

CONSTITUTION OF **EXETER CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**

As adopted at the AGM of Exeter CND on 26 January 1981
and amended at the AGM of the 25 January 1982, and the AGM of 1 February 1983.

*Updated by Exeter CND Council during 2018
and adopted by the AGM of 25 April 2019.*

1. DEFINITIONS

In this constitution,

“CND” means the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament;

“ECND” means the Exeter Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament;

“GM” means a General Meeting;

“AGM” means an Annual General Meeting as defined in section 5.1;

“EGM” means an Extraordinary General Meeting as defined in section 5.2;

“WG” means a Working Group as defined in section 8;

2. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

2.1 The aims and objectives of ECND shall be those of CND, namely:

- the elimination of British nuclear weapons and global abolition of nuclear weapons;
- the abolition of other threats of mass destruction or indiscriminate effect;
- a nuclear-free, less militarised and more secure Europe;
- the closure of the Nuclear Power Industry.

CND’s Aims and Objectives are decided by delegates to its annual conference and can be found on the CND website here:

<https://cnduk.org/about/aims-and-objectives/>

2.2 CND campaigns non-violently to rid the world of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and to create genuine security for future generations.

2.3 CND opposes all nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction: their development, manufacture, testing, deployment and use or threatened use by any country.

2.4 We aim to:

2.4.1 Change government policies to bring about the elimination of British nuclear weapons as a major contribution to global abolition;

2.4.2 Stimulate wide public debate on the need for alternatives both to the nuclear cycle and to military attempts to resolve conflict;

2.4.3 Empower people to engage actively in the political process and to work for a nuclear-free and peaceful future;

2.4.4 Co-operate with other groups in the UK and internationally to ensure the development of greater mutual security.

2.5 As a British campaign, we concentrate first and foremost on British nuclear weapons, but we also work with anti-nuclear groups in other countries to eliminate the global threat. CND is also present at the United Nations and other international disarmament conferences.

2.6 Any changes in the aims and objectives of CND shall automatically apply to Exeter CND and consequently to sections 2.1 to 2.5.

- 2.7 ECND shall be a local **Area Organisation** for Exeter and the surrounding area as defined in the Constitution of CND. This can be found on the CND website here:
<https://cnduk.org/about/cnds-structure/>)
- 2.8 Besides participating in CND activities, ECND has the specific aim of carrying out such activities within Exeter and its region as will further the aims of CND.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Individual:

Any individual who supports our aims may join ECND. Subscription rates are based on a sliding scale and we ask members to pay what they can afford. The rates of subscription (as of April 2018) are:

Waged - £18 or £24 per year (*£1.50 or £2 per month*)

Unwaged - £9 or £12 per year (*75p or £1 per month*)

Youth & Student - £6 per year (*50p per month*)

The Youth & Student category is based on the national CND definition (<http://www.cnduk.org/get-involved/yscnd>) as endorsed at the ECND AGM in 2016, and is for people under 25 years of age, or students taking further or higher education courses, whether part-time or full-time.

Youth and Student members of Exeter CND may organise within two groups:

- Exeter CND Youth Group (young people up to the age of 19).
- Exeter CND Student Group (students taking further or higher education courses, whether part-time or full-time).
- It is recognised that there may be some crossover between the two groups.

3.2 Affiliated Organisations:

Any organisation may affiliate to ECND, subject to the approval of the Council. The rates of subscription are on the scale of £25 or £50 per year.

- 3.2.1 There shall be an additional membership category known as **Affiliated Student Members**. This is based upon the successful establishment of a Student CND Society at Exeter University within the rules of the Guild of Students, to be known as the **University of Exeter CND Society**, otherwise known as **Exeter University CND**. This definition was agreed at the ECND AGM in 2016 and may be amended by ECND Council as and when the Guild's rules change without requiring a rule change at ECND AGM.
- 3.2.2 There shall be two categories of membership of the society:
- Ordinary Membership** of the Society which shall be the minimum Guild rate of £3.50 per person per year;
 - CND Affiliated Membership** of the Society which shall be £5.00 per person per year.
- 3.2.3 Students may choose which type of membership they want to have.

