

Scientists for Global Responsibility

Scientists · Architects · Engineers · Technologists

SGR

*Promoting ethical
science, design
and technology*

Annual Report 2017 – 2018

Treaty banning nuclear weapons approved at UN

Supporters hail step towards nuclear-free world as treaty is backed by 122 countries



Rebecca Sharkey @rebshark · Oct 13

Thanks to @pwebbr & @ResponsibleSci for important contribution to achieving global #Nuclearban #NobelPeaceprize2017



Part of the campaign awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize



Most of the NCC and staff:
(upper rows, left to right): Paul Marchant,
Philip Webber, Harry Tsoumpas,
Gwen Harrison, Alasdair Beal
(lower rows, left to right):
Stuart Parkinson,
Vanessa Moss, David Hookes,
Jan Maskell, Philip Wood



SGR staff and National Co-ordinating Committee

STAFF

Executive Director

Dr Stuart Parkinson

Office Manager

Vanessa Moss

Project Worker (Peaceworker)

Philip Wood¹

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE (NCC)

Chair

Dr Philip Webber

Vice Chair

Dr Jan Maskell CPsychol

Treasurer

Alasdair Beal CEng

Secretary

Martin Bassant MPhil³

Committee Members

Gwen Harrison MSc²

Dr David Hookes

Dr Paul Marchant CStat

Alice Pledger³

Dr Harry Tsoumpas²

¹until August 31 2017

²until 28 October 2017

³from 3rd February 2018

Front cover captions:

Media headline on nuclear ban treaty
(The Guardian online)

'Tweet' from ICAN-UK thanking SGR
for campaign help

Reporting period:

March 2017 to February 2018 (inclusive)

Introduction

As we marked SGR's 25th anniversary this year, the threat from nuclear weapons climbed back to the top of the political agenda – and so we provided our expertise to disarmament campaigners, policy-makers and the public. We also continued our work on issues such as the military and corporate influence on science, as well as climate change and sustainable energy.

This year's key achievements:

- SGR was a partner and source of expertise to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) which played a key role in bringing nations together to agree a new UN treaty to ban nuclear weapons. For making such a vital contribution to reducing the risks of nuclear war, ICAN received that most prestigious award, the Nobel Peace Prize.
- SGR's research uncovered new financial links between the arms and fossil fuel industries and science and engineering organisations – and we argued for a UK industrial strategy which included a shift to sectors with a strong orientation towards peace, justice and sustainability.
- SGR ran its third successful Science4Society Week, including inspirational science education activities for young people. We set up a new stand-alone website to host our expanded range of teaching resources available for download.
- We reached a record audience through our websites – receiving nearly 360,000 visits during the year.
- SGR worked with other campaigners on many issues, opposing new EU funding for military R&D and challenging corporate influence on science education.

We would like to thank our membership, our trust funders, and individual donors – all have been essential in SGR's successes. We also thank our staff and volunteers who worked very hard during the year.

Stuart Parkinson, Executive Director
Philip Webber, Chair

Projects

THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS THREAT: SGR's activity during this reporting year was focused on campaigning for the UN nuclear ban treaty, and this became especially important with the rapidly growing tensions between the USA and North Korea. As part of ICAN, we carried out numerous activities. Philip Webber wrote a six-part beginner's guide to nuclear weapons for our website, which was released in stages in the run-up to the UN treaty negotiations in March and June 2017. It was viewed over 3,400 times during the reporting period. We also produced media releases and were active on social media throughout the year, especially when the treaty – known formally as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) – was agreed by 122 nations in July. The importance of this milestone was reflected later in the year when ICAN received that most prestigious of awards, the Nobel Peace Prize. The UK government has been particularly hostile to the TPNW, saying it will 'never' sign the treaty. With ICAN-UK partners, SGR has sent several letters to the government and the media calling for a change of heart. One of our letters – co-signed with Nobel Laureate, Prof Peter Higgs – was published in *The Guardian*. Philip Webber spoke at the international *Health Through Peace* conference (see p.2) about the threat of nuclear winter even from a 'regional' nuclear war. He took up this theme again in an article for the popular *Huffington Post UK* website. SGR was also a supporting organisation for a demonstration outside Downing Street in September calling for the UK to do more to help reduce tensions between the USA and North Korea.

