globally and for the UK in the long struggle for nuclear disarmament. With increasing tension between Russia and the US/NATO over Ukraine it is vital that nuclear weapons be consigned to the dustbin. One hundred and fifty eight countries met in Vienna to consider the unacceptable humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons with the result that the Austrian government issues the Vienna Pledge calling for “the legal gap” in the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty to be closed and nuclear weapons finally to be banned.



And with the Main Gate decision on Trident replacement due in 2016 the next Westminster Parliament will determine whether the UK will continue to threaten the world with nuclear weapons for the next fifty years. The large numbers of voters flocking to anti-Trident parties following the the Scottish independence referendum has shifted the political landscape in the run up to the General Election in May. And with the SNP, The Greens and Plaid

Cymru saying Trident is a Red Line for their support for a Labour led government it seems possible, for the first time in thirty years that Trident could go. For anyone that doesn't know “Bairns” is the Scots word for children and during the referendum there were lots of Bairns Not Bombs stickers on cars. We're calling this demo and blockade Bairns Not Bombs because its about our positive vision of a better world for generations to come.

By shutting the base down just 3 weeks before the General Election the Bairns Not Bombs Blockade will dramatize our determined opposition to Trident and send a signal to voters UK wide: VOTE TRIDENT OUT. We need to make sure that people know that the next Westminster Parliament will decide the fate of Trident. This is a once in a lifetime chance to stop Trident, and if the UK relinquishes its nuclear weapons it will help propel the global movement to ban the bomb.

In addition the Big Blockade is part of the Global Day of Action on Military Spending. People all over the world will be acting simultaneously against the billions squandered by governments the world over on useless weapons and calling for the resources to be redirected to human needs.

By taking part in or supporting the Bairns Not Bombs blockade you will be part of a renewed and coordinated anti-nuclear movement that is taking place across the UK and around the world as nuclear states are all embarking on massive programmes to modernise their nuclear forces even as the vast majority of countries are calling for a ban on nuclear weapons. On March 2nd Action AWE organised the Burghfield Lock Down at the facility near Reading where Trident warheads are assembled, also calling on people to ACT. SPEAK. And VOTE. Later in April a big anti nuclear weapons demo is

planned in New York. And on 4 April we will fill George Square with what we hope will be the biggest anti Trident rally in Scotland in years

We have put together this briefing pack to give you as much information as possible so that you can feel informed and confident in taking part in the blockade, even if it's the first time you've ever done anything like this. Please take the time to read the information and get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Essential Information

Everyone who is planning to take part in the blockade is encouraged to take part in Nonviolence training and action planning at Kinning Park Complex in Glasgow on Sunday 12 April from 12 noon on.



There will be space at the Convergence Centre on the floor in the hall for people to sleep overnight. **Transport out to Faslane will leave from Kinning Park Complex at 5:30am on the day of the Blockade and from other locations in Glasgow and other cities (see website for times of buses from other locations).**

We need to plan for numbers for meals, accommodation and seats on transport to Faslane so **If you are planning to come to the blockade please download a registration form from scraptrident.org. and buy a bus ticket.**

The Plan

The morning-shift enters the base between 7am and 9am. We will start the blockade at the North Gate, South Gate and Oil Depot gates at 7am to prevent the workers entering and stay until 3pm.

Most of us will arrive on buses from the Kinning Park Convergence Centre and elsewhere in Glasgow or other cities. Some affinity groups may arrive independently, or later. Groups arranging to arrive later can reinvigorate the blockade if previous blockaders have been arrested. We would like to keep the blockade going until 3pm by which time any shift workers will have given up and gone home for the day. However, once the blockade has begun traffic will be backed up so this should be taken into account (see *Getting There*).

We hope there will be a festival atmosphere at the gates, with music, creative costumes, lock-ons and diverse blockading techniques, so a fun day will be had by all. The South gate in particular will have a samba band and possibly a sound system. Usually, all those blocking the entrances to the base are arrested, but on one occasion previously the police left everyone on the road all day and no arrests were made. We don't know how the police will handle this and you should be prepared for both scenarios. Come

prepared to stay for as long as you can so we can keep the base shut down for as long as possible. Normally anyone staying on the pavement and off the road near the gate will not be arrested.

Why Nonviolent Direct Action ?

Successive governments have failed to bring about disarmament despite agreeing to do so 45 years ago under the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Any use of nuclear weapons would be illegal under international law. And because Trident and other nuclear weapons are 10 times the size of the Hiroshima bomb any use would be a humanitarian catastrophe and devastate the planet probably causing widespread famine.

Most people feel that Trident is wrong, immoral, or even illegal. Most people, in Scotland at least, want it done away with. And most countries in the world do not have nuclear weapons and support a treaty to ban them.

But our government is able to continue to deploy these horrendous weapons against our will because we let it. What if we refused to put up with it any longer? What if thousands, or even tens of thousands of us disrupted the deployment of Trident?

One blockade by itself will not force the government to disarm Trident (unless tens of



thousands of us take part! - let's hope that happens!). But neither will a demonstration by itself. Yet NVDA is an effective (and inspiring) tool for dramatizing the injustice of the status quo. Taking part in or supporting nonviolent direct action is a very powerful way of expressing what we think and feel and can help us to become more committed campaigners. Symbolically shutting down the base is also an effective way get a message across to the

public via the media. Many of us believe that when we get arrested resisting Trident, we will not be breaking the law but upholding it.