- 3.2.4 For those students that choose to join at the CND Affiliated Membership rate, the University of Exeter CND Society shall remit the additional portion of their membership fee, after the appropriate tax has been deducted (as per the Guild rules), as an affiliate membership subscription to Exeter CND and those members shall become **Affiliated Student Members** of Exeter CND for that year.
- 3.2.5 The Society will give a list of Affiliated Student Members to Exeter CND each term, including names and contact details for those students, with their appropriate consent if those students wish to be Affiliated Student Members of ECND.
- 3.2.6 The University of Exeter CND Society (once incorporated as a Guild Society) would therefore become an **Affiliated Organisation** of Exeter CND and would be entitled to send a nominated representative to attend Exeter CND Council in an ex-officio capacity and this nominated person should be the President of the Society.

3.3 General conditions of membership

- 3.3.1 Members must declare that they accept the aims and objectives, and constitution of ECND.
- 3.3.2 Subscriptions are due annually. The subscription year runs from 1 January to 31 December. The preferred method of paying subscriptions is by Standing Order which can be annual or monthly regular payments.
- 3.3.3 Subscriptions may also be paid in cash or by cheque.
- 3.3.4 Members may resign at any time, but they are liable for their subscriptions for the year in which they resign.
- 3.3.5 Members may be expelled from ECND by a two-third majority vote of a General Meeting.
- 3.3.6 The rates of subscription may be changed by a simple majority vote of a General Meeting.
- 3.3.7 In section 3.3, “members” refers both to individual members and to affiliated organisations.

4. ORGANISATION

The activities of ECND shall be determined by GMs and Council, in so far as these activities are city-wide or involve participation in national campaigns, conferences, etc. Reports on activities shall be made to an AGM. Affiliated Organisations shall be responsible for activities within their own areas and organisations.

5. ANNUAL AND EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS

5.1 Annual General Meeting:

There shall be an AGM of all individual members of ECND, which shall receive reports from the Officers and Affiliated Organisations, and elect Officers and an Auditor. Three weeks written notice of this meeting and of the business to be transacted at it shall be given to each member.

5.2 Extraordinary General Meeting:

An EGM of all individual members of ECND may be summoned by Council or at the written request to the Organising Secretary of at least **eight** individual members. Two

weeks written notice of the meeting and of the business to be transacted at it shall be given to each member of ECND.

5.3 Powers of GMs:

GMs shall have such powers as are assigned to them in this Constitution; in addition, they shall decide on business relating to CND Annual Conference, and may make decisions which shall be binding on ECND Council.

5.4 Conduct of GMs

- 5.4.1. GMs shall be chaired by the Chair or in their absence by a substitute elected by the meeting.
- 5.4.2. The quorum for a GM shall be **ten**.
- 5.4.3. All ECND members present at a GM shall have a vote; Affiliated Organisations may delegate a member to speak on their behalf at a GM, but such members shall have no additional votes.
- 5.4.4. Any minor procedural irregularity in the summoning of a GM may be waived by a two-thirds majority of a quorate meeting, and the meeting proceed as if such irregularity had not occurred.

6. OFFICERS, ELECTIONS AND AUDITOR

6.1 Officers

The Officers of Exeter CND shall be:

- Chair;
- Organising Secretary;
- Membership Secretary;
- Minutes Secretary;
- Campaigns Officer;
- Treasurer;
- Press Officer;
- Newsletter Co-ordinator.

No person should hold more than two positions concurrently: the exception being that where posts are unfilled, essential tasks may be carried out by another officer who already holds one or more positions.

6.2 Elections

- 6.2.1 Elections to these offices shall be held at the AGM.
- 6.2.2 Nominations may be made either in writing or at the AGM; in either case they must be seconded, and it must be clear that the nominee is willing to serve in that role.
- 6.2.3 Elections shall be by show of hands unless any member present at the AGM calls for a ballot; in either case elections shall be held by “exhaustive vote”, with the candidate

receiving the lowest number of votes being eliminated from the next poll until one candidate shall achieve a clear majority.

