



British American Security  
Information Council

**BASIC** is a small but influential NGO with one very large idea: we want a world free from the threat of nuclear weapons and know that this can only be achieved through dialogue and multilateral negotiation. A growing number of politicians, government officials and other decision-makers share that vision. We leverage our reputation as a respected, trusted and independent source of information, ideas and perspectives to inform debate and foster creative solutions.

**BASIC** is the only peace and security non-governmental organisation that is British-American in composition and focus. We work on both sides of the Atlantic to encourage sustainable transatlantic security policies and to develop the strategies that can achieve them.

**BASIC** has charitable status in the United Kingdom and in the United States. We operate with offices in London and Washington, a small but committed staff, and an active network of influential board members and advisers, and patrons on both sides of the Atlantic.



[www.basicint.org/tridentcommission](http://www.basicint.org/tridentcommission)



## Trident Commission

For information and to make a donation to the BASIC Trident Commission, visit the webpage at: [www.basicint.org/tridentcommission](http://www.basicint.org/tridentcommission)

For inquiries please contact: Laura Spagnuolo,  
Research and Policy Officer, BASIC  
email: [lsagnuolo@basicint.org](mailto:lsagnuolo@basicint.org)  
tel: +44 (0)20 73244680

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### BASIC in London

The Grayston Center, 28 Charles Square  
London N1 6HT  
Tel: +44 (0)207 324 4680

### BASIC in Washington

110 Maryland Avenue, NE, Suite 205  
Washington DC 20002  
Tel: +1 (0) 202 546 8055



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## Trident Commission

An independent, cross-party commission  
to examine UK nuclear weapons policy



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**BASIC**

## Trident Commission

BASIC has set up an independent, cross-party commission to look into UK nuclear weapons policy and the issue of Trident renewal. The BASIC Trident Commission co-chairs are:

**Lord Browne of Ladyton**, former Labour Secretary of State for Defence,

**Sir Malcolm Rifkind**, former Conservative Defence and Foreign Secretary, and

**Sir Menzies Campbell**, former leader of the Liberal Democrats and Shadow Foreign Secretary.



*Des Browne, Malcolm Rifkind and Menzies Campbell*

The other members of the Commission are:

**Professor Alyson Bailes**, Former Head of FCO Security Policy Department and member of the WMD Commission;



*Alyson Bailes*

**Sir Jeremy Greenstock**, former UK Ambassador to the UN;

**Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank**, former Chief of the Defence Staff;

**Professor Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield**, Queen Mary, University College London;

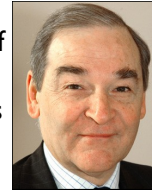
**Lord Rees of Ludlow**, Astronomer Royal and recent President of the Royal Society;

**Dr Ian Kearns**, BASIC's Research Director, and former Specialist Advisor to Parliament on National Security Strategy.

Ian is leading the Commission Secretariat at BASIC.

### What the Commission is doing

The Commission is conducting one of the most rigorous assessments of UK nuclear weapons policy ever conducted outside government. It is carrying out research, hosting events and receiving evidence throughout 2011, and is:



*Jeremy Greenstock*

- Examining the global context;
- Assessing current UK nuclear weapons policy and wider efforts to promote multilateral nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation;
- Examining the strategic case for and against, and any potential defence budget impacts;
- Considering alternative nuclear options.

### How it works

The work of the Commission has been divided into different phases, each involving a mix of commission meetings, research, written submissions of evidence, specialist roundtables and larger public events.

Commissioners are meeting regularly over the course of the year to analyze evidence submitted, discuss options and elaborate policy recommendations. BASIC is servicing and assisting the Commission throughout 2011/12.



*Charles Guthrie*

### When it will report

The Commission will report in early 2012. Commissioners may decide to publish an interim report or working papers before then.

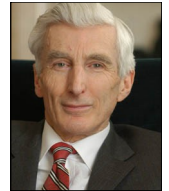
### Why the Commission is sitting



*Peter Hennessy*

The last Labour Government committed to renewing Britain's nuclear deterrent in 2006-07. The current coalition government recommitted to this decision in principle in its October 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), but also decided to delay the timetable for the construction of the replacement submarines until after the next election (which must take place by May 2015). This has created a **window of opportunity** for further deliberation.

The Commission was convened to make the most of this opportunity. We are living through a period of dramatic change in international affairs with new powers emerging, increasing nuclear proliferation risks within both the community of states and terrorist groups, and growing financial pressure on western defence budgets.



*Martin Rees*  
(photo: Lucinda Douglas-Menzies)



*Ian Kearns*

There is a strong case, in the national context as well the international, for conducting a fundamental review of UK nuclear weapons policy. BASIC Trident Commission is filling the gap left by Government, by facilitating, hosting and delivering a credible cross-party expert Commission to examine this issue in depth.



# Trident Commission