ACRONYM INSTITUTE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012

1. Summary
This report covers the work, key developments, meetings and publications of the Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy for the period 1 January to 31 December 2012. Additional reports have been made to funders in respect of specific grants in accordance with their reporting guidelines and schedules, which generally relate to the starting dates of the grant rather than the calendar or financial year.

The Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy is a not-for-profit research organisation based in London, which works to enhance international security, humanitarian, disarmament and environmental objectives. In 2012, the Acronym Institute received core support from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust for our work on “British and multilateral security, including preventing Trident replacement and creating the conditions for global nuclear weapons abolition”, and two overlapping project grants from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for research, meetings and publications on “ways and means to outlaw nuclear weapons through a humanitarian-centred approach”, and on “mobilizing for a ban on nuclear weapons in nuclear-dependent countries”. During the year we also received a one-year grant from Network for Social Change for British-based outreach to enhance our work on “delegitimising nuclear weapons”.

As can be seen from the annex listing our meetings, publications, media work and communications, 2012 was a full and productive year. The Acronym Institute’s redesigned and enhanced website was launched just prior to the 2012 PrepCom meeting of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in April and received accolades and an upsurge in visitors and downloads of our articles, NPT blogs and materials. The culmination of two years of work led by Kat Barton, the revamped website was accompanied by an accessible web-based archive of almost 20 years of Acronym reports, UN, treaty and parliamentary developments and Disarmament Diplomacy issues, and now enables us to build up Acronym’s presence on twitter and other social media. At the same time, Acronym’s new report Decline or Transform: Nuclear disarmament and security beyond the NPT Review Process was published, containing essays by Tim Caughley and John Borrie and from Acronym’s executive director Dr Rebecca Johnson relating humanitarian arguments to the NPT and its review process.

The Acronym Institute participated in NPT and civil society meetings in Vienna, where Dr Johnson was a featured speaker in panels on the Middle East, the NPT and humanitarian disarmament. During 2012, she continued to play a leading role in coordinating the strategies and work of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), serving as President of ICAN for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and (from September) as one of ICAN’s three international Co-Chairs. In addition to speaking at a substantial number of civil society events throughout the year, as detailed in our 2012 Annual Report, the Acronym Institute participated in the UN First Committee in New York, and spoke at meetings and training sessions for diplomats and verification specialists on treaties and implementation, as hosted by the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) Organisation in Vienna and the European Union (EU) Consortium in Brussels. We continued to engage with British and international diplomats and officials to exchange information and ideas on what governments and civil society could do
to further the objectives of security, disarmament and treaty compliance, notably in one-to-one and small group meetings in the United States, Japan, Switzerland, and several EU countries.

In addition to blogs written by Acronym Institute staff for the website, several editions of *Proliferation in Parliament: A Review of recent developments in the UK Government & Parliament*, were published in 2012, compiled by Kat Barton. These reviews highlighted news and parliamentary debates relating to nuclear policy in the Westminster and Scottish political arenas. Dr Johnson has continued as a featured analyst for *openDemocracy*, which published many of her articles on issues of international security, nuclear questions and the role of women in addressing conflict and violence. Several of these articles were picked up and disseminated more widely by other electronic news services and NGOs.

Consistent with our funded work, the priorities in 2012 were reframing the arguments against UK Trident replacement and creating new momentum for international initiatives to pursue global nuclear disarmament as a humanitarian and security imperative. We engaged with diplomats, thinkers and activists to develop broader and more active constituencies, new ideas and strategies to achieve long-standing security objectives including further multilateral agreements to prohibit nuclear weapons, prevent their use, and bring about regional nuclear and WMD disarmament in Europe and the Middle East. Over the year, Acronym also served as an advisor and commentator for national and international media, including CNN, BBC television and radio, Channel 4, IPS, Reuters, the Independent, the Guardian and national media in Japan, China and several European countries.

2. Humanitarian imperatives to prohibit nuclear weapons

As our first grant from Norway to raise awareness of humanitarian disarmament approaches ended in mid 2012, a further two-year grant was received in July 2012 for ‘mobilizing for a nuclear weapons ban in nuclear-dependent countries’. These two grants overlapped through the year with our core-funded work on Trident renewal and reframing nuclear disarmament options through humanitarian approaches. Section 3 will deal in more detail with UK-specific work.

