4 December 2014

The Scottish Government fully supports the aims of the 3rd Global Conference on the Humanitarian Dimension of Nuclear Weapons, being held in Vienna on the 8th and 9th of December 2014, which is to focus on the humanitarian consequences and risks associated with nuclear weapons through different national, regional and international events and activities.

At present the entirety of the United Kingdom’s fleet of Trident nuclear submarines and their missiles and warheads are stationed at Faslane Naval Base on the West coast of Scotland – a situation opposed by the Scottish Parliament and Government. In votes taken in the last and present Scottish Parliaments there has been a clear opposition to the continuance and replacement of Trident. Civic society in Scotland is overwhelmingly against the stationing of nuclear weapons systems on our land or waters.

The Scottish Government is firmly opposed to the possession, threat or use of nuclear weapons anywhere in the world as a goal shared by all humanity, and to that end supports the removal of Trident nuclear weapons from Scotland. We therefore welcome the hosting by the Austrian Government of the 3rd International Conference on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons. We give our wholehearted support to a successful outcome in the name of the peoples of the world.

The Scottish Government calls on all states parties to attend the Vienna Conference 2014, and to contribute to and support the aims of humanitarian efforts across the world to achieve nuclear disarmament.

Yours sincerely,

NICOLA STURGEON