It is impossible to ignore the emergence of a new factor in recent opinion polls on the nuclear issue: the women of Greenham Common.
"The idea of the march was a little notice in Peace News about a women-led march from Copenhagen to Paris which I noticed whilst on a leaflet writing party to persuade our Council to go nuclear-free (they did). What a nice idea to have one here - everyone agreed, but no one wanted to "do" it because it would be too much work. Nor did I, but the idea just refused to go away so in the end I gave in to persistent internal pestering and announced that I would walk from somewhere in Wales to somewhere, like Greenham Common, in England with anyone else that wanted to come.

About forty of us assembled in Cardiff on August 26th, and the first thing that struck us was our variety. The more we discovered of ourselves the more impressed we became - by the numbers of women, for instance, for whom coming on the march had been difficult, involving elaborate arrangements over childcare or jobs, or giving up a holiday. Simply to discover that this prim-looking grandmother, this cheerful G.P., this nervous schoolgirl, this single-parent mother of five, took the threat to our future seriously enough to respond to a call to action coming not from any known organisation but from an unknown individual living in an obscure rural corner of these isles gave us courage. This faith is important, for the potential of "the movement" to rise to the rhetoric about The Greatest Challenge in the History of Mankind is no more than the potential of these miserable individuals, with dinner to cook and too much to do already, and a deeply-seated lack of faith in themselves and others...

By the second half of our long walk in the heat wave, the atmosphere was like a kind of force-field within which obstacles served only to strengthen determination and policies relaxed, became human and danced with us to the tune of "No More Hiroshimas"... What I believe we experienced was something of that creative spirit, that power of minerals, evoked by our distant ancestors when they drew pictures to overcome their fear of the huge powerful animals that surrounded and threatened them - the woolly mammoth, the sabre-toothed tiger. They drew it and danced and in this way they came to believe it could be done - these powerful creatures could be killed."

Ann Pettitt

'we aren't going away. We'll be there for as long as it takes.'

1981
Aug 28 - Sept 5 - Women for Life on Earth march from Cardiff to Greenham Common, a distance of 110 miles.

Jan 1 - At daybreak women climb over fence and dance on top of silos. 44 are arrested.

Feb 5 - Women lobby MPs and sing in House of Commons.


Feb 21 - Blue Gate tent trial.

Mar 10 - High Court order for third eviction. Women move camp again - back to M.O.T. land - a distance of 50 yards.

Mar 21 - Celebration of Spring Equinox.

Apr 1 - Women speak at CND rally in Hyde Park.

May 8 - High Court eviction order. Women block gate for two weeks until camp is forcibly removed from council-controlled common land. It takes 9 hours to destroy completely the camp which moves to Ministry of Transport (M.O.T.) land near to road. 5 arrests and 4 women spend week in prison because they refuse to keep the peace in the terms of the court.

June 6 - Greenham women speak at CND rally in Hyde Park.

June 7 - 80 women stage die-in outside Stock Exchange. All roads to Stock Exchange are blocked for 15 minutes during rush hour.

June 8 - Women keen warning to MPs as Reagan speaks at House of Commons.

Aug 6 - Hiroshima Day. 10,000 stones are placed on Newbury War Memorial.

Aug 9 - Nagasaki Day. Women enter base and give commander an origami crane, symbol of hope for peace.

Aug 27 - M.O.T. eviction order ultimatum. Women occupy M.O.T. sentry box and sing-song answer the phone until 18 are arrested and charged with 'behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace'.

Sept 7 - Second eviction. M.O.T. dumps thousands of rocks over camp to prevent women from returning. Camp begins again on original piece of council land.

Oct 3 - Sewage pipe work stopped by women who lie down in front of machinery and in ditches woven over with webs until they are dragged away and arrested.

Nov 15 - Sentry box trials. 23 women go to prison for 14 days.

Nov 17 - Women lobby MPs and sing in House of Commons.

Nov 22 - 3 women arrested for putting up tent at Blue Gate.

Dec 12 - At least 30,000 women embrace the 9 mile fence around the base and shut it down. Fence is decorated with symbols of life.

Dec 13 - Blockade of all gates. Some women go into base and plant snowdrops.