ARMS/ FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY INFLUENCE ON PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS: SGR continued to host a Peacemaker, a one-year full-time post funded by Quaker Peace and Social Witness. Our Peacemaker, Philip Wood, concluded his research on the links between professional science and engineering organisations and the arms and fossil fuel industries. He gave six presentations around the country during the reporting period (see p.2), discussing his preliminary

findings. The final report is due to be launched later in 2018.

SCIENCE4SOCIETY WEEK: SGR ran its third Science4Society Week in March 2017, continuing to provide our ground-breaking alternative to science education activities sponsored by the arms, fossil fuels or other controversial industries. Jan Maskell was again the co-ordinator. To help reach larger audiences, a new stand-alone website was set up – www.s4s.org.uk – and this hosted the wide range of downloadable materials for teachers and students to use. Over 50 different classroom resources are now available, with over 2,000 downloads of these being recorded during the reporting period. Over 150 students and staff also took part in visits to community-run eco-projects – and these visits received some very positive feedback from staff and students alike. The competition this year was to produce a poster to help explain measures to make homes more environmentally friendly. In January 2018, Jan ran an SGR stand at the annual conference of the Association of Science Education in Liverpool. Jan also had an article published about the project on the *Huffington Post UK* website. We thank The Martin Ryle Trust, Lush Charity Pot, Ecology Building Society and YES Energy Services for grants towards this work.

OTHER PROJECTS:

- Our 2014 report highlighting the shortcomings of **shale gas and fracking** continued to prove popular with over 1,100 copies distributed during the reporting period.
- Our five reports on the problems of **military and corporate influence on science and technology** were downloaded over 4,600 times* during the year. A book chapter by SGR authors was also published.
- Our ten **ethical careers** booklets continued to be popular with a total of 3,000 copies downloaded during the year. Two book chapters on ethical careers were also published.

*Figures include stand-alone executive summaries

Events

25TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS: SGR marked its 25th year by organising a conference in London, running activities at an international peace conference in York, and supporting a lecture in London. Our conference was entitled *Creating a better world: Some lessons for the next 25 years*, and included two main speakers, Andrew Simms from the New Weather Institute and SGR Chair Philip Webber. Each spoke on how rapid positive transitions have been achieved in the past on environmental and peace issues, and how such transformations could be brought about again. Philip Wood also gave an update on the Peacemaker project (see p.1). The event also included SGR's AGM and a members' forum for getting more people involved in the organisation's activities. In York, SGR representatives took part in the *Health through peace* conference, with Philip Webber speaking on the nuclear weapons threat and Stuart Parkinson speaking on military involvement in science. We also held a drinks reception to mark our 25th anniversary. Finally, we ran a stall at this year's Martin Ryle Trust lecture, *The Business Plan for Peace* given by Scilla Elworthy.

INVITED LECTURES: In addition to events above, SGR speakers gave 9 presentations during the year. Philip Wood gave six presentations around the country on the preliminary findings of the 'Peacemaker' project. More specifically, he spoke at Quaker events in Cumbria, Derbyshire, Dundee, Winchester and the national gathering in Warwick. Meanwhile, Stuart Parkinson spoke at the CND national conference in London on climate change and conflict, and at a technology and human rights conference at Leeds Beckett University on military involvement in science. In July, Jan Maskell ran a workshop for children from a Cumbrian school on flooding and climate change.

Communications

We had a very good year in terms of media coverage – mainly due to our work on nuclear weapons (see p.1) and military influence on science. Visits to our two websites climbed to a new high, and we also saw a continued increase in the number of followers on social media.

MEDIA: Our work in support of nuclear disarmament attracted a lot of coverage during the year. An open letter, signed by senior scientists and medical professionals, calling on the UK to take a lead in de-escalating the threat of nuclear war was published in *The Guardian* in August. Philip Webber had an article published on the popular *Huffington Post UK* website on the consequences of a possible nuclear war. This was republished on the *Stop the War coalition* website. Stuart Parkinson was interviewed for an in-depth feature on the *Pulitzer Center* website, focusing on the potential for arms conversion in military-nuclear sector. SGR's role in providing expert materials for the Nobel Peace Prize winners, ICAN, received coverage in the *New Statesman* and *openDemocracy*. In calling for a reduction in military spending on science and engineering in the UK and EU, we received coverage in *The Engineer* – via an opinion article by Stuart Parkinson – and *Science Business*. We also received prominent coverage for our criticism of arms and fossil fuel industry involvement in science education activities, notably an opinion piece in *Huffington Post UK* by Jan Maskell, as well as in *The Guardian*, *Sunday Herald*, *The Ecologist* and *The National*. An open letter to the UK government on climate policies was published in *The Ecologist*.