Civil resistance has been used time and again in campaigns that have brought major change. Just think of Gandhi's salt march, Rosa Parks refusing to move to the back of the bus or many actions of the suffragists. Most people would say now that empire, segregation and denying women the right to vote were wrong and that nonviolent direct action in those campaigns was right and effective . In the same way civil resistance is an important tool in our kit. Indeed direct action at Faslane has helped bring us to where we are with a Scottish government that opposes Trident and raised the question of Trident replacement in Electoral politics. But we have to keep up the pressure.

Non-Violent Direct Action Workshops

We ask that everyone planning to take part in or support the blockade take part in a direct action workshop either at the Convergence Centre on Sunday 12th April or at a training in your local area, if at all possible, even if you have taken part in nvda training before. We will cover our non-violence guidelines, passive resistance, practicalities (such as what to wear), blockading techniques, the arrest process, legal follow up and affinity group formation. You will have ample opportunity to ask about any concerns. By the end of the workshop you'll know what to expect during the blockade and feel part of a group who will know what they want to do and who will look after one another and have a great time. Even if you do not plan to be "arrestable" or in a support role during the blockade you are welcome to take part in the training. Everyone is welcome and there will be no pressure on anyone to do anything they are not comfortable with.

Non-violence Guidelines

We ask that everyone taking part in this action at Faslane is committed to the following:

- We will always act in a way that causes no harm to ourselves or others
 - Our attitude will be one of sincerity and respect to everyone we encounter
 - We will not engage in physical violence or verbal abuse to anyone we encounter
 - We will carry no weapons
 - We will not bring or use alcohol or drug other than for medical purposes
 - We will clear the blockade to allow emergency vehicles in or out of the base and then resume the blockade afterwards
- Traditionally we don't view non-violent damage to property as violence, such as cutting through the fence at Faslane.

Working together during the Blockade



Ideally, everyone taking part in or supporting the blockade should be in an affinity group of 6-12 people who will support each other throughout the action and beyond. Affinity groups include people taking part in arrestable action as well as individuals who perform support roles, such as legal observer and media support. (We'll go through what these roles entail in the Support Role section). We're calling for self-sufficient affinity groups to make plans for the blockade. This will help the blockade be successful, and ensure everyone is included and safe. If you know some people

who'd like to form an affinity group to prepare prior to the blockade but would like more information or advice please contact us to arrange a free NVDA training workshop. Email scraptrident@gmail.com

If you're not part of an affinity group, and can't form one before the blockade, please try to be at the NVDA workshop in Glasgow on Sunday 12th April, where you can join a group.

Blockading Techniques

This is not meant to be a definitive guide to blockading. There are many online resources for this and if you feel that you need some extra information or a workshop, please get in touch (see Contacts at the end of the briefing). We will also go through this at the workshops in Glasgow on Sunday 12th.

Sitting down: Many people will take part in the blockade by simply sitting on the road, linking arms or holding hands. Some people will “go limp” when arrested so that the police have to carry them, thus making it more difficult to clear the road. This is called “passive resistance” and is a tactic often used in peaceful protests.

“Locking on”: To make it more difficult for the police to remove them some people chain themselves together or join their hands together through metal, or plastic tubes and lock together using carabiners (climbing clips) attached to chain or rope around their wrists. These “lock-ons” can be really fun to make, you can get very creative with household and garden shed materials (but remember your own safety and that of the “cutting team” who will be removing you. **Please do not put anything sharp into a lock-on**). The tubes have to be long enough to prevent the police sliding them along your arms to reveal the chain or rope holding your hands together. The police will try to confiscate any lock-ons and may arrest people with lock-ons before they get to the gate. The police are very good at spotting lock-on tubes, so a degree of creativity is essential in hiding them, e.g. as part of a fancy dress costume or a prop for street theatre, inside rucksacks, instrument cases, even Maypoles and cuddly toys!



Other techniques: Throughout the vibrant history of activism at Faslane, people have used lots of wacky and wonderful techniques to blockade. Super-glue has been successfully used by people to super-glue their own hands together after linking arms, or inside a lock-on tube. People have even covered themselves in paint to put the police off dealing with them.

We hope that the blockade will last into the afternoon, so please be prepared to be there a while. Bring something padded to sit on, warm, waterproof clothing and snacks. Try to keep hydrated, whilst remembering that a full bladder is not ideal when in a “lock-on” situation.

Whatever you do, please bear in mind your own safety and that of those around you. If you do have any doubts, safety concerns or even just need help with ideas, please get in touch. You can request a free workshop that will help you get prepared prior to the event, and there are more details about what happens when you are locked-on a bit later in the briefing.

(Practical tip: If you plan to lock-on **don't drink anything in the morning**. Carry a small backpack with a water bottle to drink later and a sandwich and snack for the police van and a book to read in the cells.)

Accommodation

There will be floor space for sleeping at the Kinning Park Complex Convergence Centre, for the Sunday & Monday nights. You must register with us and let us know when to expect you at the accommodation. Go to <http://scraptrident.org/training-workshops/accommodation-and-training-registration/> to register for accommodation and NVDA Training.

If you anticipate getting arrested, you may need to register for accommodation on the Monday evening, as you may not be released from police custody until quite late (see *the Legal Briefing section for more details*).