1982
Jan 18 - 'Keening' outside House of Commons on opening of Parliament to warn politicians to rethink nuclear policy.

Jan 20 - Newbury District Council gives camp two weeks eviction notice.

Feb 3 - As part of eviction strategy, women on the march decide only women will live there, and men are invited to visit during the day.

March 21 - Celebration of Spring Equinox. About 10,000 people go to base to protest against cruise missiles. 24-hour blockade by 300 women. 34 arrests.

May - High Court eviction order. Women block gate for two weeks until camp is forcibly removed from council-controlled common land. It takes 9 hours to destroy completely the camp which moves to Ministry of Transport (M.O.T.) land near to road. 5 arrests and 4 women spend week in prison because they refuse to keep the peace in the terms of the court.

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Oct 3 - Sewage pipe work stopped by women who lie down in front of machinery and in ditches woven over with webs until they are dragged away and arrested.

Nov 15 - Sentry box trials. 23 women go to prison for 14 days.

Nov 17 - Sewer pipe trials. More women go to prison for 14 days for breach of the peace.

Dec 12 - At least 30,000 women embrace the 9 mile fence around the base and shut it down. Fence is decorated with symbols of life.

Dec 13 - Blockade of all gates. Some women go into base and plant snowdrops.

1983
Jan 1 - Women lobby MPs and sing in House of Commons.

Jan 22 - 3 women arrested for putting up tent at Blue Gate.

Jan 24 - 15 women arrested for blockading Green Gate.


Feb 15-16 - New Year's trials.

Feb 21 - Blue Gate tent trial.

Feb 28 - Green Gate blockade trial.

March 10 - High Court order for third eviction. Women move camp again - back to M.O.T. land - a distance of 50 yards.
'I'm forty-four. I can't stand much more of this.'

Arlene, Greenham Peace Camp

A recent opinion poll showed that the majority in Britain does not want Cruise here. Democratic government is an expression of a civilized society. We want to safeguard our civilization and halt the erosion of its democracy.
'I stayed because there were so few at the beginning. Then I started reading. I had time there you see, and I realised what a big thing we were up against and how immoral and wasteful and upsetting the whole thing was and that most people didn't realise. I began to see that we're getting less and less free. My father always said it's a free country. Yet it's not.'

Effie, Greenham Peace Camp

'We fought World War I in Europe, we fought World War II in Europe and if you dummies will let us, we will fight World War III in Europe.'

Admiral Gene Le Rocque, former U.S. Strategic Planner

'Call themselves a peace demonstration, he snarled, when they won't let men in? All that twaddle about mankind being on the brink, yet these females exclude us. Pretending we'd cause violence, huh. Personally, I'd shoot them all, bang bang bang.'

Jill Tweedie (Dear Martha)

WHAT IS GREENHAM COMMON?

An airforce base was first sited at Greenham Common during the Second World War, an area of common land being taken over by the Ministry of Defence. Although the airfield fell into disuse for some years after the war, the land was never returned to the council, and in 1951 the land was purchased by the Ministry of Defence against the wishes of the local authorities. Some time later the base was leased to the Americans and for a period it was quite openly an American base called USAF Greenham Common. All of the personnel currently serving there are American, but they are protected by the British MOD police and the name RAF Greenham Common is used again. In December 1979, the British government announced that 96 Cruise missiles would be sited at Greenham Common in December 1983. Another 20 are to be sited at Molesworth in East Anglia in 1986, and these missiles will be deployed around the country in the event of a crisis.

'Sarah, Greenham Peace Camp

'It is difficult for many women to learn that they can change things on their own, without men, and that is why they feel helpless in the nuclear crisis. We have all changed since we came here. We know we can stop them, because we can stop them.'

Sarah, Greenham Peace Camp

'I have never been able to accept the reasons for the belief that any class of nuclear weapons can be categorized in terms of their tactical or strategic purposes.'

Earl Mountbatten

'If we are not going to survive.'

Dr Helen Caldicott

This is the only issue that matters. It does not matter if your kids clean their teeth or have good food or that you have a good married relationship which is good for the kids if we are not going to survive.'

Sarah, Greenham Peace Camp

'I have never been able to accept the reasons for the belief that any class of nuclear weapons can be categorized in terms of their tactical or strategic purposes.'