During the year, Acronym’s international work on humanitarian disarmament included:

- conducting research and organising information exchange and strategy meetings;
- engaging civil society campaigners, academics, parliamentarians, intergovernmental organisations like the Red Cross and United Nations, and governmental representatives, to explore how to revive awareness of the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons and use this to stimulate new approaches to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons;
- one-to-one and small group meetings with representatives from different civil society constituencies and countries, notably with campaigners, women, youth, parliamentarians, health and environmental experts, disarmament academics and NGOs, to develop and test ideas for reframing the discourse, options and messaging to take forward international efforts to prohibit nuclear weapons;
- one-to-one and small group meetings with diplomats and officials from many countries;
- publication and wide dissemination of a new report – *Decline or Transform: Nuclear disarmament and security beyond the NPT Review Process*;
- publication of shorter briefings, blogs and articles relating humanitarian disarmament arguments to nuclear weapons and the NPT, including through *openDemocracy* and the Acronym Institute website;
- facilitating discussions in various countries on humanitarian disarmament arguments through powerpoint and other kinds of presentations at conferences and meetings organised by governments, academic institutions and civil society groups;
• meetings in China, talks with scientists, US and Chinese foreign ministry officials, and students. Dr Johnson gave powerpoint presentations and distributed a well-received paper on the arguments for changing the options for addressing nuclear weapons and threats, raising awareness of the humanitarian consequences and the role and function of multilateral treaties. In smaller, private meetings with Chinese foreign ministry, defence and academic officials, we explored the challenges and opportunities for China in bringing the CTBT into force and in fulfilling the NPT and UN resolutions relating to the elimination of nuclear arsenals, including new opportunities and approaches to ban the use, deployment and production of nuclear weapons. We also explored the possibility with academic and defence publishers of getting translated versions of Acronym materials more widely distributed in Chinese.

• engaging with representatives from media consultancies to brainstorm and analyse different approaches, images, communications strategies and messages to reframe the imperative for nuclear disarmament and inspire and convince broader constituencies to support and promote a nuclear weapons ban treaty;

• improving strategies and communications for ICAN and civil society networking in Britain and France, with ongoing participation in collaborative work with other NGOs in nuclear umbrella states.

• highlighting the regional-international nexus of proliferation and disarmament, particularly in relation to developments in North-East Asia and the Middle East where nuclear possession and ambitions are particularly destabilising at present, and in Europe, where US, NATO and Russian tactical nuclear weapons and doctrines pose continuing challenges to European security.

While exploring and testing the arguments, messaging and strategies for taking forward humanitarian approaches to reframe disarmament options, Rebecca Johnson devoted considerable time and energy to developing ICAN – for which she was elected Co-Chair – and the British-based network ICAN UK into more effective, diverse, and accountable campaigns. Research and writing undertaken during 2012 bore fruit in 2013 as materials from the UK and ICAN for the Oslo Conference on humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons.

3. Opposing Trident replacement using security and humanitarian approaches

Acronym’s 2012 strategies on Trident prioritised movement building, meetings and education to increase public understanding of the UK’s real security, as well as the economic and development costs and opportunity costs associated with Trident replacement. We met with government officials from the Cabinet Office, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Ministry of Defence (MoD) and interested MPs and Peers from all parties to raise questions about British nuclear policy. We continued to support Scottish public and parliamentary initiatives to remove nuclear weapons from Scotland, and discussed the options and implications of current and potential UK nuclear doctrines, policies and developments with NATO officials and diplomats, as well as other NPT states parties.

While working to denuclearise UK security policy altogether, we sought to increase debate, focus more attention on the costs and construction at the Atomic Weapons Establishment facilities at Aldermaston and Burghfield, and challenge new developments and contracts being undertaken on Trident replacement projects prior to parliamentary debate and decisions due in 2016. In this regard we engaged with some interim strategies promoted by some NGOs and parties on ending UK reliance on continuous-at-sea deployments, but with significant caveats: Acronym argued that such operational changes could be useful in creating time for disarmament developments to take stronger hold nationally and internationally, but cautioned against pursuing
them as objectives in their own right, as they risked providing credibility for Trident Lite replacement and could therefore derail longer term strategies to prevent Trident replacement.

