

Letter to The Times

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As leaders of faith communities in Britain we believe that one significant contribution to a safer world is the abolition of nuclear weapons.

It is unacceptable that British citizens should be persuaded that their security depends on a credible threat to kill millions of innocent people. Our faith traditions reject the notion that reliance on the threat of mass destruction could ever be right.

We believe the Government should cancel the replacement of Trident. The £100 billion saved should be diverted to combating poverty at home and overseas; in providing affordable homes; investing in education and the NHS.

The Government must take a lead in current global initiatives which aim to create a nuclear-weapon free world. Our security does not exist in a vacuum: we must work for genuine global security in its many aspects. Tensions between nuclear weapons states must not divert attention from initiatives that would give impetus to the goal of the Non-Proliferation Treaty to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament.

Cancelling Trident would be a momentous step in this direction. Britain can lead the way.

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The Rev Sally Foster-Fulton Convener of the Church of Scotland's Church and Society Council

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