

## SECURITY AND DEFENCE

The UK's recent history has been scarred by involvement in ill-advised military interventions that have undermined our national and international security. The Green Party opposed these interventions, which have brought havoc to Iraq and Libya and only fragile gains in Afghanistan, as well as driving an increased terrorist threat closer to home – all at the cost of many precious lives and vast amounts of money and other resources that could have been better used for other needs.

### Green MP Caroline Lucas challenged the PM in the debate on 26 September 2014 on military action in Iraq

'Will the Prime Minister recognise that killing extremists does not kill their ideas? On the contrary – it can often feed their ideas, and for that reason the former MI6 head of counter-terrorism has said that getting Saudi Arabia and Iran around a negotiating table would be far more effective than bombing. Why are we not hearing far more from this Prime Minister about the political and diplomatic solutions to this situation, rather than reaching for the military solution, which could undermine them?'

We will restructure and update the UK's security and defence establishments and services so that they contribute to the international good. We will:

- Pursue a policy of '*defensive defence*', which threatens no one yet makes it clear that threats and attacks will be resisted.
- Take a leading role in *preventing violent conflict, genocide and war crimes overseas* through (i) helping to develop local capacities to avoid, manage and resolve conflicts; and (ii) enhancing the UK's well-respected role in genuine peacekeeping and the protection of non-combatant communities.
- Develop policies and programmes for '*environmental defence*' and *disaster mitigation and relief*, drawing on the skills and activities of our current military forces and increasing gender representation and training to equip the UK to contribute more effectively in these kinds of human security emergencies.
- *Diminish dependence on arms sales* through a halt to government subsidies and introducing a strict licensing regime to prevent sales of weapons and military equipment to undemocratic regimes and those that violate human rights (including, at the present time, Israel and Saudi Arabia).
- Look after *veterans* and their families.

## INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT AND SECURITY AGREEMENTS

The Green Party will ensure that UK security and defence policies are consistent with international law, including international humanitarian law, and that the UK implements in good faith all relevant obligations in the following *international treaties*: the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Outer Space Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Mine Ban Treaty, the Cluster Munitions Convention, the Arms Trade Treaty, the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and the Geneva Protocols.

We will:

- Enhance UK cooperation with civil society and international agencies to implement relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, including UNSC Resolutions 1325, 1820 and 1889, dealing with the role of *gender violence* in war and the necessity *to involve women at all levels in preventing war* and building peace and security.
- Save a massive £100 billion over the next 30 years by *cancelling Trident replacement and decommissioning existing nuclear forces and facilities*.
- Enhance international security and non-proliferation by initiating and/or joining negotiations on a universally applicable *nuclear abolition treaty* to prohibit the use, deployment, development, production, stockpiling and transfer of nuclear weapons and requiring their complete elimination.
- Initiate and/or join negotiations on new international treaties and laws to *prohibit* the development, deployment and use of *autonomous weapons (such as 'killer robots')*, *depleted uranium weapons*, weapon systems that are intended for use in and from *outer space*, and weapons that leave *explosive remnants and toxic legacies* in war-affected communities, while mandating the protection of civilians from any new weapons developments for the future.