CAAT Presents...

Friday 19th - Sun 21st March

Event programme

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About the Conference

Our It Starts Here Conference returns for another year - this time revamped!

As poet, writer, and Black Feminist Audre Lorde reminds us, 'There is no thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives'.

It is in this spirit that we bring you this ambitious programme of interconnected talks, Think-Ins, and workshops. Defeating the global arms trade is not a single-issue struggle. From the US, to the UK, to Saudi, Israel, Yemen, Bahrain, Palestine, and Nigeria, our speakers and contributors will help us connect the dots. How is Militarism underpinned by other injustices? And what can we learn from each other's experiences, analysis, campaigning tactics and methods of resistance?

We look forward to untangling and unpacking it all across the weekend.

Siana Bangura, Training & Events Co-ordinator at CAAT & Producer of It Starts Here 2021



Zoom 101 >>

Zoom Webinar Function

All our panels across the weekend will be in **Zoom webinar mode**. Simply follow the event link sent to you for your relevant panel to enter the event.

In this function you will:

- Not be shown on screen at any point in the event only the panellists
- Not be heard at any point in the event only the panellists
- Not be featured in any recordings of the event only the panellists
- >> Be able to ask questions to the speakers using the Q&A function
- De able to use the chat box to speak to 'panellists and attendees' by selecting that option in the dropdown or you can message the 'panellists' directly if you need any help from our Tech support during the event

Zoom Meetings Function

All our workshops & trainings across the weekend will be in **Zoom meetings mode**. Simply follow the event link sent to you for your relevant panel to enter the event.

In this function you can:

- Mute and unmute yourself
- >> Turn your camera on and off
- Select 'participants' list to rename yourself, to mute or unmute, or just to see who else is in the call - your name will be top of the list and the hosts/ co-hosts will be next
- ▶ Use the chat box to speak to 'everyone' by selecting that option in the dropdown or you can message the facilitators of the session directly
- >> Use the 'raise hand' function if your device allows

(Digital) Safer Spaces Policy

At CAAT, we have a Safer Spaces Policy. Although we acknowledge no space can be completely 'safe', we will do all we can at our events and in our spaces, in-person or online, to ensure they are 'safer', particularly for those most marginalised by society. We note that this policy is a living document, evolving and growing as we do.

- We consider any behaviour which demeans, marginalises, threatens or harms anybody as oppression, and we commit to challenging it.
- Everyone has an equal right to be heard and an equal responsibility to listen.
- We do not tolerate violence, intimidation, harassment or unwanted sexual contact online or offline.
- We will challenge any oppressive behaviour or language, regardless of intention (e.g. telling an oppressive 'joke'; using unspoken privilege to interrupt someone; gaslighting people's experiences).
- We believe providing a safe and welcoming space is a shared responsibility. However, it is not the duty of those subject to oppression to challenge that oppression.
- We ask all participants to challenge oppressive attitudes and behaviours in a way that is responsible and constructive.
- with in every space (genders/races/classes/sexualities/abilities, etc.), and avoid making generalisations or assumptions about people. Also note we are in solidarity with our Trans and non-binary sibilings. Please do not assume use of pronouns. Ask people what names they want to be known by and note any pronouns people may write in their usernames in our digital space or on labels and badges when in-person.
- ldentify your own privileges (e.g. race, class, gender) and actively challenge and work against them (e.g. if you identify as a man and notice that men are dominating a conversation, actively make space for people of other genders to make themselves heard).

Accessibility Info & BSL Team

We have tried to make It Starts Here weekender as accessible as possible.

We have an expert BSL Team working across the weekend - they are:

- Nakisayi Laursen
- **Eze** Ani
- >> Omoyele Thomas
- >> Rebekah Spencer
- >> Sumayya Si-Tayeb

You will also have the option of using Zoom's Closed Caption service during the webinar in your settings.

Recordings of the panel events will be available a few days after the It Starts Here Weekender.