Please note that Safer Spaces and No Alcohol agreements will be in place at the accommodation, as well as the same non-violence guidelines applicable to the blockade (see Safe Spaces in the Blockade section of www.scraptrident.org).

You should bring your own sleeping bags and mats, and there will be storage for these and personal belongings while we are away at the blockade. Hot vegan meals will be provided in the evenings as well as sandwich and breakfast making facilities. The accommodation and food will be funded on a donations basis so please give what you can afford.

If you are unable to sleep on the floor for health or other reasons and can't make other arrangements we will try to find you alternative accommodation, but please only request this via the registration form if you need it, as spaces will be limited.

Getting To Faslane (See Maps at end of this Briefing)

By bus

If you plan to get to Faslane on our coaches you must book your ticket via the Scrap Trident Website. <http://scraptrident.org/faslane-blockade-2015/book-bus-to-blockade/>.

Buses will be going to Faslane from Kinning Park and George Square at 5:30am and Botanic Gardens at 5:40am and from other locations in Glasgow and from Edinburgh and other cities. Details on the website.

By road

Take the M8 through Glasgow city centre and leave at Junction 17 (towards Dumbarton). At traffic lights, turn right onto the Great Western Road (A82), follow this road out of Glasgow. Approaching Dumbarton take left turn signposted for Helensburgh (A814). Continue through Dumbarton on to Helensburgh. Stay on the A814 through Helensburgh and Rhu and on to Faslane, 5 miles North of Helensburgh. If you are bringing a coach straight to Faslane, please get in touch for details of where we are meeting up to travel in convoy to the base and drop-off and parking arrangements.

If you plan to come by car, please note that there are parking restrictions around the base. There is limited parking near the North Gate, at the Peace Camp, which is close to the South Gate and more room on the Slip Road parallel to the A814 before the Peace Camp (turn right at the sign for Linnburn. Please don't block driveways) There is some parking in Garelochhead (one mile walk back to the North Gate) or you could park in the Pier car park

in Helensburgh and take public transport or one of our coaches out to the blockade. Spaces will be reserved at the Cemetery Car Park near the North Gate for people with access needs coming by car but, please contact us in advance to let us know of your needs so we can plan to make adequate arrangements. You must plan to get to the cemetery car park before 7am otherwise you will be caught in the tailback! Once the blockade has started (at 7am) it might be difficult to take public transport out to Faslane.

By Public Transport

Trains leave from Glasgow Queen St Low-level starting at 6.01 and thereafter at 41 and 11 minutes past the hour, arriving Helensburgh Central at 6.57, then at 24 and 54 minutes past the hour. The number 316 bus leaves from opposite Helensburgh railway station at 7.10, 8.05 and 9.05, arriving at Faslane about 14 minutes later. Local activists may offer lifts out to Faslane if you are waiting at the bus stop. Alternatively, the West Highland Line train leaves Glasgow Queen Street at 5.48 (NOTE: this is the sleeper), then 8.21 and 9.03 and arrives in Garelochhead at 6.44, 9.16 and 10.03 respectively. The walk from Garelochhead station to the North Gate takes roughly 25mins. From the station, walk down the hill toward the A814, then turn left and follow the road south toward the fuel depot gate and the North Gate.

LEGAL BRIEFING

In this briefing we are building on many years of experience of blockading and direct action at Faslane. Thousands have been arrested here (many for the first time) whilst many more have taken part without being arrested, and for the majority, it has been a positive, even liberating experience. We want to support all those who get arrested as best we can, so **we are asking anyone coming to Faslane for the action to register with the Legal Support Team**, even if you are sure you are not going to risk arrest, just in case. **This registration is separate from the accommodation registration.** You can fill out and hand in the Legal Support form at the convergence centre in Glasgow, or on the buses on the way to Faslane. The form is essential for us to be able to track you through custody and come to collect you when you are released. It will also help us follow up any further legal support you might need.



“Bust Cards” will also be given out to everyone on the day, which will have basic information on your rights, as well as contact numbers for the Legal Support Teams and a lawyer. These will both be available to download from the website, but please make sure the Legal Support Team have a copy of your registration form if you are arriving to take part in the blockade independently. Hand it to one of the Legal Support people at the gates (instantly recognisable in their high-vis vests!). They will make sure it gets back to Glasgow.

There will be Legal Observers at the gates who will monitor arrests. It is best if each affinity group has its own legal observer as well. The Legal Observer will note when you have been arrested and alert the Legal Support Team back in Glasgow. If you think no-one has noticed your arrest, shout out your name and that you are being arrested. Don't

worry if you haven't been spotted as arrested at the gate, as you can ask the police to contact us via the number on the Bust Card.

Once arrested, it is hard to say how long the period in custody will be. At the previous big blockades the vast majority have been released the same day, or evening, or right through to the early hours of the next morning, with only a small number being held over for court the next day. Sometimes that has meant being held in the court cells all the next day and then just being released without appearing in the dock. If it is your first "offence", it is likely that you will be released the same day with the charges dropped, but you may still be prosecuted later. Everyone will be taken to holding cells in police stations in Glasgow, possibly after a spell in a processing centre near to Faslane. In previous blockades, up to eight police stations have been used due to the sheer number of arrests, which is why it is so important that you fill out the Legal Support form. By doing so, we can track you through the police system, find out what station you have been taken to, when you will be released and arrange for someone to come and pick you up.

