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Executive Summary
The past year has been another busy and eventful year for the DSC with important milestones and developments in international disarmament fora and at home in Aotearoa. The Delta and then subsequent Omicron outbreak meant a change in some of our event organising and less of an ability to gather in person, but adapt we did. The level of online engagement provided by some conferences and meetings overseas now means that those who participate virtually can take part and engage in a meaningful way, a boon for us here in Aotearoa New Zealand and in Covid-times.

The state of disarmament globally can appear bleak with nuclear weapons states upgrading and even expanding their arsenals, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, record levels of global military spending, and moves from Sweden and Finland to grow their reliance on nuclear weapons for defence.

There has been one particularly bright light this year, however, with the first Meeting of States Parties (1MSP) to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW, AKA the nuclear ban treaty) which was held in Vienna in June. The MSP produced one of the strongest multilateral political statements against nuclear weapons ever adopted and an action plan to chart the course forward. The TPNW 1MSP provided a clear example of multilateralism working for peace and disarmament and of involving civil society in a meaningful way.

On the domestic front, we’re also really encouraged by our active and engaged Minister for Disarmament, the Hon Phil Twyford who has really elevated the profile of the role and has been very visible at numerous international disarmament forums such as the TPNW 1MSP and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference which is being held this month in New York at the United Nations (Aug, 2022). New Zealand has made strong statements at both of these conferences and has been very clear about our ongoing commitment to a nuclear free world.

The current iteration of the Aotearoa New Zealand Public Advisory Committee on Disarmament and Arms Control is also a positive force in the New Zealand disarmament architecture. Chaired by the Minister and vice-Chaired by Mary Wareham (Human Rights Watch Director, Arms Control Division), the committee has a diverse group of experienced disarmament advocates appointed, including DSC staff member, Lucy Stewart.

The DSC continues in our core work of disarmament education – promoting greater understanding of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control grounded in the principles laid down in the 2002 UN Study on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education. While we focus on the tertiary level and working with university student clubs such as UCDisarm and Te Ao o Rongomaraeroa Students Club at the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, we
also have consistent outreach and engagement at the high school level and with community groups, particularly in Ōtautahi Christchurch.

We have a large number of online events and initiatives such as our regular Disarm Kōrero sessions, our bi-monthly online discussion series where we address a topical disarmament issue or topic. We utilise a range of platforms such as Zoom, Facebook Live as well as traditional social media channels for these.

The DSC works with Aotearoa civil society disarmament coalitions such as the Peace Foundation’s International Affairs and Disarmament Committee and we contribute an Aotearoa perspective on disarmament to international civil society campaigns such as the International Peace Bureau and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

This past year, some of our staff and team have taken on public advisory roles to Government with Lucy Stewart sitting on the current Public Advisory Committee for Disarmament and Arms Control (PACDAC), and Angela Woodward (Council) sitting on the Working Group on Autonomous Weapons Systems providing advice to the Government. The DSC continues to contribute to New Zealand’s disarmament diplomacy by attending or observing disarmament treaty conferences, online or in-person (Covid-permitting) and by engaging government officials such as the Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control and representatives from international organisations on disarmament issues.

The DSC ‘office’ is maintained at Lucy Stewart’s home in Somerfield, Christchurch. There we house the DSC’s range of disarmament-related books, reports, journals, theses and films. These resources are available to students, researchers, and the public to borrow as requested.

We have had changes and personal news in both staff and council. We farewelled Marcus Coll, Researcher, in Dec 2021 as he focuses solely on finishing his PhD thesis this year (which focuses on DSC work and the role of NGOs in disarmament), we wish him well and stay connected. We welcomed Meghan Stewart-Ward as Researcher in February 2022, however Meghan is moving into a full time role in Government in late August, we wish her well on her new career path. Lucy Stewart will take parental leave from November 2022 as she welcomes a new child. Lucy will take leave for 8 months and then return to the role. At the time of writing this report we are currently recruiting for Maternity Leave Cover for Lucy’s Programme Manager role. We are grateful to Angela Woodward who continues successfully in her role as Acting Chair while Dr. Treasa Dunworth is on personal leave.

Our Mission

• Promote peace and disarmament education throughout the education system and the wider community.
• Provide a resource centre for alternative thinking on disarmament and security issues both within Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally and to disseminate research through publications, websites, and conferences.

