Civil Society Letter to Sir Peter Westmacott,
British Ambassador to the USA

February 4, 2015

Sir Peter Westmacott, KCMG, LVO
British Ambassador to the USA
British Embassy, Washington
3100 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20008

Dear Ambassador Westmacott,

On 4th and 5th February, the five Non-Proliferation Treaty recognised nuclear weapon states – the P5 – are meeting in London to discuss progress on commitments to nuclear disarmament.

The 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings looms over their meeting and the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference requires a bold new statement to deliver on nuclear disarmament.

The UK, as the host country, is best positioned to change the direction of the P5 and demonstrate a lead on disarmament at the meeting.

With each of the states committing to upgrade and enhance their nuclear weapons programmes in the coming years, they are already undermining their commitment to disarm and are in conflict with the growing desire for disarmament demonstrated by the series of humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons conferences.

The UK, having originally shown leadership in establishing the P5 meetings in 2009, should continue to move the process forward and be the first of the P5 states to take a new bold step - by announcing it will not replace the Trident nuclear weapon system.

By making such a statement, the UK would hugely strengthen and advance the growing global call for a new legal process that would complement the NPT process and ban nuclear weapons. The P5 should explicitly support this process.

As global representatives of civil society we urge: ACT NOW. DISARM NOW. SCRAP TRIDENT.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Thoresson, MD
Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility

Kevin Martin
Executive Director, Peace Action

David Krieger
President, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

Marie Dennis
Co-President, Pax Christi

Bishop Kevin Dowling
Co-President, Pax Christi