Possible Charges

This section will cover possible charges, most of which will be worst case scenario, so please don't worry. It is likely that the vast majority of people will be charged with Breach of the Peace and /or Resisting Arrest. Most charges incurred during peaceful actions at Faslane tend to be dropped, the courts just don't have the resources or the stomach for lots of anti-Trident trials.

Blockading

If you go on the road at the entrance to the base, it is likely that the police will tell you to move. If you refuse, then you may be arrested. Ironically, the most likely charge will be "Breach of the Peace"! If you do not wish to be arrested, you should move off the road and stay on the pavement.

Breach of the Peace is a common-law offence, (which means that it is defined by previous court judgments rather than by Act of Parliament). While the offence goes back centuries, the leading judgements (High Court rulings that define what BoP means) are fairly recent and tend to involve anti-nuclear protesters who blockaded Faslane! In theory, BoP requires conduct severe enough to cause alarm to ordinary people and threaten serious disturbance to the community. It should be conduct that is genuinely alarming and disturbing, in its context, to any reasonable person. While you personally may feel that your peaceful protest (against the most alarming and disturbing weapon in the world) does not fall under this definition, unfortunately, our courts usually rule that it does.

Resisting Arrest/Obstructing a Police Officer in the Course of Their Duty: If you are locked-on, fail to move when told to, or don't co-operate with walking to the police van, then you may get one of these charges, although it may (especially Resisting Arrest) be dropped before the case gets to court. Like BoP, these charges cover a huge range of situations but, given the non-violent and accountable nature of these actions, are towards the trivial end of the spectrum and would usually result in a small fine.

Other Offences

Faslane is a "designated site" under Section 129 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (SOCPA) as amended by the Terrorism Act 2006. This means that it's a potentially serious offence to be inside the fence line without 'lawful authority' (maximum penalty a year in prison). However, **this only applies if you go inside the fence line.**

As long as you stay outside the fence, even if you are on Ministry of Defence (MoD) land and/or blockading the gates, then you cannot be charged with this.

It is also possible that the police may use Section 14 of the Public Order Act, (for which the likely sentence, if convicted, would be a smallish fine). This allows them to put conditions on assemblies of people in certain situations, but we may well be able to challenge any Section 14 laws if they become too restrictive. If Section 14 is imposed, the police should provide a space for us to be in, and we'll be able to advise what is likely to be do-able without risking arrest once informed of the exact terms of the order. If there were a total ban on assembly imposed then it would make life more difficult for those not wishing to risk arrest, as supporters would become potentially arrestable. This has never been done before and is not likely, but if it did happen we would challenge it and keep everyone informed. Remember that the rights to Freedom of Expression and Assembly are enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights and in Scots Law via the Scotland Act and Human Rights Act.

At the last Big Blockade at Faslane in 2013 there were 45 arrests and only a couple of those (well known to Dumbarton Court!) were prosecuted and they were just admonished.

For possible future consequences of convictions, please see *the Consequences Section* at the end of this section.

On The Day

Bust Cards

Make sure you have the phone number of the Legal Support Team and of a solicitor with you. This will be provided on a Bust Card (you will get one of these at the accommodation, online or from the support at the gates). It's a good idea to write those numbers on your arm as well.

How will the police react?

The good news is that the police at Faslane are very used to dealing with peace protesters and so everyone usually remains calm and relaxed and arrests are generally respectful and predictable. During the Sunday training sessions there will be experienced Faslane arrestees on hand to discuss what to expect with those coming for the first time. Generally the police know we are committed to non-violence (they will probably be given copies of this briefing pack in their own briefing!). Though if you do notice any police getting heavy handed, you should take note of their identification number and take pictures if you can and report it to Legal Observers.

If you are blockading you will usually be given the opportunity to change your mind before you are arrested. Sometimes the warning is given over a megaphone to the whole group so if you want be on the road but avoid arrest keep alert and listen out. If you refuse to move when warned you will be informed that you are under arrest.. If you are "locked-on", often the police will then erect big blue barriers around your group, to "sterilise" the area, and allow the cutting team to safely set up the equipment they need to cut the lock-on away from your arm (if you are super-glued, they will use warm soapy water to free you). Our experiences of the cutting team have been really positive and they will go to great lengths to ensure your safety whilst they cut you out (in fact, it often

seems that they enjoy the opportunity to get their tools out and appreciate a challenging “lock-on”!). Once you have been freed from the lock-on you will be arrested.

What happens if I am arrested?

Firstly, you should be told that you are under arrest and what for. Then you will be asked to walk with two police officers, or, if you refuse, or “go limp”, you will be carried away (by four or more police officers) to a police van. Usually we are not handcuffed but if you are then let them know if they put them on too tight. They are designed to hurt more if you struggle so keep calm. They will give you a pat down search to make sure you have no weapons on you. At this point you may be asked for your details and be photographed or they might drive you to a processing centre near the base to do this. **The only questions you have to answer are your name, address, date and place of birth and nationality.**

You will have your charge read out to you and will be asked if you understand it and if you have anything to say in reply (please note that what you do say will be read out in court if you are eventually prosecuted, so you can use this to your advantage if you have an anti-nuclear rant prepared!). You will then be put into a van and taken to a police station in Glasgow, where you will be asked the same questions again and you will be searched and your belongings will be taken off you, so don't have anything potentially incriminating or illegal with you! This includes removing any jewellery, watches, shoes, belts or clothing with cords in the waist. You should be allowed to take a paperback book (and your glasses if you need them) to the cells with you.

