

Open Letter

The Right Honourable Sir Keir Starmer MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London

M. Emmanuel Macron
Président de la République française
Rue du Faubourg St Honoré
Paris

1st November 2025

Dear Prime Minister
Mr. President of the Republic

We write to you as British and French peace organisations, both faith-based and non-faith-based, determined to persuade our respective nations to pursue nuclear disarmament and security strategies based on practical approaches to the challenges and dangers that threaten us, not on nuclear deterrence.

For the last two years we have used the anniversary of the Lancaster House Treaties, signed on 2 November 2010, to campaign for the UK and France to work together on nuclear disarmament and their obligations under the NPT rather than on further developing their nuclear arsenals.

This year, as we mark the fifteenth anniversary of those treaties and consider the 'Lancaster 2.0 – Northwood Declaration' in July this year, we are writing to you again to ask that you invest all the political will, and the financial and non-financial resources that are currently devoted to nuclear weapons to collaboration on nuclear disarmament. We urge you to consider the overwhelming benefits that would flow from such a reallocation of resources and urge you also to consider alternative approaches to security and defence.

Theories of security based on nuclear deterrence fail to address the real sources of insecurity that the two nations face: glaring injustices and inequalities at the national and global levels, ideologies of hatred, domination and exclusion, terrorism, cyberattacks, disinformation, global warming, decline in biodiversity, etc.

Today in London we have hosted a conference at which disarmament and alternative visions of security for the UK and France were considered. In the runup to this conference, linked events were staged in Scotland, where peace organisations met in Edinburgh on 28th October; and at Dijon and Valduc, where a vigil and press conference were staged on 23rd October.

In France, some member groups amongst the below signatories are conducting pathbreaking research into the contribution of civilians to nonviolent defence strategies. In the United Kingdom

research from 'Rethinking Security' shows that the British, when defining their own security, overwhelmingly prioritise democracy and community solidarity, the satisfaction of basic needs, and access to public services. In addition, the threat from the climate emergency is a much greater threat to both the UK and France than adversarial relations with other states.

All these issues are far more worthy of the levels of collaboration and investment provided for in the treaties than are the countries' nuclear weapons. We urge you, as leaders, to completely reconsider the foundations and objectives of Franco-British collaboration on security and defence.

We are, of course, ready to collaborate with you in this reconsideration and the action plans that will result from it.

Yours faithfully,

Campagne Internationale pour l'Abolition des armes nucléaires (ICAN-France)
Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
Commission Justice et Paix de la Conférence des évêques de France
Communauté Mission de France
Don't Bank on the Bomb Scotland
Edinburgh Quakers
Initiatives pour le Désarmement Nucléaire - IDN
Iona Peace Common Concern Network
Justice & Peace Scotland
Mouvement International de la Réconciliation (France)
Mouvement pour une Alternative Non-violente – MAN
Pax Christi England and Wales
Pax Christi France
Pax Christi Scotland
Peace and Justice Scotland
Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
Secure Scotland
The Fellowship of Reconciliation
Trident Ploughshares

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