Earl Mountbatten

'When I was about twelve, I read The Diary of Anne Frank, about a kid who was the same age as I was. And I went to my mother and said: "How could these things have happened?" And she said "People didn't know they were happening." And I knew that was a lie.'

Arlene, Greenham Peace Camp

'You cannot be a conscientious objector in the next war.'

Earl Mountbatten

'I've been accused of being cruel and hard-hearted for leaving my children behind, but it's exactly for my children that I'm doing this. In the past, men have left home to go to war. Now women are leaving home for peace.'

Sally, 15th Feb. 1983

Sarah, Greenham Peace Camp
December 13th

‘On the night of the 12th, a beautiful silver pyramid was erected right outside the main gate, and after a very short and fitful mood, much too hyped up to be sleepy.

‘On the night of the 12th, a beautiful silver pyramid lay by the side of the road, torn and spoiled. Women who minutes before had been huddled around and hurt, sang out their hope.’

Toni

‘It was the first day that I felt I had any control over my life.’

(Woman speaking at Workshop in Action Space, London)

Dr. Helen Caldicott/‘Nuclear Madness’.

“We’re talking about life and death. We’re not talking about images. I mean it won’t matter when you’re dead whether you were a good conservative chap or a radical feminist – you’re just dead. And this is life and death.”

Simone, Newbury Court

30,000 pairs of eyes looking through the wire fence at a few huts, a man with a dog, and a police car every now and again. Is this our enemy? I hear a buzzing in my ears as a helicopter flies overhead, they are watching us, observing our reactions as we cry because we have completed our chain, or swing us smile as we fall into the mud or hug one of our sisters.

Dorothy McDowell unemployed feminist from Liverpool

I thought it might have been something which had nothing to do with the war, the collapse of the earth, which it was said would take place at the end of the world and which I had read about as a child.

Yoko Ota, Hiroshima

‘If we don’t use imagination nothing will change. Without change we will destroy the planet. It’s as simple as that.’

Lesley, Greenham Peace Camp

‘Many of our national leaders seem to live in a schizoid world of, on the one hand, planned death by massive genocide and, on the other, a primitive fear of death at the denial of unpleasant emotions. Perhaps it is this defense mechanism that sublimates the urge to survive and allows politicians to contemplate “first strike capabilities” or limited nuclear war…’

In the same week that 30,000 women encircled the base, the Russians announced a policy of launch on warning and news leaked that NATO’s European military command was moving from West Germany to Britain.

Sheila, 17 Dec. 1982

‘That day of gentle peace was one I’ll carry to my grave. Greenham Common will never be a “bleak” place again.’

Greenham Common Newsletter

‘We had been daily expecting this eviction for a month but when it happened, all our dread left us.

Women having breakfast in the kitchen caravan were informed first, at about 10 a.m. Cheerfully and calmly, these women spread the word around the camp to women in other caravans and tents. Soon everyone was packing up tents and bedding and hiding them, looking for places to put the things we would need for the next stage in the camp’s life — the stage where we could continue to maintain our presence without shelter — the stage the authorities thought would finally destroy our determination to stay.

How wrong they have proved to be.

Saucer plates, cutlery, cash and bedding were packed into vehicles — we hid our stand-pipe very carefully. Meanwhile it rained solidly. More than thirty policemen stood around as the bailiffs’ cranes lifted our seven caravans onto transporters and took them away to a compound near Hungerford.

There were eleven of us there that day but we did not feel outnumbered. Some of us spoke to the press and took photographs — we all linked arms and sang:

‘You can’t kill the spirit
She is like a mountain
Old and strong
She goes on and on…”

Greenham Common Newsletter
"The military is the most obvious product of patriarchy. For the same social and historic reasons men have usually taken the lead in the Peace Movement, but when this leads to a confrontation situation, men confronting men, this becomes a microcosm of the original problem. At the Women's Peace Camp, with the support of both women and men, women are exploring a different way to deal with the weighty problem of disarmament..."