The desk sergeant will ask if you want anyone to be informed that you are in custody. Ask them to call the Legal Support Team number on the Bust Card. They will also ask whether you want a solicitor informed (although for most people this won't be necessary unless they are actually taken to court). If you are injured or ill ask to see a doctor. Tell the police if you have any medical or dietary requirements. If you have prescription medication that you need, you are advised to bring it in its original labelled packaging although they probably won't let you have any of it without seeing a doctor. If your clothes are wet, tell the police taking you to your cell and they will give you a paper suit to wear. You will receive regular food (they even cater for vegans!) and tea and you can ask for water any time. You will be given blankets. You can also ask for a pencil and paper which helps pass the time.



You may be taken out of the cell at some point to have your photograph, fingerprints and DNA sample taken. (DNA is simply a cotton swab in the mouth). Please do not be alarmed by this - in Scotland, they are allowed to take all three of these when you are in custody, and normally do. If you refuse, they can take them by force, so it is best to be co-operative. It is not likely, but you may be asked to do an interview. Normally this is just the police taking an opportunity to gather information for forward intelligence about activism. You don't have to say anything and if you don't want to, you can say “no comment”. Talking during an interview can put you and potentially others in legal

difficulty and can provide the police with evidence or intelligence that can be used to disrupt or intimidate other activists.

Now you will have a boring wait ahead of you but don't worry, legal support will be keeping track of where you are.

What do I do when I get released?

If the police can confirm your details and they are satisfied that the action is over and the PF has given the go ahead you should be given your property back and released. The release process can take a long time if there are lots of people in custody, so be patient! The Legal Support Team will be tracking the progress of people in custody and should know that you're about to be released. If you are first out and no lift has arrived yet call the number on the Bust Card to let them know.



What happens if I am held for Court?

If you're charged with a more serious offence, have a warrant out for your arrest, your details don't check, you are already on court bail, or the PF has decided to be difficult it is possible that you will be held overnight until the following morning. This can often be the case with internationals if they cannot provide a UK address that can be confirmed. Sometimes people are told

they are being held for court and then they are released the following morning with warning letters, and the charges dropped. The decision to keep people overnight can be quite arbitrary so, if you are being held overnight, try not to worry, it doesn't necessarily mean you are in more trouble than those who are released.

Undertakings

Sometimes instead of being held for court people are released after agreeing to sign an "undertaking" to appear in court anytime from the next day to several weeks later (and sometimes they receive letters dropping the charges before the court date). You might be released from police custody on an undertaking on standard bail conditions, which in Scotland tend to be agreements not to break the law again before your court date (if you do, you could get an extra charge for Breach of Bail). Sometimes the police might add extra bail conditions e.g. agreeing not to go within 200 metres of Faslane before your court appearance. If you feel that any extra bail conditions are an infringement of your rights, you can refuse them and ask to speak to a lawyer. These police bail conditions can be challenged at your first court appearance. Bail in Scotland does not normally require money sureties.

After I'm released from the Police Station, will I hear any more about it?

You may be released from custody with a letter from the Procurator Fiscal (PF), usually saying that they have decided not to prosecute you this time, but you will be prosecuted if you do this again. (Some of us have quite a collection of these letters for repeated blockades of Faslane, so this is not 100% true!). You may be released on an undertaking to come back to court on a specified day if you signed a paper agreeing to

this, and you will be given a copy. If you signed the undertaking then it is an extra offence not to turn up to court on that day and a warrant may be issued. Note: you do not have to sign any undertaking – if you refuse they will either have to release you unconditionally or hold you until court the next day. If you're released without any paperwork (probably the most likely option given the numbers involved) then most people will hear nothing more about it. You may be offered a Fixed Penalty Notice which is a fine (usually about £50- £100) that you can pay without getting a criminal record. You may be cited to court. Faslane cases are heard in either the Justice of the Peace Court or the Sheriff Court in Dumbarton (the Procurator Fiscal decides)

Am I Guilty or Not?

If you do get prosecuted (i.e. have upcoming court dates), we will endeavour to give you continuing support and advice. Whether you plead guilty, or not guilty, is entirely up to you, and you can ask to see a lawyer for advice. Pleading guilty means that the court case will be fairly short and will be over at your first appearance. During this, your lawyer (or you, if you want to represent yourself) will have the opportunity to explain why you acted in the way that you did. A first offence conviction for BoP at Faslane normally gets you a fine of about £50- £200. If you plead guilty the Sheriff knocks a third off. If you have nothing on your record (and appear to be sorry) you may even get an admonishment - this is a ruling of guilty but with no sentence.



Pleading not guilty will mean that you normally have to appear in court twice more. One will be an Intermediate Diet, during which you confirm your initial plea (or change it if you wish) and say if you are ready for trial and a further date for the actual trial. This can be a lengthy process, but it gives you an opportunity to argue your case for doing what you did and challenge the absurdity of a legal system that protects nuclear weapons from peaceful protesters. If you decide to plead not guilty and go to trial, there will be support for you throughout this process.

Consequences of a conviction

Employment

A common concern of people getting involved in this type of action is the effect that getting arrested will have on their job. In some circumstances there can be issues here, although many people find it has little or no effect at all.