If you need any additional support across the weekend please email **events@caat.org.uk**





Friday 19th March Opening Panel

		From	То
And still we s	struggle: From the Arab Uprisings s Matter Tickets	6pm	7.30pm

Saturday 20th March Panels

	From	To
Arms Trade 101 & Intersecting Issues Tickets	10am	11.30am
BREAK		
Profiting from Repression Tickets	12pm	1.30pm
LUNCH BREAK		
Real Human Security Tickets	2.15pm	3.45pm
BREAK		
Domestic Militarisation: A Think-In on Policing & Borders Tickets	2.15pm	3.45pm
BREAK	• 1	
Scotland & the Arms Trade Tickets	4.15pm	5.45pm
Demilitarising Education Tickets	4.15pm	5.45pm
BREAK		
An Artist's duty is to reflect the times: The role of art and creative resistance in our movements Tickets	6.15pm	7.45pm

Sunday 21st March Workshops & Trainings

	From	To J
Chair Yoga with Kat Hobbs Tickets	10am	10.45am
Digital Activism 101 & Online Security with John Pegram, Bristol Cop Watch Tickets	11am	12.30pm
Facilitating Online Meetings & Decision-Making 101 with Sami Çapulcu & Rowan Kinchin, Resist & Renew Tickets	11am	12.30pm
Sustainable Organising in 'normal' times and in times of crisis with Ali Tamlit & Kat Wall, Resist & Renew Tickets	11am	12.30pm
Citizen Journalism with Rainbow Collective Tickets	1pm	2.30pm
'Know Your Rights' taster with ACAB Tickets	1pm	2.30pm
Media Training 101 with Andrew Smith, CAAT Tickets	1pm	2.30pm
Disrupting Online Arms Fairs with Kirsten Bayes, CAAT Tickets	3pm	4.30pm
Arms Trade Research 101 with Ian Prichard & Sam Perlo-Freeman, CAAT Tickets	3pm	4.30pm
Ad-hacking with Brandalism Tickets	3pm	4.30pm
Closing Session with Siana Bangura & Jayde Bradley, CAAT	5pm	5.30pm

Panel Summaries

And still we struggle: From the Arab Uprisings to Black Lives Matter

What connects struggles as diverse as the Arab Uprisings, Black Lives Matter & Palestine? Join us as we explore what solidarity looks like.

Arms Trade 101 & Intersecting Issues

What does the arms trade have to do with policing, borders, migration & climate justice? Join us as we discuss the need to connect the dots.

Profiting from Repression

Find out more about how the UK arms trade is supporting authoritarianism and repression around the world and how communities are resisting.

Real Human Security

Why must we redefine narratives of security in a world where the biggest threats we face are climate crisis & pandemics not free movement?

Domestic Militarisation: A Think-In on Policing & Borders

Join us for this discussion circle focusing on the intersections between militarism, policing & borders.

Scotland and the Arms Trade

In theory, Scotland should be leading the way in opposition to the UK's arms industry; in practice it's pouring millions into arms companies.

Demilitarising Education

This panel will explore the issue of militarism in Higher Education, and the links between universities and the arms trade.

An Artist's duty is to reflect the times

How do artists reflect their times? How do we document our movements and tell our stories? How do we galvanise the masses through our art?

Workshop Summaries



10 - 10.45am

Chair Yoga with Kat Hobbs

Join us to move, breathe and learn some useful movements to get into all the sticky spots in your shoulders. Suitable for all levels, and no previous yoga experience necessary.

11am - 12.30pm

Digital Activism 101 & Online Security

with John Pegram, Bristol Cop Watch

Join us for this whirlwind interactive tour of web browsing security principles, social media security and why it matters, guidance on using email securely, and in an age of mostly working online, we'll also explore the best conference call options for your organising meeting needs.

Facilitating Online Meetings & Decision-Making 101

with Sami Capulcu & Rowan Kinchin, Resist & Renew

Wondering how to connect online? How to have engaging, human meetings when you're all on a screen? How to get people involved and invested in decisions? Sami and Rowan from facilitation collective Resist+Renew will give a brief

introduction to some key online facilitation skills in this interactive workshop.

Sustainable Organising in 'normal' times and in times of crisis

with Ali Tamlit & Kat Wall, Resist & Renew

In this workshop we'll be focusing on the causes and conditions that lead to burnout, how to notice signs of burnout and stress, find ways to respond in times of crisis and longer-term ideas for our groups to organise in healthy ways.

1-2.30pm

Citizen Journalism

with Rainbow Collective

Join us for this hands-on session of learning how to use your phone as a powerful tool for good. All skill levels welcome.

'Know Your Rights' Taster with ACAB

This workshop aims to give you the knowledge to combat repressive police tactics commonly used against protesters and equip you with knowledge and key messages to ensure you feel more confident to use your right to protest and to do so safely.

1-2.30pm (cont.)