*Greenham Common Newsletter*

"We understand that men also want to demonstrate in their own way their opposition to the nuclear threat. They can do this without undermining the achievement of the Women's Peace Camp. There are very many military establishments and armament factories which need to be brought to the public eye by having Peace Camps set up outside them. The multiplication of Peace Camps around the UK would be a more fruitful way of showing the scale of the danger of war, extending public debate, and eventually achieving the aim of all of us who are trying to save the world from destruction. We must spread our wings."

*Aggie, Greenham Peace Camp*

"Women have for too long provided the mirrors in which men see their aggression as a heroic quality with themselves magnified larger than life."

*Nottingham WONT from Keeping the Peace*

"The authorities, when faced with organised non-violent women, do not know how to deal with them. They are trained to react to aggressive behaviour. So far they have tried to frighten us and stifle our right to express our opinions by harassment, evictions and token imprisonment. We want women to come here to Greenham to gather strength and learn how not to be intimidated by the authorities and unsupportive men."

*Aggie, Greenham Peace Camp*

"One of the lifts I got down here was from a guy. The whole time he argued with me about nuclear missiles. At the very end he said, I find this whole situation really bizarre, I'm giving you a lift to a demonstration against nuclear missiles and I'm a missile engineer."

*Joan Ruddock, Nottingham*
"I can remember meeting a Japanese woman in London while I was expecting my second child. She told me that members of her family had died at Hiroshima. She said that when a woman became pregnant in Hiroshima she was given no congratulations but people waited in silence for 9 months until the child was born to see if it was all right."

As a result of the two small atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, at least 200,000 people were killed. Many died instantly, many died more slowly over the following months. Thirty-two years later there were 366,523 people still registered as suffering from the effects of those bombs.

The Home Office envisages an attack on Britain would be in the order of 22 megatonnes – the equivalent of 13,000 bombs of the sort dropped on Hiroshima.

"If it is necessary to leave the shelter at any time when fallout is still present, then stout boots or shoes and an outdoor coat should be worn."

Protection Against Nuclear Weapons, leaflet of the Scientific Advisory Branch, Home Office, March 1980

"If we are successful, and Cruise never comes, it doesn’t mean the Russians will have carte blanche to just come in and walk all over us. How are the Russians going to come and occupy Europe with all the problems they’ve got — and China at their back? It isn’t that simple. If we disarm it would put tremendous pressure on the Americans and on the Russians. We’re just a front at the moment, a limited theatre of war: there will be nothing afterwards for us so we have nothing to lose."

Simone, Newbury court

"In today’s world 1.5 billion people lack access to professional health services. Over 1.4 billion people have no safe drinking water. More than 500 million people suffer from malnutrition. But world governments spend twice as much on armaments as on health care. . . ."

In our modern arms economy, military research consumes the creative efforts of over 500,000 scientists and engineers worldwide and gets more public funds than all social needs combined. Dr. Helen Caldicott/Nuclear Madness

"A child formed from an egg or sperm cell mutated by radiation is a dominant way to show the results of mutation. It may spontaneously abort or, if it survives pregnancy, it may turn out to be a sickly, deformed individual with a shortened lifespan. If this person then reproduces, statistically, half of his or her children will inherit the dominant gene and its deformities."

Dr. Helen Caldicott/Nuclear Madness

Rats live underground in ‘natural’ nuclear shelters, e.g. sewers. Some strains of rat are resistant to radiation. The last estimate of the rat population in Britain was 100 million. A rat can have up to 800 baby rats per year. Rats spread diseases like typhus, rabies, roundworm, bubonic plague and lassa fever. For any survivors of a nuclear war rats be as much of a problem as the fight for uncontaminated food and water.

"Mummy, why are the policemen guarding the bombs which are going to kill people but not the people who want to stop the bombs?"

Alice, aged 5
Dr. John Golzman, distinguished ex-nuclear physicist, discoverer of uranium 233: 'Many people have said nuclear war means the end of the world, and I don't think that's true. I think there will be lots of survivors. There will be lots of misery for countless generations in terms of genetic mutation.'

"The lie that we have all come to live — the pretense that life lived on top of a nuclear stockpile can last. In this timid, crippled thinking, 'realism' is the title given to the beliefs whose most notable characteristic is their failure to recognize the chief reality of the age. 'Utopian' is the term of scorn for any plan that shows serious promise of enabling the species to keep from killing itself."