Job Contracts

If you have a job and are unsure of the level of support that your colleagues or bosses may give you then it might be a good idea to look at your job contract before you take action to see if there are any clauses stating that a conviction could lead to your dismissal. Bear in mind, however, that these clauses usually relate to offences of dishonesty such as theft or fraud, or to offences committed whilst at work, and may well not be applicable to arrests of this sort for non-violent actions taken in your spare time.

If your bosses are likely to be supportive then talk to them in general terms before you take action so that they are less surprised after it has happened, particularly as you may need to take time off work later to travel to court cases etc. If they are very sympathetic then you might want to ask them to take part with you or encourage other members of your work team to join in!

Publicity

While there will be a general aim to get publicity for Scrap Trident, it is perfectly okay for participants who don't want to be interviewed or photographed to stay out of the limelight as much as possible. In particular, you might want to consider whether local publicity in which you are shown or named might upset your relationship with your employer. If so, ensure that your group knows that you do not want your name to be given out to the press and that you will not give press interviews. There are some professions, for example solicitors, where an arrest might be treated as 'bringing the profession into disrepute' which in extreme cases might mean that you get struck off and can no longer practice. However, for most people, this kind of penalty would be extremely unlikely, especially if you are with others of the same profession and are making a considered protest on legal and moral grounds. If you do have worries about this, then it might be worth checking with your professional body, particularly if they have a confidential phone line.

Job Applications

The biggest impact of having a conviction might be when you are looking for new employment. If the job you are applying for involves working with children or vulnerable people then you will by law be required to have a Criminal Records check when you apply. In Scotland this is through Disclosure Scotland and in England & Wales through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The check discloses all convictions (including spent convictions, see later). You can't be employed



where these convictions relate to children or vulnerable adults. Otherwise, it is at the discretion of the employer whether to hire you. Being involved in the Scrap Trident blockade should not affect you working with children and vulnerable adults. However, you should explain to your prospective employer before they have the CR check done, so that they know the nature and context of your convictions, as if you leave it for them to find out, you may not get the chance to explain later. For other kinds of work the job application form may have a section asking about previous convictions (see below for info about what you must disclose). If you don't answer honestly and they find out you do have convictions then this would be grounds for your dismissal.

If you do tell them, make sure you explain what the convictions are for - not simply that it was a conviction for breach of the peace, for example, but explaining why you did it, the commitment to non-violence and prevention of crimes under international law. While many will respond positively to your explanation and decide that your actions show the kind of initiative and responsibility they would welcome in the job, there is of course the risk that they may then decide that you look like trouble!

Spent Convictions

Bear in mind that the majority of people taking part in the Blockade will probably not be brought to court and even if they are, we are assuming that the most likely charges will be minor, such as 'Breach of the Peace' or 'Obstruction' (see legal briefing). Such charges usually result in fines of between £50-£200. Nevertheless, it is as well to be aware of The Spent Convictions and the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act of 1974. This Act specifies that after a certain period of time (depending upon the length of the sentence) any conviction becomes 'spent' and there is no need to disclose the conviction to future employers etc. For example, a fine becomes spent after 5 years regardless of the amount of the fine. (this has been reduced to 1 year in England and Wales and is under review in Scotland) There is however a very large category of people for whom convictions can never be spent, including people working in the following professions: doctors; dentists; nurses and midwives; lawyers; opticians; teachers; police officers; and people working with children and vulnerable people.



This is why it is important to make sure that any convictions that you do get are recognised by yourselves and others as being matters of conscience proving your ethical responsibility and care for society. Over the years, many professional people have taken part in anti-nuclear direct actions and very few, if any, have suffered in their professions as a result.

If you are a student, check with your college/university Student Union whether there are any regulations which getting a conviction might breach. Ask other students at your campus who have convictions what the impact has been, if any. If you think your tutor is likely to be sympathetic, consider telling them about your intended action/conviction, as you may need to miss some course work to go on the action or go to court.

Travel Visas

Depending on the charges, there are potential difficulties getting visas for some countries, including Australia, New Zealand, or the USA. Where countries have questions on the visa application form about convictions, some only want to know about certain kinds of serious crime or whether time in prison has exceeded a period of, e.g. in the case of the USA, 5 years. The requirement to disclose convictions includes spent convictions unless the country has an Act equivalent to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act. In most cases it will be possible to answer these questions totally truthfully, since the likely conviction or penalty for a Faslane blockade would be less than the question requires. In other situations, it is up to you to decide whether you think that these acts of civil resistance are covered by these questions.

We are not aware of many activists having been refused entry to countries on the grounds of their previous convictions but then we do not know how many people filling out their visa forms answer this question fully.

Insurance

It might also be useful for you to be aware that some insurance firms are now refusing to give insurance cover, be it household, business, car or other types of insurance if you have convictions. However, there are a number of good insurance firms who do cover people when the nature of the convictions is properly explained, and we have even found that the premiums are cheaper. Maybe we should just all change over to these firms and reward them for their understanding!

This briefing is not intended to cover everyone's specific needs, if you are a young person (under 16), an international, or are going to be the driver of a vehicle at Faslane, please get in touch via **scraptrident@gmail.com** and we will advise you as best we can.

Support Roles

Below is some guidance to the different non-arrestable roles you need to think about within your affinity group.