SGR WEBSITE: In addition to our main website – www.sgr.org.uk – we set up a new stand-alone website – www.s4s.org.uk – for the Science4Society Week project (see p.2). The total number of 'visits' for both websites over the reporting period was nearly 360,000 – a very respectable number for an organisation of our limited size. Our blog, newsletter articles (see below), project reports (see p.1) and presentations (see p.2) were all key factors in this success. The websites were maintained by Stuart Parkinson, Jan Maskell and Philip Wood.

SGR NEWSLETTER: We continued to publish our 24-page *Newsletter* in the winter and our 4-page *Newsletter Extra* in the summer. Feature articles in these publications covered issues such as the nuclear stand-off on the Korean peninsula, Arctic ice-cap melting, the new nuclear ban treaty, cars and climate change, Brexit and science funding, air pollution, improving protection of the oceans, the militarisation of the EU science budget, cuts to US climate programmes, and radical science activism in the 1980s. The lead editor on both publications was Stuart Parkinson, with help from Jan Maskell and Vanessa Moss.



Jan Maskell and Science4Society Week competition winner Rachel Walsh

SOCIAL MEDIA: Our use of social media continued to grow during the year. We gained hundreds of new followers on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn. We also maintained our two email-lists: *sgrforum*, for discussion among members; and *sgrupdate*, an announcements-only list for anyone. By the end of the year, we had a total of nearly 3,800 followers on all our social media outlets: an 8% increase on the previous year. These media outlets were managed by Stuart Parkinson, Philip Wood and Jan Maskell.

Other campaigning

In addition to campaigning on nuclear weapons (see p.1), SGR's advocacy work focused on several key areas. These included UK industrial strategy, new European Union funding for military R&D, corporate influence on science education, and UK climate change policies.

With the UK government and the Labour Party carrying out consultations on a new UK industrial strategy, SGR submitted responses to both calling for a shift of resources from the arms industry to environmental sectors. Stuart Parkinson also wrote an opinion piece in *The Engineer* making similar arguments.

With the EU continuing to put together proposals for a huge expansion in the funding it provides for arms industry projects, SGR joined with peace groups across the EU to set up a new campaign 'Researchers for Peace'. A central feature of the campaign is an online sign-on statement for researchers, calling for an end to the use of EU funds for military R&D. Over 100 people had signed up by February 2018, with this figure growing rapidly thereafter.

SGR also joined other campaign groups in publicly criticising the sponsorship by BAE Systems and Shell of the New Scientist Live event and sponsorship by Shell, Edinburgh Airport and EDF Energy of the 'ecovillage' exhibit at the Edinburgh International Science Festival. Our criticisms received good media coverage (see p.3).

In June 2017, SGR wrote to UK political leaders calling for stronger climate change policies. We also provided help to anti-fracking campaigners near Blackpool seeking scientific advice.

SGR members also took part in some of the March for Science activities around the UK in April 2017, and we issued a statement. Finally, SGR committee members again ran a stall at Leeds Science Fair.

Staff and volunteers

STAFF: Stuart Parkinson continued as Executive Director and Vanessa Moss continued as Office Manager. Philip Wood completed his year as a Peaceworker at the end of August. His one-year full-time post has been funded by the British Quakers (see p.1). Jan Maskell continued as the project co-ordinator and worker for Science4Society Week (see p.2). We thank all our staff for their hard work.

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE: The NCC – chaired by Philip Webber – continued to provide oversight of SGR's activities. In October, Harry Tsoumpas and Gwen Harrison stepped down as Committee Members. We thank them for all their hard work. In February, Alice Pledger was co-opted as a new Student Representative. A full list of NCC members is given on the inside front cover. Many thanks to NCC members for all the effort and expertise they provide for the organisation.