Jonathan Schell
‘There are no roads leading to peace. Peace is the road.’

M. Gandhi

Stop Cruise!!

‘Once they’re in, they’re in, it’s not easy to remove them again; it just means a lot more sterile, polarized, academic debate. And the reason we’ve stepped up actions at the camp, and are putting so much energy into the here and now, is that when the transporters come, our job is to sit here and stop them going in. We’ve got to do everything we physically can to put ourselves in front of them.’

Barbara, Greenham Peace Camp

In response to the Member for Swindon, Mr. David Stoddard, who urged ‘The Secretary of State to keep these updated nuclear weapons well away from Swindon’, Mr. Pym responded, ‘The siting of these weapons in no way affects the vulnerability or otherwise of a particular place. It is a mistake for anyone to think that the siting of a weapon in a particular place ... makes it more or less vulnerable. We are all vulnerable in the horrifying event of a holocaust.’

Jon Connell, Defence Correspondent, Sunday Times, 15th March 83

Near simultaneous detonation of half the world’s stockpile would remove 70% of the world’s ozone layer exposing survivors to deadly ultra-violet radiation, eliminate certain crops and reduce the yield of still cultivatable areas. Temperatures would drop several degrees causing other climatic changes.

‘If it is really true that the Cruise missiles are a complete one key force, are we not approaching George Orwell’s famous era when Britain was “Airstrip One”?’


‘An attack by the Soviet weapons now targeted on Britain would produce an estimated 38.5 million deaths and 4.3 million casualties. By the time the radiation hazard had fallen to acceptable levels, many argue that, even at present, if deterrence broke down and Warsaw Pact forces crossed the East German border, NATO might have to go nuclear very quickly to avert defeat – in one estimate, within 3 or 4 days.’

Report of the British Medical Association Board of Sciences and Education Inquiry into the Medical Effects of Nuclear War, April 1983.

I remember feeling ecstatic and overjoyed that we had successfully planted our statement for peace and life while standing on the top of what threatens the existence of our planet. Driven to Newbury Police Station we were charged with “breach of the peace.” Still our energy continued to vibrate in our feelings and voices through out the police cells.

Bee and Ceri

Stop Cruise!

Dancing on the silos – 1st January 1983
NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION

NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION IS:

- withholding tax
- singing
- talking to people
- leaving messages (in library books or in the doctor’s
  in bus shelters or on the tube or on walls)
- refraining not defacing
- wearing badges
- putting up stickers
- posting
- writing
- getting information and
- passing on
- blockades, sit-ins
- occupations, strikes, boycotts
- pickets
- vigils
- mass demonstrations
- street speaking
- street theatre
- poems, songs, plays
- removing signs and changing
- their meaning
- banners
- newspapers
- holding on to a vision
- saying NO
- believing
- sharing feelings, ideas...
- more and more...

Some people find some things easy, other things difficult to do. I found it useful to work out for myself what actions I find difficult and try to come to terms with why.

Not everyone can go over the fence at Greenham. Not everyone needs to. There are so many other things to do. Support roles are vital to the success of any action, in no way secondary.

SUPPORT ROLES

- flood & hot drinks for the blockaders
- talking to bystanders
- peace keepers
- watching out for cold, tiredness
- telling people what’s happening
- giving out leaflets
- buffering hostility
- contacting the press
- medical help
- legal advice
- keeping track of what’s happening
- taking police numbers
- following anyone who’s been arrested
- contacting solicitors
- listing people’s names
- giving moral support & encouragement
- helping to create a dignified atmosphere.

BLOCKS TO NON-COOPERATION

Thoughtless support, going along with things, afraid of what might happen, what people might say, feeling unconfident, not wanting to stand out, feeling a moral obligation to obey and not make a fuss. (People in authority know better than I do, I might lose my job, it won’t make any difference because they won’t take any notice)

NONVIOLENCE IS:

- believing that people can change
- channelling anger into action
- dignity and power from inner conviction
- a complete way of life
- a reasoned response to an aggressive
- situation
- people cooperating within a group
- communicating with opponents
- a commitment to openness
- trusting
- celebrating life...

Dr. Gwynneth Kirk
London, January 1983

This publication is itself a tool. Use the pages as posters, or send one to your local MP.

NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION

NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION

'The macho-ness of the policemen and their eventual heavy-handed approach at the blocking of the gates cannot be counteracted effectively either by outright aggression or by complete passivity. Nonviolent action is not non-action. When women are actually getting caught under huge army trucks and being pulled or kicked onto pavements only to get up again and go back for more, it is real action which requires real guts.'

Jane, NALGO rep, Newbury court

'A policeman trying to pull two arms apart in a firmly linked human chain has to directly confront his own feelings about handling women, not as sexual objects but as powerful beings... hacking through a chain bit by bit will avoid all that. It's just the nice easy masculine field of mechanics, no feelings involved. That lack of understanding as to what pain and suffering really mean makes it possible to press a button and annihilate a million people: that is what we're trying to challenge.'

Dr. Lynne Jones, from Keeping the Peace

'There was a case in Bridgend, Wales where 30-odd people sat on top of a bunker that was going to be built, just sitting there and saying. We are not going to allow this to happen. After concrete had been poured all over these women the workmen refused to carry on, they didn’t want the women to be hurt, and they went to the council who called an emergency meeting and reversed the decision about the bunker. The bunker has since been demolished and a factory built on that site which has given jobs to the local area. Now that's just twenty people putting their bodies where their beliefs are. And if a quarter of a million people who go to Hyde Park to the rally would put their bodies against some American base, they couldn't carry on with it, they just couldn't do what they're doing.'

Simone, Greenham Peace Camp

'The Sermon on the Mount and the command to be peacemakers is something which a Christian cannot escape, though many try. Christians among us have a rule: When we trespass on the base, we pray. We make a daily habit of trespassing.'

Jean Hutchinson
resident at Molesworth

'Ursula, my mother, got involved with Greenham Common. She came up for a week over Christmas and she went over the fence on New Year's Day. It's quite likely she'll get a prison sentence. Every woman who goes to prison must be replaced by two or three others. I'm the only daughter who's self-employed so I'll have to leave my little daughter, she's three and a half. It's obvious it's got to be done. Things are stepping up. They put twenty-two in prison, now it's forty-four, next time it must be eight-four.'

Diana, Newbury court, 15th Feb. 1983

'Persuading a hostile member of the public to sign a petition can be more difficult than sitting in the mud.'

Campaign, March 1983

'Unlike the Army Field Service Manual for soldiers, where the overall objective is to obey commands given from others up the hierarchy, preparation for nonviolent action emphasizes that we act from our own experience, convictions, emotions and reason in concert with others.'

Peace News Broadsheet
NUCLEAR MADNESS — WHO SHOULD BE ON TRIAL

'I will not be bound over to keep your peace: I am already keeping my peace. I will not take punishment, or recant, or admit guilt. I am responsible for this — for seeing the war machine grinding on, building silos, arming the arsenals of the world with death — and using all the non-violent means I can to stop it. I am asking you to keep the peace. We are not on trial, you are.'

Katrina, Greenham Peace Camp

'It's not just a question of costs and alternative military strategy. It's a moral question. There's really only one thing you need to ask yourself and that is: would you pull the trigger? would you press the button? And if the answer's "no" then you have to work with us and help in this struggle for peace.'

Sarah, Greenham Peace Camp

'You afraid: this sort of situation is designed to cause fear, to intimidate ordinary people; and fear can cause paralysis — as with the threat of nuclear war — but I was determined to overcome my fear because what we have to say is the most important thing anyone should be listening to. What we are saying is that we are at the 11th hour, we are at the brink of being destroyed, and it's not just my death or your death but the death of the planet .... Each and every one of us has to question and challenge a system where people who have learned to live cooperatively like the Bush People of the Kalahari, the Red Indian people, the aborigines of Australia are attacked by those who abuse or destroy everything they cannot understand. We cannot stand by while this continues. Nuclear weapons, particularly provocative first-strike weapons like cruise, are the logical conclusion of a life-denying culture that values aggressive domination and conquest above the power of empathy, sensitivity and compassion. We are trying to re-establish those values. They are vital for our survival.'