Recognising the need for mobilising public awareness and political action, Acronym played a leading role in strengthening ICAN UK and initiating Action AWE (Atomic Weapons Eradication), and also participated in other civil society groupings, including the ‘No Trident Replacement Core Group’ and ‘Nuclear Policy Liaison Working Group’, which exchanged information among various UK NGOs on parliamentary developments relating to nuclear policy debates in the government and political parties. During 2012 Acronym took the lead on all ICAN-UK activities, and from October 2012, enabled ICAN UK to hire a part time coordinator and undertook her training and management to increase the effectiveness of ICAN’s outreach on humanitarian disarmament approaches and link this with other British campaigns on Trident. We worked closely with ICAN-UK partners and researchers from the main partner NGOs to commission various reports on the humanitarian impacts of UK-related nuclear detonations – conducted against UK cities or fired by the UK against others. These were launched in 2013, but the major work was conducted during 2012.

The formation of a core group to coordinate Action AWE arose from discussions with other activists, after feedback from public and student meetings in various towns and universities, listed in more detail below, convinced Dr Johnson that a significant intensification of focussed public and political engagement would be needed to convince and enable British politicians to bring nuclear policy into line with the UK’s international treaty commitments to pursue nuclear disarmament in good faith and not to replace the current nuclear arsenal. While much of the grassroots work was carried forward in Dr Johnson’s personal capacity, her work was integrated with Acronym’s funded projects on UK nuclear policy, and included raising awareness of the roles of AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield in manufacturing nuclear warheads for Trident and any potential replacement. In addition to developing strategies for Action AWE and ICAN, Dr Johnson put together materials and powerpoint presentations aimed at mobilising civil society by linking British strategies to scrap Trident with international approaches to get multilateral negotiations to ban nuclear weapons.

During 2012, Kat Barton participated in a number of UK-based meetings, including Chatham House, Young Nuclear Professionals Group, INENS and also Women in International Security (WIIS), and spoke on an Under-35s event at Chatham House, alongside John Woodcock MP & Anaiz Parfait of Global Zero on “Disarmament and Non-Proliferation: The Nuclear Question in a Changing World”. She also participated in two conferences at Wilton Park during 2012, and was the rapporteur for Wilton Park’s December Conference on “The nuclear non-proliferation regime: laying the groundwork for the 2015 Review Conference”.

This 2012 annual report and its annex, providing more detail on the publications, media work and meetings, were prepared by the executive Director, Rebecca Johnson, and has been read and approved by the Board of the Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy.

Dr David Atwood
Chair of the Board

Date:
Annex to the 2012 Annual Report on Acronym’s publications, media, meetings and presentations during the year

Publications
In addition to blogs written by Rebecca Johnson and Kat Barton for Acronym’s website, several editions of Proliferation in Parliament: A Review of recent developments in the UK Government & Parliament, were published in 2012, compiled by Kat Barton. These reviews highlighted news and parliamentary debates relating to nuclear policy in the Westminster and Scottish political arenas.

Rebecca Johnson, Tim Caughley and John Borrie, Decline or Transform: Nuclear disarmament and security beyond the NPT Review Process (London: Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy, 2012)
Rebecca Johnson, ‘Is the nuclear non-proliferation regime fit for purpose? openDemocracy, 30 April 2012
Rebecca Johnson, ‘Non-Proliferation Treaty: the ground is shifting’, openDemocracy, 4 May 2012
Rebecca Johnson, ‘Summoning political will to rid the Middle East of WMD’, openDemocracy’, 11 May 2012
Rebecca Johnson, ‘Facing up to the humanitarian consequences of nuclear policies and mistakes’, openDemocracy, 18 May 2012
Rebecca Johnson, ‘From Fukushima to Hinkley Point’, openDemocracy, 18 September 2012
Rebecca Johnson ‘From banning nuclear tests to banning nuclear weapons’, openDemocracy, 3 October 2012
Rebecca Johnson ‘Standing on the threshold: banning nuclear weapons’, openDemocracy, 8 December 2012
Rebecca Johnson, ‘Changing the Game to Achieve Nuclear Disarmament’, Inter Press Service News Agency, 12 December 2012.

In addition, Rebecca authored a range of materials and texts for ICAN, Action AWE, Women in Black and ICAN UK, while Kat and Rebecca both supported ICAN partners in research leading to publications in 2013 on the impacts of nuclear weapon detonations.

MEDIA
Rebecca has appeared in news and other programmes for CNN (including ‘Connect the World’), BBC radio (radio 2, radio 4, world service and documentaries) and BBC television (news 24 and world service programmes), NHK, and local media, addressing NPT developments, Iran, North Korea and nuclear-related issues. The film ‘In My Lifetime’ which features Rebecca in past and present roles has been widely shown on television in the United States, Japan and several European and Asian countries. Rebecca and/or Acronym have also been quoted in articles in Kyodo News, Reuters, AP, IPS, with additional coverage through ICAN media and website resources, as well as wide take-up and further dissemination of some of her openDemocracy articles through other media and publications. Kat Barton ensured that Acronym’s work was kept up-to-date

MEETINGS AND PRESENTATIONS: Rebecca Johnson
Priority has been given to listing meetings at which Rebecca contributed as an organiser or presenter; she also participated in various seminars, information and strategy-sharing meetings which are not necessarily listed.

