

## Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space (GN) Report to Abolition 2000 AGM, May 2020

Throughout the year there has been continuing reports in the western media of the activities of the Russian and Chinese plans for weaponsing space – although these are mainly responses to what the US is doing and discussing but on a much smaller scale. A lot of activity this year focussed on Donald Trump’s ‘Space Force’ - to take warfighting into the heavens - which was eventually signed into existence last December. Since then the UK, France, NATO, India Japan and South Korea have all either established or worked towards their own military Space Forces. The US, Russia, China and India already have existing military space programmes – and all have actively tested Anti-Satellite weapons (ASATs). The EU has also created a space branch of its new Defence Agency. All of these developments highlight the growing importance of space for the warfighter and high-tech weapons developers, with the relatively new area of hypersonic weapons becoming an important focus of all the major military space powers.

The GN is overseen by two boards – a Board of Directors (consisting of 13 people from 8 countries) and a Board of Advisors (17 people from 7 countries) - details on the GN web site ([www.space4peace.org](http://www.space4peace.org)). GN coordinator, Bruce Gagnon from Maine in the US, continues to write almost daily blogs and keep the facebook page up to date on GN and other peace activities. Will Griffin produces regular videos to highlight different aspects of the militarisation of space. Links to these are on the website, the latest video is on “Trump’s Executive Order to Mine the Moon” - Trump is now opening up space for warfare AND exploitation – despite US obligations as a signatory to the ‘Outer Space Treaty’. Board member Karl Grossman writes on this and other militarisation of space issues and he and Bruce run a weekly audio segment “Saying NO to the militarisation of space” on ‘Loud & Clear’. Lynda Williams has been active in the campaign to stop Pentagon plans to build a billion-dollar missile defense radar on sacred Hawaiian ground.

In March 2019 India tested an ASAT weapon, demonstrating the urgent need for a new international treaties and agreements. It was therefore appropriate that from October 11-13 we jointly held a conference on ‘Space Law’ with Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University in Visakapatnam, India. The meeting was organised by GN board member Dr Aruna Kaaila and included students from 20 law universities across India. This was attended by Board members including Bruce and Subrata Ghoshroy. Following the conference, Bruce visited colleagues in Nepal.

At our annual conference in Oxford in 2018 we decided to reach out and meet in Russia in 2019. We did this, organising a study group to visit Moscow, the Crimea region and St Petersburg from April 25 until May 9. We made a number of contacts with citizen groups in these places and a full report of our visit is on our website. Reports of all our activities are listed at: [www.space4peace.org/reports.htm](http://www.space4peace.org/reports.htm). Bruce was then invited to attend follow up meetings in Donbass (October 28) Crimea (Nov 3-9) and Ukraine (Nov 13) - see the reports page for further information.

We have been represented at a number of international gatherings and conferences, including “NoWar2019” in Limerick in October, the anti-bases meetings held at the annual “Stopp Ramstein” demonstrations and peace camp in Germany and “No to War, No to NATO” meetings. We were due to hold a session on space at World Beyond War’s “NOWAR 2020” Conference in Ottawa but it was cancelled because of covid-19. Instead we held our annual meeting on-line on May 8<sup>th</sup>. The second part of this meeting is due to take place in the next few weeks.

Every January one of our affiliate groups in New Zealand organises a protest at the NSA spy base and electronic intelligence gathering systems at Waihopi. In 2019 they [“Took Aim at Donald Trump”](#) to highlight the role of the base in the global satellite intelligence gathering system of the U.S. Other affiliates, Yorkshire CND and the Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign, have been working to highlight the signals intelligence and drone connections in the U.K. as are other groups in the U.S., Australia, Sweden, South

Korea and Japan. In April we held a webinar with Yorkshire CND on “War in Space: Weaponising the Final Frontier and building a global citizen movement to stop it” featuring Bruce, Lynda and Dave Webb. Around 80 people attended on-line. Our annual “Keep Space for Peace Week” was held under the heading “No To NATO – Keep Space for Peace” 40 actions took place in 10 countries.

There is still much to do in terms of challenging policy, educating the public and mobilising the protest on these issues. We will continue to do whatever we can!

Dave Webb,  
GN Convenor