

Resolutions carried at the National Assembly of Women Annual General Meeting, Saturday 7 May 2011

This AGM notes:

The reported rise in the incidence of childhood cancers and birth deformities in the areas where depleted uranium weapons have been used in battle, for example in the areas around Basra, in the south of Iraq, where the UK used the weapons in the first Gulf War, and in the Balkans;

The failure of existing arms control law to ban the use of uranium in non-nuclear weapons;

The European Parliament's May 2008 resolution calling for a moratorium on the manufacture, storage, testing, trade and use of depleted uranium munitions, leading to a global ban: a resolution echoed in 2009 by the Latin American Parliament;

The entry into force of Belgium's ban on depleted uranium weapons in June 2009 and a ban on investments in their manufacturers;

The bills banning the use of uranium in non-nuclear weapons currently under consideration in the Costa Rican, Irish and New Zealand legislatures;

The 2008 United Nations General Assembly resolution (which the UK government voted against) that called on the WHO, UNEP and IAEA to update their research into the potential impact of uranium weapons, with a particular focus on affected states;

The failure of the UK government to support a third UN resolution on uranium weapons in October 2010 – despite calls to do so from MPs on all sides of the political spectrum and from the Scottish Parliament

The ongoing lack of transparency over the use of uranium weapons in Iraq by US forces and its implications for civilian health and risk reduction, The technical, financial and political challenges faced by states recovering from conflict seeking to manage contamination from uranium weapons,

The lack of meaningful research into the impact of uranium weapons on civilian populations.

This AGM therefore RESOLVES:

To support the CADU/ UK Uranium Weapons Network.

To call on all members to disseminate information on the dangers of uranium weapons and to feature the campaign against them on our website and in Sisters

To call on the UK government to review its position on 'depleted uranium' munitions; to acknowledge the 'precautionary principle.'

To signal this issue for the agenda at the forthcoming WIDF conference in Brazil, December 2011.

Women and Pensions.

This AGM expresses its anger at the ConDem Government attacks on Women's pensions.

The increase in the state pension age to 66 for both men and women by 2020 was not in any party manifesto, and the Coalition agreement itself stated the pension age would not rise before 2020.

For women born after March 1953, the delay in receiving their pension will be up to 2 years. Half a million women will have their state pension delayed by more than 12 months.

The equalisation of state pension ages was in the 1995 Pensions Act, fifteen years before implementation started, and twenty five years before the age of 65 would take effect. To now give some of these same women less than eight years to adjust to a delay of two years in their pension date is disproportionate and unfair.

This AGM is concerned that this hurried change in retirement age, without full and proper consultation, is to be followed by more “radical” changes in the structure of state pension, the proposal for a universal pension payment of about £140 per week from 2015, but with the elimination of the second state pension, as well as pension credit.

This AGM resolves to campaign both against the pension age increase, and against any retrospection and theft of accrued entitlements.