February 3-4, 2012, Brussels, EU Consortium Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference, with particular emphasis on the Middle East and Europe.

February 20-24, 2012, Geneva, co-organised the week-long training programme for ICAN’s newly recruited Middle East campaigners from Israel, Lebanon, Iran, Egypt and Bahrain.


March 3, 2012, Million Women Rise, gave speech on women’s actions for disarmament and justice.
March 6-7, 2012, Montreux, International Law and Policy Institute (ILPI) workshop with representatives from key governments and civil society on humanitarian disarmament strategies.

March 8-10, 2012, Annecy, Monterey Institute diplomatic workshop on the Non-Proliferation Treaty regime, gave presentation on ‘Challenges after the 2010 NPT Review Conference’.

March 17, 2012, London, gave keynote presentation and powerpoint on ‘Bringing nuclear disarmament into UK’s 2012 UPR (Universal Periodic Review) on human rights’ to the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF-UK) AGM.

March 20-21, 2012, York University workshop on Devaluing Nuclear Weapons: Concepts and Challenges, gave presentation on ‘What would devaluing look like to non-nuclear weapon states? Norm-building and legal steps to delegitimize nuclear use’

March 22-23, 2012, Civitavecchia, Peace Boat workshop on ‘Getting to a zone free of WMD in the Middle East’ with campaigners from many Middle East and NATO countries.

March 27, 2012, London University College and Council on Christian Approaches to Defence and Disarmament (CCADD), keynote speaker in public debate with Lord (George) Robertson and others on whether Trident should be replaced.


April 30-May 11, 2012, Vienna, 2012 Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) meeting for the 2015 NPT Review Conference – attended the whole PrepCom and spoke at numerous meetings on subjects such as UK nuclear policy, NATO and European nuclear weapons, the Middle East, and connections between nuclear disarmament, the NPT and international humanitarian law.

May 15, 2012, London, Trident Core Group meeting, gave presentation on the 2012 NPT PrepCom to stimulate strategy discussions on energising UK campaigning to prevent the replacement of Trident and move UK politics towards supporting a multilateral treaty to ban nuclear weapons.


May 30, 2012, Oxford University Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict (ELAC) roundtable on nuclear issues, research and international law, strategised on nuclear ban treaty approaches.


June, 22, 2012, London, ICAN UK outreach sub-group meeting


July 11, 2012, Nottingham, People’s Health Assembly, presented on Trident, Costs, Health and Humanitarian Consequences: The necessity to disarm.


August 19-21, 2012, Hiroshima, ICAN International Campaigners meeting, presented main strategy on behalf of ICAN Core Group.
August 22, 2012, Nagasaki A-bomb Museum Hall, Keynote speaker at public meeting on: "From Humanitarian Catastrophe to Nuclear Abolition -- A New Approach towards a Nuclear Weapon-Free World", which was cosponsored by Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA), organised by the Executive Committee of Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and Nagasaki Foundation for the Promotion of Peace.

August 23, 2012, Nagasaki, meeting with Mayor Taue and city officials, followed by seminar at RECNA, University of Nagasaki, with my powerpoint on “International Humanitarian Law and UN, disarmament as humanitarian action”.

August 24-26, 2012, Hiroshima, IPPNW International Conference, gave plenary presentation on “Achieving our world free of nuclear weapons”.


August 30, 2012, Tokyo, Public meeting for Soka Gakkai International, keynote speaker with powerpoint on ‘From Humanitarian Catastrophe to Nuclear Abolition’.


October 4-5, 2012, Geneva, ICAN International Steering Group face-to-face strategy meeting.

October 12, 2012, London, ICAN Middle East campaigners strategy meeting (organised and facilitated the meeting with campaigners from Israel, Iran, Syria, Egypt and Bahrain).

October 13, 2012, London, CND Conference on a Middle East free of nuclear weapons, gave opening presentation framing the issues (having collaborated with CND to organise the agenda and speakers for the meeting)

October 17-24, 2012, New York, United Nations General Assembly First Committee (attended one week of the four-week First Committee meeting)

October 20-21, 2012, New York, Humanitarian Disarmament Campaigns Summit to build civil society initiatives across a range of humanitarian approaches to control and ban inhumane weapons and practices.


