



AUKUS: Why We Say No

Just days after the US and Britain made their humiliating withdrawal from Afghanistan after 20 years of tragic war, they announced a pact with Australia and set their sights on ramping up the new cold war with China. The AUKUS pact, as it is known, will see Australia become the key US ally in the region, armed with US-built nuclear submarines. The agreement also includes cooperation on cyber warfare, AI and weapons development.

This alliance is designed to threaten China by surrounding it with yet more military facilities despite the fact that the US already has around 400 bases encircling the country.

The Tory government has been pushing hard for strong military involvement in the Oceania region as part of its “Global Britain” agenda, no matter the vast cost needed to fund such operations. Boris Johnson wants to prioritise military showboating above the needs of his citizens. There appear to be unlimited funds for weapons of mass destruction whilst the government claims it can’t afford to keep the £20 boost to Universal Credit or give nurses a decent pay rise.

The deal is also likely to lead to the proliferation of nuclear weapons, as the material used in nuclear powered submarines is not monitored under the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty and can easily be diverted to military ends. This is a breach of international law by our government.

Stop the War condemns the new partnership as an unnecessary and provocative step which will heighten tensions with China and increase the possibility of hostilities breaking out in the region.

Join us as we call for de-escalation and a more peaceful foreign policy. With the climate crisis raging and the world still battling a pandemic, we must put our resources towards peace and not war.