Legal Support

Whilst the legal support for the action will be co-ordinated centrally, each affinity group should have its own Legal Observer, who should make sure that everyone in the group has registered with the Legal Support Team and has a Bust Card - including those not planning to risk arrest. The main role of the Legal Observer is to monitor what is happening with their affinity group and take note of who gets arrested and when, and report to Legal Support at the gates (they'll be wearing high-vis "Legal Support" vests), or call the Legal Support Team phone number on the Bust Cards.

The Legal Observer can also gather information and photographs that might come in handy during any potential future court case, e.g. identification number of arresting officers, time of arrest, if any warnings were given, if those arrested were cut out of lock-ons first, how long did it take, did the police deal carefully with the people in lock-ons and any other bit of information that gives a clear picture of what happened. (These bits of information may not seem important at the time, but more than a few court cases have been thrown out simply because the police cannot remember the correct sequence of events on the day!)



Media Support

Each affinity group should think about having a media person to communicate with the media present on the day and particularly any from your local area. They should act as spokesperson for the group's action, and explain clearly why they felt it was important to come to Faslane and take part in the blockade.

It's a good idea to make contact with local media beforehand, with statements of why the group members are joining the action – it's even possible to get your local or regional television or radio station to cover your group's action if they know well enough in advance – and on the day feed back reports and photographs via email, twitter, facebook etc.

It is best for the media person to have the bones of a press release ready, along with local press contacts saved in an email before the day. Whilst you won't know what is going to happen, you can have statements from those planning to get arrested in place and their details, to give a local spin. The press release can then be edited and sent out from a smart phone. Alternatively you can bring your own wireless laptop with a charged battery and tether to a smart phone or send out press releases from a cafe in Helensburgh. The more you have prepared on the day, the more chance you have of getting the story out in time for coverage and the less stress you will be under.

Likewise media support people can tweet and Facebook photos and short text. Use #BairnsNotBombs #ScrapTrident and @ScrapTrident . We will have a media team to co-ordinate national media coverage on the day to the best of our ability but if you are particularly savvy with social media or talking to the press and wish to join the Media Team, please get in touch with us via scraptrident@gmail.com

Welfare

Your affinity group could have someone designated to look after the group's wellbeing, e.g. by minding the belongings of those who are getting arrested, making sure those locked-on are warm and have food and water, and keeping up the morale of the group by providing hot drinks, massages, a friendly chat and encouragement.

Quick Consensus

Not everything on the day will go exactly as planned. Through affinity groups, large numbers of people at the blockade can make fast decisions if circumstances change, e.g. to move gates if it looks like the blockade of another gate is about to be broken. Work out in advance which member of your affinity group can facilitate quick consensus if the need arises and practise quick consensus decision making if you can. We will cover all of these roles and practise things like quick consensus during the training on Sunday 12th.

Donations

There are a lot of expenses associated with organising a blockade including transport, accommodation publicity, toilets and more, so we need donations to cover these costs from those who can afford it. Please give what you can. If you wish to contribute to the event mobilising and overall costs send cheques (made out to 'Trident Ploughshares') to Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre, St John's Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH1 2DP. Bank transfer details are on the website.

Maybe you could do a collection for Scrap Trident at work, school, your faith groups, societies or clubs or even hold a fund-raiser!

MAPS & Directions

Directions for Scrap Trident Convergence at Kinning Park Complex, 43 Cornwall Street, Glasgow, G41 1BA

Underground – KPC is most easily reached by subway as it's just across the road from the Kinning Park subway station. The Subway runs from 06:30 to 23:15 Monday to Saturday and 10:00 to 17:50 on Sunday. There are trains **every four minutes** at peak times and **every eight minutes** during off-peak times.

Bus – KPC is on Cornwall Street, just off Paisley Road West which is a main bus route. Please check bus company timetables for details. Buses along Paisley Road West include:

McGills – 38 & 38A <http://www.mcgillsbuses.co.uk/mcgills-bus-timetables/>

First – 9, 9A & 10 http://www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/glasgow/journey_planning/

Coming from either direction, the bus stop outside the District Bar is the easiest landmark. From the Paisley direction, Cornwall Street is the second right in front of you. From Glasgow city centre it is the second right behind you.

On Paisley Road West, the corner of Cornwall Street is marked by the Bellrock Bar, and on the opposite side of Paisley Road West by the Grapes Bar.

KPC is the three storey red-sandstone building with big windows at the end of Cornwall Street.