Our Vision

Promote a climate of peace in Aotearoa New Zealand.
Our Team

Council
Chair: Dr Treasa Dunworth (on leave)
Acting Chair: Angela Woodward
Secretary: Prue Stringer
Treasurer: John Ruane
Dr Kate Dewes
Dr Peter Wills
Zahra Emamzadeh

Staff (2021-2022)
Lucy Stewart (part-time) Programme Manager
Meghan Stewart-Ward (till 2022) Researcher
Marcus Coll (till 2021) Researcher

Some members of the DSC team, with the Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control, Hon Phil Twyford, when he visited Ōtautahi in 2021. From left: Tim Lawler (former intern), Former DSC Director, Commander Robert Green (Royal Navy, Ret’d), Marcus Coll (former staff member), Dr Kate Dewes (Council member), Hon Phil Twyford, Lucy Stewart (Programme Manager), Angela Woodward (Acting Chair), Antonios Eskander (President of UC Disarm).
Key Highlights of the Reporting Period

1. **Live from Vienna TPNW 1MSP Event**
The Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control, Hon. Phil Twyford, was able to report back to Aotearoa live from the TPNW 1MSP. The DSC organised this event and hosted it on Facebook Live. The DSC invited co-hosts to share this event - ICAN Aotearoa, UN Youth NZ, TAOR-NCPACSSA and UCDisarm. [You can watch the event here.](#)

![Live from Vienna TPNW 1MSP Event](#)

2. **Operation Grapple: We Were There – Photography Exhibition, Canterbury Museum**
In the 1950s, Great Britain conducted several nuclear bomb detonations at Kiritimati Christmas Island. Sailors from several countries, including New Zealand, took part in the A moving portrait photography exhibition by Denise Baynham, Operation Grapple: We Were There is currently on at the Canterbury Museum until October 16th. The DSC was honoured to attend the opening of this exhibition which has been travelling the country and tells the little-known stories of some of the naval officers who took part in Britain’s Operation Grapple at the request of the New Zealand government. The DSC has been helping the exhibition through promotion to our networks across the region to encourage more visitors.
3. Disarm Kōrero

We continue our successful Disarm Kōrero sessions (bi-monthly online discussion series hosted on Zoom Meeting) and we are now up to session #13 scheduled to be held on Tuesday 16th August, 2022. Each session we chose a different topical disarmament issue and invite guest speakers to present their research / share their knowledge. We have a diverse audience for the sessions with both seasoned professionals, academics and students all joining in the discussions.

Event flyer for March session which discussed the upcoming round for PADET as an effort to promote the fund.

Event poster for Disarm Kōrero session #13 on the NPT RevCon.
Events and Initiatives

Digital Events and Resources
We continue to provide a wide range of disarmament and peace resources online, including:

- Website https://www.disarmsecure.org/
- Legacy Website http://legacy.disarmsecure.org/
- Mighty Network https://disarmsecure-online.mn.co/

Our bimonthly seminar sessions, Disarm Kōrero, provide an opportunity for the public and disarmament community to connect over present and pressing issues.

Our active and vibrant social media channels continue to grow and gain followers.

- Twitter https://twitter.com/DisarmSecureNZ
- Facebook https://facebook.com/DisarmSecureNZ
- Instagram https://www.instagram.com/dsc_nz/
- LinkedIn https://www.linkedin.com/company/disarmament-and-security-centre/

Youth-Focussed Disarmament Events
1. UN Youth NZ South Island High School Ambassadors. Our team were asked by UN Youth to lead a session on disarmament for the South Island High School Ambassadors on the 13th June, 2022. We ran an interactive workshop where we spoke about Aotearoa NZ’s nuclear free history as well as the more contemporary achievements such as the Treaty on the prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Public Events
1. Christchurch Heritage Festival Thursday 28th October, 2021 (held online due to Covid restrictions). This public event, as part of the Heritage Festival, was an annotated film screening showcasing the peace and disarmament history in Ōtautahi, Christchurch. We showed a number of excerpts from films, documentaries and news pieces and alongside commentary from Dr Kate Dewes about the relevance for the movement.
2. Annual Hiroshima / Nagasaki Commemorations for the 77th Anniversary, Sunday 7th August, 2022. Held at the World Peace Bell in the Botanic Gardens, Ōtautahi, Christchurch. This event has been held in Ōtautahi, Christchurch for over 47 years. The DSC team has been involved in the organising and hosting of this event for a very long time. This particular event was co-hosted with WILPF and also the World Peace Bell Association. Over 100 guests gathered for the commemoration. Guest speakers included the Mayor, Lianne Dalziel, the Japanese Consul, Mr Hada, Susan Bouterrey from the University of Canterbury and Dr Kate Dewes. There were a number of musical items. You can read more about the event and see further images on our blog here.