Rebecca, Greenham Peace Camp

'In 1969 the Genocide Act was passed ... Cruise missiles coming to this country are a further stage of the crime of genocide. They are not a defensive weapon but a first strike weapon ... it is my duty as a citizen of this country, as it is the duty of all citizens, to do everything with my power to prevent a crime which is about to be committed and that is why I walked onto the base ... The first party to use a nuclear weapon is likely to destroy in the end the whole planet and all future generations. I am on trial for my life not just for a breach of the peace.'

Simone, Greenham Peace Camp

'I have no doubt that the tactical nuclear weapons deployed in Europe represent the worst danger for the peoples of the continent.'

Senator Nino Pasti, former Deputy Supreme Commander for NATO Nuclear Affairs.

'It's distressing that we are to be (tried under) laws framed in 1391 — a mockery upon this court (in) the nuclear age. We can be sent to prison, treated like criminals, because we do not want our families or any one individual obliterated. I will continue my protest until it is put to the electorate to democratically vote on the matter.'

Helen Johns

'The reason we have to take what seems to be radical action is that we have tried writing, lobbying and using the proper political structures. We are not only ignored but slandered as being in the pay of the Russians. We are told that we must be protected from the Russians by nuclear weapons but the CEGB (Central Electricity Generating Board) is still selling uranium to the Russians and the Americans are selling computer parts to them for weapons systems. It is people who are making money out of the arms race which lets it continue.'

Simone, Greenham Peace Camp

'I think that people want peace so much that one of these days, governments had better get out of their way and let them have it.'


'We are all of us intelligent people. If we sit around hiding the truth, talking legal jargon. We could all be sitting together using our hearts and minds to deal with the terrible situation we face. Even if you feel that the possibility of a holocaust is remote, why does everyone refuse to discuss it. Today we have heard the bailiff say that he was only doing his job, the reason for the peace camp being at Greenham Common are not his concern. The police say they are only doing their job because they are asked to by the bailiff. The court is here today because the police have brought us here. I am charged with disturbing the peace. My whole life is dedicated to peace. I may sing loudly but I do not swear or abuse anyone. I am totally non-violent. I do not eat meat, harm any person or animal on this planet. I try to find harmony with the earth, my cycles with the cycles of the moon and planets. I search for peace in a world which prepares for war.'

Sara, Greenham Peace Camp

'In order to ensure respect for and protection of the civilian population and civilian objects, the Parties to the conflict shall at all times distinguish between the civilian population and the combatants and between civilian objects and military objectives and accordingly shall direct their operations only against military objectives.'

STRIKE
24th May - International Women's Day of Action for Disarmament. Build local support for one- day women's strike through your trade unions and women's groups. Research local companies to approach women there - organise pickets.

Contacts
National: 'May 24th', 16 Arundel Road, Brighton, E. Sussex.
North Central: Leslie Booth, 3 Warmsdale Rd, Bracknell, Sheffield. Ph: 0792 249792.
South Central (Women's Peace Camp/Oxford): Barbara or Angie, 7 White Hill, Echlinswell, Newbury, Berks. Ph: 0635 298512.
Central Wales: Thelma Campbell, Glanegors Ynyslas, Borth, Dyfed. Ph: 097081360.
South Wales: Susan Lamb, Lynn Fortt, 7 York Tic, Porth, Rhondda, Mid Glam.
Southwest (Bristol, Bath): Gail Griffiths, Alison Siker, 9 St. Saviers Tue, Lackhull, Bath. Ph: 0225 319321 or 348895.
Southwest (Devon): Sara Meyer, 6 Fore St, Salcombe, Devon. Ph: 054884 2979 (wk) or 2851 (home).
Information on Non-Violent Direct Action
Send s.a.e. to: NVDA Training Workshops, 7 White Hill, Echlinswell, Newbury, Berks, or 1 Crowland Terrace, Islington, London N1.

WHERE IS GREENHAM COMMON?
The main entrance to the base is on the A339 out of Newbury on the Basingstoke road. Newbury is on both the A4 and M4 between London and Bristol. From London, there are trains hourly from Paddington Station (via Reading) and the single fare is £5.
The base has five entrances (recently a sixth has been opened) around its nine to ten-mile perimeter.
Britain has more nuclear bases and consequently targets per head of population and per square mile than any other country in the world.