October 24, 2012, NY, United Nations, sidebar meeting during First Committee addressing the Middle East, Co-hosted by the Irish government, Acronym Institute and IKV-Pax Christi on ‘Helsinki and Beyond: Hopes and expectations of civil society’, Chaired and gave opening presentation.

October 27-November 3, 2012, Beijing, ISODARCO Conference, including presentation on ‘Preventing Nuclear Use: the Humanitarian Imperative for nuclear disarmament’ and many one-to-one or small-group meetings with Chinese officials, students and military analysts.

November 9, 2012, Article 36, Rivington Street, London, ICAN UK outreach sub-group meeting

November 12, 2012, Grayston Centre, London, ICAN UK meeting

November 17, 2012, Glasgow, Scottish CND AGM, presentation on "New international Game-changers to Ban Nuclear Weapons: Scotland's Role and Responsibility” and mobilised for SCND collaboration with ICAN-UK and ActionAWE.

November 19, 2012, University of London School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)/Pugwash 7th Annual Conference on “Making the Middle East Nuclear & WMD Free”, presented on a panel on ‘Prospects for a Middle East WMD Free Zone’, chaired by Lord David Owen.

November 19, 2012, Haringey CND, gave presentation on ‘How we can stop Trident and ban nuclear weapons globally’ (evening)

November 22, 2012, Manchester, meeting for ICAN UK with NFZLA and Scientists for Global Responsibility on UK reports on the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons in various scenarios for UK Parliament and Oslo.


MEETINGS – KAT BARTON

This list is based on conferences and meetings attended by Kat Barton during the year, and not necessarily ones in which she was a speaker. Though employed on a part time basis, Kat attended most meetings of the Nuclear Weapons Policy Liaison Group and ICAN UK, and began to get more involved in events for younger nuclear
professionals, including Chatham House, Young Nuclear Professionals Group, INENS and also Women in International Security (WIIS).


March 14, 2012, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London, Consultation with Jo Adamson, UK Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament to discuss 2012 NPT Preparatory Committee meeting


April 28-29, 2012, Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, ICAN campaigners meeting.

April 30 – May 11, 2012, International Conference Centre, United Nations, Vienna, 2012 NPT Preparatory Committee meeting, attending the main conference, conducting private meetings with several delegations, attending receptions & side events, including but not limited to:

- May 4, 2012, UK Mission, Vienna, Meeting with Jo Adamson & UK delegation to 2012 NPT PrepCom

- May 3, 2012, Austria Center Vienna, “The 2012 Conference on the Middle East Free Zone of Nuclear Weapons and all other WMD: The Initiative and Prospects” meeting with Mohamed Shaker, Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs
- May 3, 2012, Vienna International Centre, “Civil Society’s Strategies for Establishing a Nuclear Free Middle East” meeting with ICAN Middle East Campaigners, chaired by Rebecca Johnson
- May 11, 2012, UK Mission, Vienna, Meeting with Jo Adamson & UK delegation to 2012 NPT PrepCom


June 14, 2012, Royal Institute of International Affairs Chatham House, London, Women in International Security meeting


June 22, 2012, London, ICAN UK outreach sub-group meeting


July 11, 2012, Royal Institute of International Affairs Chatham House, London, Young Professionals Nuclear Policy (YPNP) meeting with Patricia Lewis on the “Middle East Nuclear Weapons Free Zone”

September 2-5, 2012, Wilton Park “Global constituencies in the NPT regime: how to build consensus for 2015?” conference


September 24, 2012, Grayston Centre, London, ICAN UK meeting

September 27, 2012, UNA, London, Nuclear Weapons Policy Liaison Group (NWPLG) meeting

October 12, 2012, Grayston Centre, London, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) Middle East campaigners meeting


November 9, 2012, Article 36, Old Street, London, ICAN UK outreach sub-group meeting

November 12, 2012, Grayston Centre, London, ICAN UK meeting
November 19, 2012, SOAS, London, SOAS/Pugwash 7th Annual Conference on the Middle East, “Making the Middle East Nuclear & WMD Free”


December 6, 2012, Houses of Parliament, London, Young Professionals in Foreign Policy (YPFP) ‘Distinguished Speaker Series’ meeting with Sir Nick Young, Chief Executive British Red Cross