OTHER VOLUNTEERS: Jan Maskell and Stuart Parkinson continued to co-ordinate SGR's other volunteers. These were:

SGR Newsletter and Blog: Keith Baker, Keith Barnham, Peter Burt, Dave Cullen, Rachel Freeman, Wiebina Heesterman, Kate Macintosh, Emer O'Connell, Louisa Reynolds, May van Schalkwyk, Vanessa Spedding, Josephine Stein

SGR stall volunteers: Richard Jennings, Gerry Lowe
Office volunteer: Alice Pledger

We thank them for their very useful contributions.



Philip Webber speaking at the SGR conference

Financial review

SGR's finances for this reporting period (from March 2017 to February 2018 inclusive) continue to be in good health.

A detailed breakdown of our income and expenditure is shown in the tables and figures.

Income (£)	2016-17	2017-18
Membership subscriptions	£17,935	£19,961
Membership appeal	£9,663	£9,808
Grants	£16,799	£9,693
Donations	£2,607	£1,879
Conference fees	£1,323	£829
Sales of publications	£212	£117
Interest	£18	£13
Total	£48,557	£42,299

Income from membership subscriptions rose by 11% from the previous year, and donations (both to the annual appeal and throughout the year) reached a respectable level. At the end of the reporting period, we had approximately 750 members. We received grants towards core costs this year from The Martin Ryle Trust (£5,693) and The 1970 Trust (£2,000), and also a grant from Young Lancashire (£2,000) for our environmental education work, including Science4Society Week. We are very grateful to all who supported SGR's work this year.

One important source of income that does not appear in our accounts is the support provided this year from the Peacemaker programme of Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW). This programme funded a full-time early career worker for SGR for one year ending 31st August 2017. The salary was paid directly to the worker by QPSW, so in effect the post was a secondment. The Peacemaker's project is summarised on p.1.

Expenditure (£)	2016-17	2017-18
Core wages and NI	£25,075	£25,442
Rent, insurance and utilities	£3,318	£2,662
Recruitment	£2,846	£1,059
Newsletter	£3,016	£3,114
Conference and AGM	£3,064	£2,129
Other core costs	£4,326	£3,057
Science4Society Wk project	£3,656	£1,796
Nuclear weapons project	£374	£0
Total	£45,676	£39,259

Expenditure on salaries for core staff was stable during the reporting year. However, we were able to make savings in several areas of core spending. Project expenditure was in line with grant income received in this and the previous financial year, but it should also be noted that there was significant voluntary input to our project work as well.

As a result of all these factors, SGR entered its new financial year with a healthy bank balance. However, our finances continue to depend on the success of grant applications and the generosity of donors.

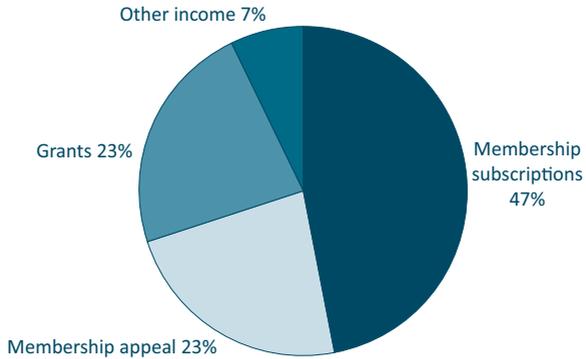
Balance on 01.03.17	£29,497
Income	£42,299
Expenditure	£39,259
Income minus expenditure	£3,040
Balance on 28.02.18	£32,537

NB All figures rounded to nearest pound

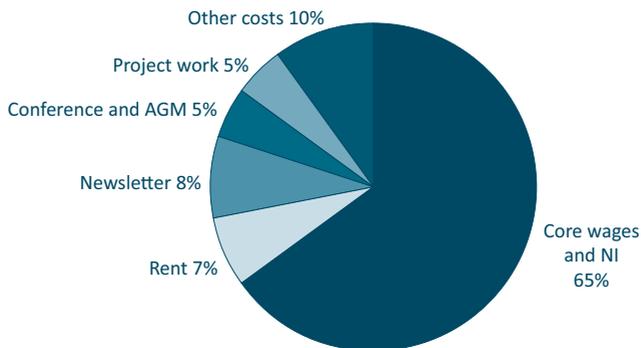


Stuart Parkinson and Paul Marchant at the March for Science in Manchester

Income 2017-18



Expenditure 2017-18



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