

CND Peace Education

Submission to the Secretary-General's report on Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation
(A/RES/78/31)

CND Peace Education encourages critical thinking about nuclear weapons by engaging students with thought-provoking questions such as: Was Truman justified in ordering the atomic bombing of Japan? Who should have nuclear weapons — all countries, none, or only a select few? Is global disarmament achievable?

Each year, thousands of students across England explore these vital issues through our workshops. Between September 2023 and June 2025, we will have delivered sessions to over 9,500 students (ages 9–19) across 60 schools, colleges, and other educational institutions. Additionally, nearly 400 initial teacher training (ITE) students will have taken part in our programmes.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. A 10-year-old from Dinglewell Junior School shared, “I enjoyed that I learnt a lot about bombs because I knew they were dangerous but not as much as what I heard.” A 17-year-old from Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School said, “Very interesting discussion of consequences with visual depictions that really show the effect of nuclear weapons.” Teachers also commend the workshops: “Extremely well delivered with excellent content at the right level,” said Ross Curley, Acting Head at Oak Wood School. ITE participants and their tutors echo this enthusiasm, with one PGCE student stating, “I learned that peace education is vital for all aspects of education—teaching in lessons, school values, and aligning with government expectations.” Rhonwen Bruce-Roberts, History PGCE course leader at Edge Hill University, described the session as “Superb. Extremely organised and very engaging. Very relevant for beginner teachers.”

CND Peace Education has developed six teaching packs available for free download from our website or as printed copies. During this period, over 600 hard copies have been distributed and around 1,800 digital versions downloaded. In 2024, our resource *Under Pressure* was updated and awarded the Association for Citizenship Teaching (ACT) Quality Mark. All accompanying materials, including PowerPoint presentations, were refreshed, and we launched a new online Religious Education resource featuring interviews with major faith leaders who oppose nuclear weapons.

We also partnered with Greenham Common Everywhere in 2024 to co-promote materials and co-lead a PGCE session at Birmingham Newman University. Our team represented CND Peace Education at the North West Schools Sustainability Conference in Blackburn in both 2023 and 2024. We remain active members of the Peace Education Network, collaborating with other UK-based peace education groups and individuals.

In April 2025, we launched a national peace poetry competition, Verses of Hope, to mark the 80th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings—continuing our mission to inspire reflection and dialogue around peace and disarmament.