Media Training 101 with Andrew Smith, CAAT

From preparing for Local (and National) interviews to writing and sending out press releases, we've got you covered.

3-4.30pm

Disrupting Online Arms Fairs with Kirsten Bayes, CAAT

We know what disruption on the ground looks like offline... but how do we redefine 'disruption' and adjust our tactics to be as effective, or even more-so, in a landscape dependent on digital tools and online interventions and how can we make these changes work in our favour? Join us as we explore and test!

Arms Trade Research 101

with Ian Prichard & Sam Perlo-Freeman, CAAT

In this session we will explore the CAAT browsers together as a group whilst also offering general background context on export licencing, sources of companies information and arms fairs information. Join us us as we flex our investigative skills and sharpen up the tools in out toolbox - all levels welcome!

Ad-hacking with Brandalism

Spoiler alert! There will be no ad-hacking activities in this workshop but we will be looking at the history of the tactic as well as inspirational examples of adhacking being used as a resistance across different struggles and contexts. We'll also look over the (in)famous Brandalism Manual and see what can be learnt from that.

5-5.30pm

Closing Session

with Siana Bangura & Jayde Bradley, CAAT

Got some energy left? As we close our gargantuan It Starts Here Weekender, join CAAT's Training & Events Co-ordinator, Siana and CAAT's Supporter Development Co-ordinator, Jayde for a quick debrief. We'd love to know how you found the Weekender and gather ideas for our future Training & Events.



Speaker & Facilitator Biogs

Speakers

Melina Villeneuve

Méling Villeneuve is a French/ Congolese researcher, podcast host and activist. She co-founded dED UCATION in 2019, a nonprofit organisation that seeks to completely dismantle the links that exist between university research, the defence industry, and arms companies, in the hope of ending such links and promoting sustainable and ethical approaches to university research and activities. She is also on the UK board of the US-based organisation Women of Colour Advancing Peace & Security, for which she serves as the c0-chair of communications and social media. She co-hosts the podcast "Got Melanin", which explores in depth the nuances and shadows present in the lives of women of colour across the globe.

Sayed Ahmed Alwadaei

Sayed Alwadaei is director of advocacy at the UK-based Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (Bird)

Pascale Péan

Pascale Péan (she/her) is a PhD candidate in African Diaspora Studies at SOAS University of London. She also works as a Research Associate at Makan, a Palestinian-led educational non-profit focused on Palestinian rights, freedom, justice, and equality. Before joining Makan, Pascale completed a Master of Science degree in Human Rights from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She has also presented and given lectures at Butler University, Imperial College London, Pacific Union College, and Jewish Voice for Peace and has written for +972 Magazine and Rights!.

Mariam Barghouti

Hailing from Ramallah, Mariam.
Barghouti is a Palestinian writer
and commentator. Her writing has
appeared in the New York Times,
Al-Jazeera English, Huffington Post,
Middle East Monitor, Mondoweiss,
International Business Times
and more.

Aadam Muuse

Aadam Muuse is a political organiser working with various movements in the UK, and a Peace Studies student.

Zoe Plummer

Zoe (she/her) is a marketeer and activist. She works with organisations such as The People's Assembly, Counterfire and Stop The War to campaign against austerity & privatisation, war and racism. She believes deeply in building diverse and inclusive mass organisation movements which make compelling human, ideological and economic arguments for socialism.

Sham Murad

Baghdad born, Birmingham-based Masters in Law graduate Sham Murad is the co-founder of 'A' is for Activism, a bookelub that serves as a community hub for political education, solidarity, love, raising class consciousness and hosts mutual aid programs.

Helen Femi Williams

Helen Femi is a political commentator and the founder of LetsGetLitical, a platform that looks to explain complex political issues that are sometimes forgotten by mainstream media through talks, social media and infographics.

Helen is also the founder of Litical Consultancy - a business striving towards racial equality in and outside the workplace with a focus on intersectionality.

Annie Olaloku-Teriba

Annie Olaloku-Teriba is a writer and independent researcher based in London, UK.

Osamah Alfakih

Osamah Alfakih is the director of media, communications and advocacy at the Yemeni NGO, Mwatana for Human Rights, and the former director of the research unit in the same organization. Mwatana was recently awarded the Baldwin Medal of Liberty Award by Human Rights First.

Professor Anna Stavrianakis

Anna Stavrianakis is professor of international relations at the University of Sussex.

