



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



Bill Kidd MSP
Glasgow Anniesland



PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR
NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION
AND DISARMAMENT



Kazakhstan – from nuclear victim to abolition champion

Tuesday 14th March, 2-3pm
Committee Room 4, Scottish Parliament

Speakers:

Marzhan Nurzhan (Kazakhstan)

PNND Coordinator for the Commonwealth of Independent States (former Soviet countries)

Bill Kidd MSP (Scotland)

PNND Co-President

Janet Fenton (Scotland)

Vice-Chair of Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Between 1949 and 1989, the Soviet Union detonated 456 nuclear bombs in the ‘polygon’ region of Kazakhstan, 116 above ground and 340 underground. These nuclear tests have had – and continue to have – a devastating impact on the people living in eastern Kazakhstan. Nearly 2 million people have serious health problems, or have already died due to radiation exposure or genetic damage from the trans-generational impact of radiation.

In 1991, a huge civil society movement in Kazakhstan was successful in moving the Soviet government to close down the nuclear tests site. Then, upon the break-up of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan decided not to keep the nuclear-weapons stationed on its territory, but to send them to Russia for demolition. Kazakhstan then negotiated a Central Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, and has followed up with a number of other initiatives at the United Nations, including a proposal that all governments commit 1% of military budgets to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

On the International Day Against Nuclear Tests, 29 August 2016, PNND held a major international conference in Astana, Kazakhstan- which adopted the *Astana Vision Declaration* – a 10-point action plan to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world.

This event will consider the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, the example of Kazakhstan civil society and government actions, and how Scottish parliamentarians and civil society can advance nuclear abolition inspired by the actions outlined in the *Astana Vision Declaration*.

Note: The event will include an announcement by Bill Kidd MSP on the nomination he made for a prestigious award to go to Kazakhstan anti-nuclear leaders.

Registration required. Please contact Janet Fenton at janet@wordsandactions.scot