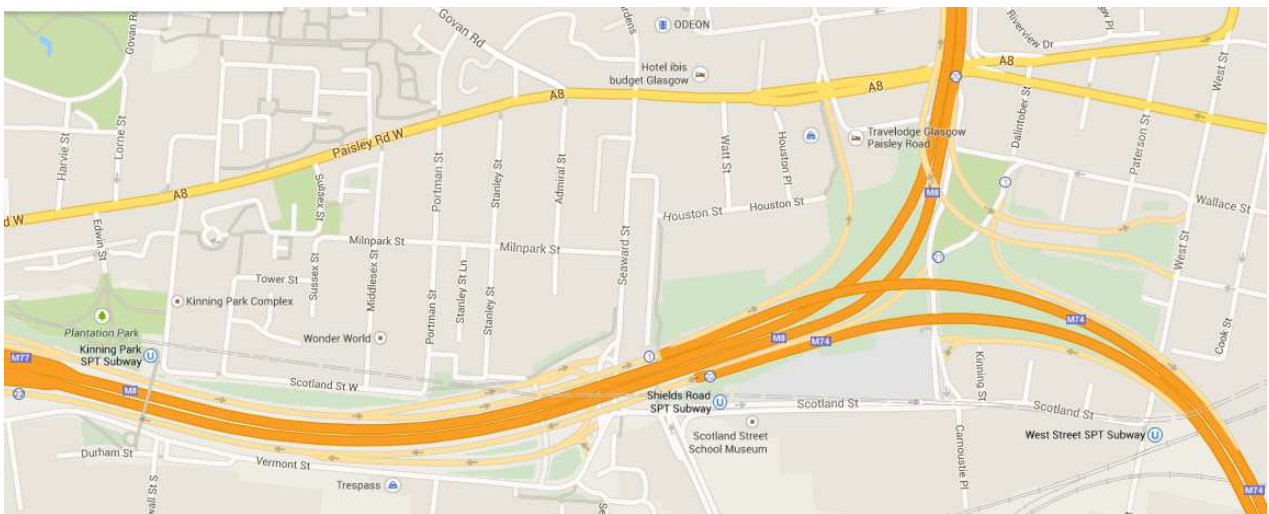
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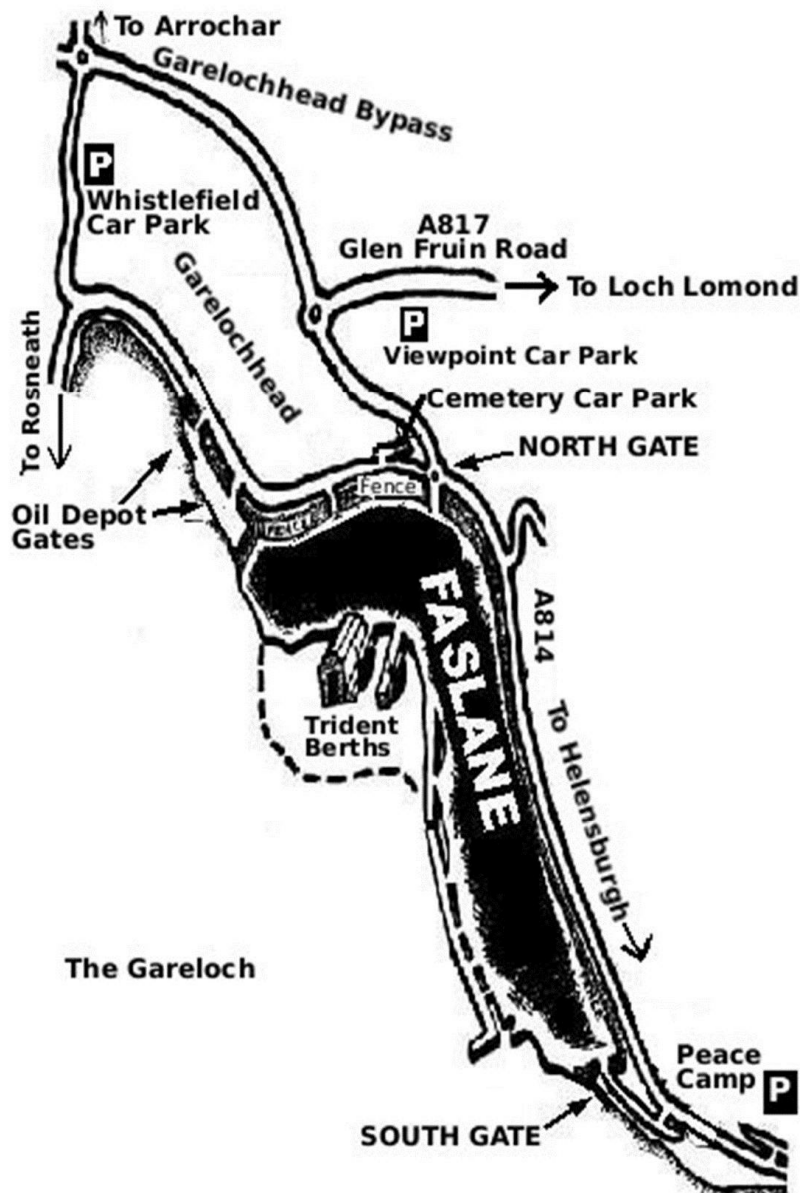
From the South

Continue on the M74 right around the South of Glasgow. At junction 1 (as its about to join the M8) take the exit – signposted Kinning Park. At the bottom of the ramp turn left then go right along Scotland Street. At the roundabout turn right (under the Motorway) and go up Seaward St to Paisley Road West. Turn left and Cornwall St is the 6th road on the left (including blocked off streets). KPC is the three storey red-sandstone building with big windows at the end of Cornwall Street.

From the East/ North

Take the M8 to junc 20. At the bottom of the ramp turn left onto West St. At the next traffic lights turn left and go back under the motorway to join Paisley Rd West. Cornwall St is 11th on the left (after Sussex St)





Contact

Most questions can be answered at the convergence centre on 12 April. For any advance queries on blockading, accommodation, legal support, or to arrange an NVDA training for your affinity group in advance in your local area contact scraptrident@gmail.com or phone 0845 4588 361

If you are planning to come to the blockade Please go to scraptrident.org/blockade_registration and register.

If you are coming to the blockade from the convergence centre or by one of the Scrap Trident buses you must book a place. To book a place on a bus go to <http://scraptrident.org/training-workshops/book-bus-to-blockade/>