Cinar Altun

Cinar Altun is a steering committee member of Solidarity with the People of Turkey, and has been a volunteer at Day-Mer Turkish and Kurdish Community Centre for many years. She campaigns on issues relating to human rights and democracy in Turkey, and frequently chairs, presents and provides translation support at conferences and public events.

Eleanor Lisney

Eleanor Lisney is a campaigner, founder member, public speaker and director of Sisters of Frida. She is an access advisor, an aspiring creative practitioner and co founder of Culture Access CIC, which is about supporting access, bringing an inclusive edge intersectionally. Recently, Eleanor joined the TSIC Advisory Board and is working on a project with them for the London Funders.

Mel Evans

Mel Evans is an artist and campaigner, part of Liberate Tate, Platform London and Fuel Poverty Action. She is also the Head of GreenPeace's Oil Campaign.

Daniel Selwyn

Daniel Selwyn is an educator and researcher with the London Mining Network (LMN), an alliance of 21 organisations working to expose human rights abuses and environmental crimes committed by mining companies based in London, and campaigning for social justice and the ecological integrity of the planet. His research focuses on the links between resource extraction, militarism, and British imperialism, recently authoring Martial Mining: Resisting Extractivism and War Together for LMN.

Sam Mason

Sam Mason, policy officer at the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), an organisation representing workers who monitor and help develop policy around energy.

Fiona Sim

Fiona Sim (they/them) is an antiimperialist socialist organiser who co-founded the student BPOCled Goldsmiths Anti-Racist Action and QTIBPOC collective Bury Your Gays. As well as a student of Anthropology and Media, they currently work with mutual aid organisations and write opinion ed articles for CGTN.

Piers Wilkinson

Piers Wilkinson (they/them) currently supports Diversity and Ability (D&A), a disabled led social enterprise, as their Higher Education Policy and Partnerships Lead and was the last NUS Disabled Students' Officer before the role was defunded in July of 2020. Piers has been deeply involved in representing disabled students for over 7 years, culminating in their election to national representative positions during the last 5 years.

Kate Nevens

Kate Nevens is a freelance facilitator and researcher with over a decade of working with youth, women and human rights activists in the Middle East, including Yemen. She is a non-staff member of CAAT UK's steering committee, as well as an active volunteer with the CAAT Edinburgh group. She is currently a Scottish Green Party candidate for Lothian for the upcoming Scottish Parliamentary elections.

Yasmin Luqman

Yasmin Luqman is a British Yemeni activist living and working in Edinburgh, Scotland. She completed her MSc in International Relations of the Middle East with Arabic at the University of Edinburgh in 2019 and researched and wrote her dissertation on the challenges faced by female activists, journalists, and political leaders in Yemen over the last decade.

Bryan Simpson

Bryan Simpson is an industrial organiser for Unite the Union and established the highly successful Unite Hospitality section of the union in 2017 and the Better than Zero campaign before that. Bryan represents and supports workers across Scotland and provides legal knowledge, organising skills and collective confidence.

Stefan Schmid

Stefan Schmid is a researcher and member of Edinburgh CAAT, a local Campaign Against Arms Trade group.

Sarona Abuaker

Sarona Abuaker is a poet, artist, and educational outreach worker. Her mixed-media essay 'Suture Fragmentations - A Note on Return' is published with KOHL: A Journal for Body and Gender Research, and her poems are featured in Berfrois, MAP Magazine, and The 87 Press Digital Poetics series. She is currently writing her debut collection 'Why So Few Women On The Street At Night' (to be released by The 87 Press in 2021), a queer phenomenology of collective Palestinian futurisms and memory building layering visual cultures, essays and poems, to approach territories as different as Turtle Island, Brockley and Palestine. She is based in London

Amina Atiq

Amina Atiq is an award-winning Yemeni–Scouse poet, performance artist and activist.

She is currently writing her first one-woman script, *Broken Biscuits* to explore her grandmother's 1970s Yemeni- Scouse household to untangle what it means to be

British. In 2020, she produced a documentary, *Unheard Voices*, commissioned by DadaFest capturing the stories of Yemeni shopkeepers in Liverpool. She is Currently a remote writer in residence with Queensland Poetry festival and Metal Southend.