Mayor Lianne Dalziel addresses the gathering.

3. Launch of the Peace Train in Christchurch (Sunday 4th September, 2022)

The DSC is proud to play a support role in the launch of the Peace Train in Christchurch. The train was gifted to Christchurch City by Yusef Islam (formerly known as Cat Stevens) after the March 2019 terror attacks. The launch is being organised by the Christchurch City Council.
Public Outreach Initiatives

Engaging with media

1. Radio - Today FM - Ukraine (Thursday 14th April, 2022)
2. Radio - OAR Public Access Radio (Tuesday 2nd August, 2022)

Engaging with Parliamentarians

1. DSC staff met with Golriz Gharaman in Christchurch on Sunday 12th June, 2022, to discuss current issues around disarmament, New Zealand’s nuclear-free obligations and foreign affairs.
2. The DSC team regularly participates in letter writing activities to Government Ministers and the Prime Minister on arms control and disarmament issues through the Peace Foundation International Affairs and Disarmament Committee. This year a number of letters have been sent regarding the activities of Rocket Lab, military spending, and the response to the Ukraine war.

Networking with other NGOs and Campaigns

1. We are a long-term member and active participants of the Peace Foundation’s International Affairs and Disarmament Committee. We contribute to the meetings, information sharing and public outreach such as letters to Government and press.
2. We are members of WILPF and contribute to the annual meetings and co-host some events such as the Hiroshima / Nagasaki commemorations
3. We co-hosted the TPNW 1MSP Facebook Live with Peace Movement Aotearoa, UN Youth, UC Disarm and the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies Students Association.
4. We worked with New Zealand Red Cross International Humanitarian Law expert Rebecca Dudley and Anna Hood, University of Auckland to host our Disarm Kōrero #13 on the NPT RevCon.
5. These are just some examples of many. We strive to connect and collaborate with NGOs across Aotearoa New Zealand working in this space.

Peace Cities / Christchurch City Council

We continue to work with Christchurch City Council to help promote Ōtautahi, Christchurch as a Peace City. For example, we worked closely with the Council to get interpretative boards up
around the city to explain various aspects of the peace heritage of the area. For example, the interpretive board at the World Peace Bell.

We are working closely with Tūranga library staff on a project to bring more of Christchurch’s disarmament history onto their online platforms, such as the large digital display panels in the library foyer, and also onto their website ‘Canterbury Stories’. Our team have been providing information and resources to the library staff and we will continue to work through this project to ensure that more of this history is available online in perpetuity.

We are lending support to the Council with the launch of the Peace Train and have been providing advice and promotion to the initiative. We will participate at the launch event on Sunday September 4th.

Other Outreach and Disarmament Education Initiatives

University Clubs
The DSC continues its partnership with UCDisarm, the University of Canterbury students' disarmament club, founded by the DSC.

We also continue to work with and support the TAOR-NCPACS Student Association at the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Otago. With the Student Association running disarmament-focussed events and planning a conference related to disarmament and denuclearisation in the Pacific.

Both these clubs contain some of the future academics, teachers, activists, policy- and law-makers who will engage on disarmament in Aotearoa and globally. It is important that we nurture and support their development in what is a small sector in Aotearoa. The opportunities for international engagement are slowly rebounding after the separation of the Pandemic and it is great to see the students desire for collaboration with disarmament institutions and experts and to raise awareness of key issues amongst their peers.

For both of these clubs the DSC plays convening and support roles, for example, suggesting event ideas, speaking at or co-hosting events. We provide assistance with marketing and promotion of events and initiatives through our DSC channels. We provide disarmament resources and advice to club members, especially to the Executive and aim to provide the club members with real-life disarmament experience and opportunities.

