

International CHERNOBYL Network

www.InternationalChernobylNetwork.org

Stronger Together

contact@InternationalChernobylNetwork.org

We welcome all organisations working to improve the lives of those living in the Chernobyl and Fukushima-affected regions to join us. Working together organisations can be stronger, more effective and can achieve real, sustainable, long-term change. Read our mission Statement [here](#)



European CHERNOBYL Network

Stronger together

The European Chernobyl Network was launched in 2010 bringing together organisations from seven different countries. It soon began to grow and its members have taken part in Anniversary actions each year – particularly candlelit vigils and awareness raising public meetings and schools visits with liquidators.



On the 25th Anniversary these actions were



The Chernobyl Children's Trust mark the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, at a candle lighting ceremony at Patrick Street. Picture: Denis Scannell

Chernobyl Children's Trust marks 25 years since nuclear disaster with candle ceremony

widespread and most impressive was the massive gathering in the centre of Vienna organised by Global 2000. Member organisations have found ways to work together to support the



people of Belarus and Ukraine, and we hope this co-operation will grow as our organisation and networking grow stronger.

At a Conference in Poland in October members of ECN decided it was time to enlarge the scope of the network, and it was re-launched as the International Chernobyl Network.

The Fukushima disaster occurred just months after ECN was created. The accident is still ongoing, pouring contamination into the sea, and many organisations in Japan are very active in raising awareness, demanding more protection for their people and opposing a restart of nuclear power in their country. It is time we all worked together. The German organisation IBB, who facilitated the start of ECN, also hosted the conference at which we became International.



ICN currently has member organisations in **Spain, UK, Ireland, Germany, Austria, Poland, Turkey, France, Italy, Greece, Netherlands, Belarus, Ukraine** and **Japan**.

We hope soon to welcome members from Canada, the US and many other parts of the world

The 30th Anniversary of Chernobyl and 5th Anniversary of Fukushima in spring 2016 will be a major focus of activity for both Chernobyl organisations and anti-nuclear groups. We hope to come up with a logo which can be used for all these events and actions. This was the one we used in the UK for the 25th Anniversary.



Amongst the ideas which came up during our discussions in Poland were:

- In **March 2016** there will be an **IBB conference in Germany**, to which all members of ICN will be encouraged to send a representative. From the conference a **fleet of buses will go to Brussels** for a meeting with the EU Parliament.
- **Action weeks.** As well as bringing liquidators – or instead of liquidators – Chernobyl organisations across Europe could invite young people to come and speak. These would be people who had come to the country as a child for a recuperative holiday. Maybe those who have had significant health problems, and possibly most appropriately to invite 30 year olds who were born in the year of Chernobyl.
- Try to get an **audience with the Pope**. The young people and liquidators would accompany members of local organisations to Rome.
- Aim for an **Exhibition at the UN in New York and Geneva**.
- **Local festivals, concerts and art exhibitions.**
- **Poetry or essay competitions** could be organised nationally for school students. An **art competition** for school students could perhaps be made Europe wide? Or even wider?
- **Create Exclusion Zones** around nuclear installations. Overnight on April 25th signs could spring up at 30km points around nuclear plants and then people in radiation suits could leaflet town centres on 26th
- **Plant a tree** (possibly birch) in cities, and small communities, around the world as a symbol of hope for a cleaner, safer future
- **Candle Actions** on the eve of the Chernobyl Anniversary.
- Individuals can also be urged to light a candle in their window on April 25th.
- **Churches** could be asked to say prayers for all those who have suffered as a consequence of the Chernobyl and Fukushima disasters, and to light a candle. Members of congregations could be asked to give up something for Lent and **make donations to a local Chernobyl charity**.
- **Sponsored walks and runs**, marathons, 5kms and maybe 30kms were suggested.
- **Bike Rides** – a Chain Reaction Bike Ride. 30Km rides across many countries in a kind of Mexican wave.
- **Conferences** - scientific/medical on Low level radiation effects, anti-nuclear and pro renewable campaigning conferences; or bringing together Chernobyl and or Fukushima groups to draw inspiration from each other.
- Create a **Lesson Pack for Schools**
- **Badges, ribbons, wristbands and T shirts** could be produced to raise awareness.



A Steering Group was elected at the Conference in Poland and consists of **Linda Walker** (Chernobyl Children's Project, UK); **Simon Walsh** (Chernobyl Children's Trust, Ireland) **Nieves Sanchez Venega** (FEDASIB, Spain); **Martina Faseler** (IBB, Germany) **Sarah Day** (UK) and **Akiko Yoshida**, (Friends of the Earth, Japan)

The Steering Group will have monthly meetings on Skype and will keep in regular contact with all the members of the Network. Twice a year the Steering group will come together for a more detailed discussion of future plans. And every year there will be a conference to which all members of ICN will be invited, and encouraged to attend.



These conferences provide a wonderful opportunity to get together with like-minded people from many countries to discuss projects, share ideas and learn new information and skills. We are very fortunate to have the involvement of IBB who are able to fund the conferences so that the only cost to participants is their air fare. You will find that taking part in such a conference leaves you feeling inspired, full of new ideas and possibly with new partners to work with – and you will have a lot of fun

– sharing a drink and possibly a dance with friends from around the world.

So if you are not already a member of ICN, please talk to your colleagues and think about joining us! We are open to all Non Governmental Organisations who are working to support the people of the Chernobyl or Fukushima affected regions and/or promoting a sustainable nuclear free future.


Please have a look at our website InternationalChernobylNetwork.org and complete the application form

What does ICN hope to achieve?

- Greater awareness about Chernobyl, Fukushima and about our Network
- Education for young people
- Reliable information on website – about our member organisations; nuclear and environmental issues; and sources of funding
- To increase our membership and make links with other networks
- To encourage and facilitate co-operation between organisations working on similar initiatives
- On occasion, to speak with one voice on issues of mutual interest and concern
- To lobby the EU for more support for those affected by Chernobyl; for promotion of renewables rather than nuclear power; and for funds for ICN or its member organisations



Welcome to our newest members!

 **FoE Japan** We are delighted to have Friends of the Earth in Japan as one of our Member organisations. They work on many issues and their ultimate goal is 'A World where all people may live peacefully and equitably'. But nuclear power and a safer energy future is a major focus for them in the wake of Fukushima. They campaign for an 'energy shift' by promoting energy conservation and efficiency and the development of renewable energy.

You can read news of their latest campaign [here](#).

They also work closely with organisations and networks in Japan, including 'Children of Chernobyl Fund' which has also joined ICN.

And we also welcome our first member from Greece 'Crete for Life'.



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