Tobi Alexandra Falade

Tobi Alexandra Falade is a Nigerian-British Visual Artist creating original oil paintings, silk-screen prints, and bronze sculptures engaging with narratives of modern Black British life and dialogues of African and post-colonial contexts. She creates paintings using methods of collaging - placing different images from family photographs in Nigeria next to each other - in order to build new fictional narratives. She frequently uses herself as a model within her artworks to explore narratives of identity and self, and her term 'shadow self' refers to a version of herself that she imagines has continued living on in Nigeria even after she was physically divorced from her country of origin and moved to the UK

Tobi lives and works in Liverpool and London.

Jacob V Joyce

Jacob V Joyce is an artist, educator and researcher with a community facing practice that amplifies historical and nourishes new queer/anti-colonial narratives. Their work is grounded in afrofuturist world building and includes workshops, murals, illustrations and performance art.

Nadine Bloch

Nadine Bloch is an outside-the-box activist artist, political community organizer, strategic nonviolent actionista, author, and the Training Director for Beautiful Trouble.
Her work explores the potent intersection of art and politics, where creative cultural resistance is not only effective political action, but also a powerful way to reclaim agency over our own lives, fight oppressive systems, and invest in our communities — all while having more fun than the other side!

Aderonke Apata

Aderonke Apata is founder of African Rainbow Family and an award-winning Human Rights campaigner

Dana Aboul-Jabine

Dana Abolu-Jabine is the Fundraising Manager at Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT).

Sarah Waldron

Sarah Waldron is a Public Campaigns Co-ordinator at Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT).

Caroline Jones

Caroline Jones is a Public Campaigns Co-ordinator at Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT).

Emma Cockburn

Emma Cockburn is the Scotland Co-ordinator at Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT).

Malak Mayet

Malak Mayet is Universities Co-ordinator at Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT).

Facilitators

Kat Hobbs

Kat Hobbs is a 200 Hour YTT, trainee Accessible Certified Yoga Teacher and workshop facilitator.

John Pegram

John Pegram is an IT professional and business owner with over 10 years of experience in the IT sector. John is also a committed community activist who has been involved in anti-racist campaigning for many years.

Rowan Kinchin

Rowan Kinchin (They/ Them) is a facilitator; Direct Action organiser; and specialist in strategy, internal group structures, Know Your Rights trainings and anti-oppression work.

Sami Çapulcu

Sami Çapulcu (She/Her) is a facilitator; Direct Action organiser; and specialist in strategy, moving through conflict, community accountability and transformative justice, effective anti-hierarchical organising

Ali Tamlit

Ali Tamlit (he/him) is a facilitator experienced in Direct Action training, strategy building, anti-oppression work, burnout cultures, and how to handle conflict.

Kat Wall

Kat Wall (she/her) is a facilitator experienced in supporting individuals and groups with campaign organising, community organising, anti-oppression work, burnout cultures and regenerative activism, group dynamics and group culture work.

Rainbow Collective

Rainbow Collective is a documentary production and training company formed by Hannan Majid and Richard York as a social enterprise focusing on issues of human and children's rights.

ACAB

The Activist Court Aid Brigade (ACAB) works closely with Green & Black Cross on many projects, including training and defendant and court support. The trusty bustcard is a joint project between ACAB and GBC.

Andrew Smith

Andrew Smith is the Media Coordinator at Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT).

Kirsten Bayes

Kirsten Bayes is the Local Outreach Co-ordinator at Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT)

lan Prichard & Sam Perlo-Freeman

Ian Prichard & Sam Perlo-Freeman are Academics and Researchers at Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT).

Brandalism

Brandalism is a revolt against the corporate control of culture and space.

They are an international collective of artists that challenge corporate power, greed and corruption around the world.



Take Action

Did you enjoy our It Starts Here Weekender?

Want to support us to do more events like this?

Donate to CAAT here: caat.org.uk/eventdonation

Have you got feedback for us? We'd love to hear it!

Your answers will help us develop future plans and ensure our training and events meet the needs of everyone who would like to join them.

>> Fill in the short It Starts Here Feedback survey here: caat.org.uk/ish2021survey

Join the movement and campaign with us!

- >> Sign up here: caat.org.uk/take-action/campaign-with-us
- >> Think globally, act locally here: caat.org.uk/take-action/take-part-near-you

Are you a uni student?

>> Join our unis network here: caat.org.uk/take-action/take-part-near-you/universities

And finally:

>> Sign up to our mailing list to stay firmly in touch and updated regarding all our work throughout the year, including events, trainings, campaign news, successes, and of course our ongoing legal challenge against the UK government: caat.org.uk/signup