



**extinction
rebellion
PEACE**

NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN COVID TIMES DEADLY THREATS TO LIVES, HEALTH AND SECURITY

On 13 May 2020, while Britain was in lockdown, [nuclear warheads were taken on public roads](#) from the UK's Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) at Burghfield and Aldermaston in Berkshire, England, to Coulport in Scotland, driving past Oxford, Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow.

The nuclear convoy (snapped by XR Peace members in [Nukewatch](#)) broke lockdown rules to drop off warheads intended for US Trident missiles on UK's nuclear powered submarines at Faslane, Her Majesty's Naval Base (HMNB) Clyde. The government's desire to keep deploying nuclear WMD is hardly a necessity or "good justification" for putting the NHS and British people at more risk if there were an accident.

Nuclear weapons and power threaten our security, now more than ever

As the Covid-19 pandemic ravages our economy, destroys tens of thousands of lives and jobs, and stretches our NHS and frontline services to breaking point, we cannot afford the extra burden that nuclear weapons add to our national debt and emergency services.



Covid-19 piles up the dangers already connected with nuclear activities. The navy, including [HMNB Clyde](#) at Faslane, is badly hit by coronavirus infections. Already struggling under regulatory "[special measures](#)" due to years of safety problems, [AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield](#) pose even more risks on skeleton staffing. In Cumbria, [Barrow](#), where "Dreadnought" nuclear submarines are being built by BAE Systems, and [Sellafield](#) nuclear plant are also struggling with high rates of infection.

Sending nuclear weapons around England and Scotland is the height of folly, especially in these Covid Times.

NO SAFE HANDS FOR NUCLEAR BOMBS

The Covid-19 pandemic reminds us of the fragility of our lives, families and countries. Accidents happen, as shown by the Chernobyl and Fukushima nuclear disasters. US pilots dropped nuclear bombs by mistake on NATO allies Greenland and Spain some years ago, causing serious plutonium contamination. Human error, miscalculations and irresponsible leaders have brought the world to the [brink of nuclear war](#) at least 13 times since 1960.



Britain makes and deploys nuclear weapons and thereby faces especially high risks of nuclear accidents and use. Far from being a "deterrent that keeps us safe", if the nuclear weapons carried on just one UK nuclear submarine were detonated, [the impacts](#) on the whole world would be devastating. Any survivors would face the horrors of [climate chaos](#), nuclear winter, radiation sickness and mass famine.

It is criminally irresponsible that in the midst of the Covid health emergency, when nuclear bases can barely function to keep themselves safe, the government is still squandering billions of pounds on making and transporting inhumane weapons of mass destruction that could never be used without threatening us all with extinction.

DO YOU WANT UK TO END NUCLEAR DANGERS AND SIGN THE UN NUCLEAR BAN TREATY BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE?

Contact: xrpeace@gn.apc.org and <https://xrpeace.org/>

NUKEWATCH