Antonios Eskander (UC Disarm President) and Patrick Kinney (Secretary) at Clubs Day on campus, May 2022.
Secondary and Tertiary Sector Education
The DSC continues our ongoing engagement with schools and the tertiary sector for disarmament education purposes. Although Covid-19 has hugely impacted our ability to be face to face with students in the past 18 months, regardless we have still managed some successful outreach and education opportunities. For example we have delivered lectures to the University of Canterbury and have an upcoming lecture scheduled for VUW. We have an upcoming workshop planned for Cashmere High in term 3. Students regularly join our Disarm Kōrero sessions and also are invited to join our online initiatives such as our Mighty Network. We provide disarmament advice and resources to teachers and staff as requested.

We also continue into phase two of our Tertiary Scoping Project which was a research project assessing the provision of disarmament education in Aotearoa New Zealand. In this report we commended a number of measures to increase the amount and quality of disarmament education offered at the tertiary level in Aotearoa New Zealand. In light of these recommendations, DSC staff continue to seed disarmament education across the sector through engaging with academics, encouraging more disarmament to be included in courses, providing resources or advice, being available for guest lectures and providing opportunities for real-life engagement for the students. We will continue to build on this work in the coming year.

Summer Internship Programme

The DSC offered two internship positions to two post-graduate students from the University of Canterbury over the summer of 2021 / 22, Maeve Burns and Kirsten MacKenzie. The Centre was pleased to offer these two students real-life disarmament experience and provided comprehensive training. The two students worked on a manageable project for a fixed length of time - digital resources for the website and policy guidelines for the Centre.

We continue to offer internship positions for students as staff capacity allows. We continue to engage with the UC PACE programme to offer internships to students with relevant skills and interests.

DSC Coordination and Management

The key day to day DSC coordination and management has been run by Lucy Stewart, DSC Programme Manager, who has been with the Centre for almost five years. Lucy performs the administration side of the Centre alongside the disarmament work such as filing and storing documents, drafting funding applications and accountability reports, organising Council meetings, writing newsletters and maintaining communications with our DSC database of supporters etc. Lucy has support from another part time staff member in the role of ‘Researcher’. Our Governance Council (see section ‘Our Team’ on page 4) oversee Lucy’s work and review the key budgetary items and financial management. The DSC accounts and bookkeeping are managed by Canterbury Community Accountants, who also compile our end of year Financial Statements.
Professional Development

Lucy Stewart and Marcus Coll both successfully completed the Not-for-Profit Administration and Management course run through Hagley Community College in 2021, which is the only one of its kind run in New Zealand. The course is tutored by accountants from Canterbury Community Accountants, who manage the accounts of over 8,000 not-for-profits in New Zealand and have a huge depth of experience to draw from. The course ran every Monday evening for the school calendar year. The course covered everything from accounting, budgeting, charity obligations and relevant law, accountability, employment law, strategy and more. This was a really beneficial and empowering course for our staff and we would highly recommend it to others in the sector.

What’s Ahead

Looking forward to the year ahead we are really pleased with the direction the DSC is heading in and our achievements over the past year. We have lots of momentum with initiatives such as our Disarm Kōrero series and our regular blogs and events, and some exciting new projects that are taking shape such as the Tertiary Scoping Project follow up and the work with Tūranga library. Although we have some staff changes in the coming months with Lucy’s maternity leave, we feel our staff are in a good place to ensure a smooth and detailed handover and that the DSC will continue to operate just fine during this period. Our programmes and disarmament education initiatives are continuing to gain recognition and we are well respected in the field.

On the wider disarmament front we are feeling really encouraged by the positive progress that came out of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons First Meeting of States Parties (TPNW 1MSP) with the action plan and declaration, and on the home front we’re feeling encouraged by our active and engaged Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control, the Hon. Phil Twyford and also the progressive and diverse PACDAC currently appointed.

Thank You

The DSC is grateful to individual donations and bequests it receives. In addition to individual donations, bequests, DSC’s work in the reporting period was supported by the following fund:

Disarmament Education United Nations Implementation Fund (DEUNIF)

The DSC is an incorporated society registered on the Charities Register. The registration number is CC11049.