6.2.4 Casual vacancies shall be filled by Council.

6.2.5 Officers shall hold office until the end of the AGM following their election.

6.3 Duties of Officers

6.3.1 All Officers shall be subject to and responsible for carrying out the instructions of GMs and Council, except where this responsibility has been assigned by Council to a Working Group.

6.3.2 The **Chair** shall chair such GMs and meetings of Council as are held during their term of office; the **Organising Secretary** shall be responsible for the overall organisation of ECND, including liaising with other groups and National CND, and the internal organisation of ECND; the taking of minutes and the keeping of membership records / collection of subscriptions shall be the responsibility of a **Minutes Secretary** and **Membership Secretary** respectively; the **Treasurer** shall be responsible for the income and expenditure of ECND, and shall keep the accounts; the **Press Officer** shall be responsible for any statements, letters, etc., issued on behalf of ECND to the media; the **Campaigns Officer** shall be responsible for the co-ordination of Exeter CND's campaigning work; and the **Newsletter Coordinator** shall be responsible for the production of such members' newsletters as the Council may decide to issue.

6.3.4 If an officer post cannot be filled, Council shall make such arrangements as are appropriate for those duties to be carried out.

6.4 Auditor

Following the election of Officers, the AGM shall elect an Auditor, who shall not be an Officer. The Auditor shall examine the accounts presented by the Treasurer to the following AGM, and shall certify that they are accurate. In the event of the Auditor being chosen to fill a casual vacancy for an Officer post or ceasing to hold office for other reason, then Council shall elect a member to fill the vacancy.

7. COUNCIL

7.1 The activities of ECND shall be organised, subject to instructions from GMs, by a Council, which shall normally meet once in each month, and may hold special meetings as necessary.

7.2 Council shall consist of the Chair and the other Officers; one delegate from each Affiliated Organisation, except in the case of those Affiliated Organisations which Council, by a two-thirds majority, has agreed shall have two delegates. All members must be individual members of ECND.

7.3 Exeter CND Youth Group and Exeter CND Student Group, once they have reached sufficient levels of self-organisation, shall both be entitled to send one voting delegate to ECND Council.

- 7.4 All members of Council shall have the right to speak and vote. No individual may have more than one vote.
- 7.5 Any individual member of ECND not a member of Council may attend Council meetings, and may speak at them.
- 7.6 Peace Shop volunteers may also attend and speak.
- 7.5 The quorum for a Council meeting shall be **four**, but an inquorate meeting shall be competent to transact essential business.

8. WORKING GROUPS

Council may establish WGs either permanently or temporarily for the purpose of preparing or carrying out the work of ECND. Each WG shall choose a co-ordinator, who shall report to Council as required on the WGs activities.

9. FUNDS

The income from subscriptions, grants, and from the fundraising and other activities of ECND shall be held on behalf of the organisation, administered by the Treasurer and spent at the discretion of Council. The general bank account should have at least three signatories but any one person may sign. All expenditure must be recorded by the Treasurer on a regular basis.

10. DISSOLUTION

ECND may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority vote of a GM; its net assets shall be made over to CND, or, if that organisation no longer exists at the time of dissolution, to such organisation as a majority of a GM shall designate.

11. INTERPRETATIONS AND AMENDMENT

- 11.1 This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of a GM.
- 11.2 Except where otherwise provided, all decisions and elections referred to in this constitution shall be by simple majority. In all cases, majority means a majority of those present and entitled to vote who actually vote; an abstention is not a vote. Where possible, however, decisions should be reached by consensus.
- 11.3 The holders of all offices and other posts referred to in this constitution are eligible for re-appointment at the end of their term of office.
- 11.4 In any case of ambiguity or omission, the ruling of the person chairing the meeting (or of the Chair if the ambiguity or omission becomes apparent otherwise than at a meeting) shall be final; the Officers shall bring an amendment to clarify the Constitution to the next AGM.