



Mayors for Peace News Flash

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Mayors for Peace Member Cities

7,905 cities

in 163 countries and regions

(as of May 1, 2020)

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Table of Contents

- Endorsement of a Joint Statement from Civil Society to the States Parties of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
- Postponement of the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace
- The European Chapter supports the call for a global ceasefire
- Member city activities
- Calling all women mayors!
- Request for payment of the 2020 Mayors for Peace membership fee
- Announcement from Hiroshima City University: release of Research Journal Vol.7
- Peace News from Hiroshima (provided by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center of the CHUGOKU SHIMBUN)
- Call for input: examples of initiatives to foster peace-seeking spirit
- Request to promote various measures based on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan
- Mayors for Peace collaboration with "the Hibakusha Appeal" signature campaign
- Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,905 Cities in 163 Countries/Regions

■ Endorsement of a Joint Statement from Civil Society to the States Parties of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Following the postponement of the 2020 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Reaching Critical Will called on Mr. Akira Kawasaki, Executive Committee Member of Peace Boat, and Ms. Jacqueline Cabasso, Executive Advisor of Mayors for Peace among others, to draft a joint statement by organizations around the world. Reaching Critical Will is an organization that serves as a coordinator between the United Nations and organizations representing civil society.

The Statement calls on all nations to advance nuclear disarmament, and was sent to all NPT States Parties on May 11—the 25th anniversary of the extension of the NPT, when it was decided that the Treaty would remain in force indefinitely.

The main objectives of the Joint Statement are as follows:

1. To urge all countries to fully implement their obligations under the treaty for the long-term viability of the NPT
2. To demand action rooted in "deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons" amid today's uncertain global security environment with growing risks of the use of nuclear weapons

3. To assert that taking action for disarmament by negotiating agreements will help create an environment for the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons, and that will positively contribute to solving the world's other pressing problems

Mayors for Peace endorsed the Joint Statement together with over 80 supporting organizations.

▼ Joint Statement from Civil Society to the States Parties of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty:
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/data/200511_Joint_Statement_E.pdf

■ Postponement of the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

The year 2020, which marks the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, is also the year set as the target for the abolition of nuclear weapons by the 2020 Vision (Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons). The Vision was developed with the hope of achieving a world without nuclear weapons while the *hibakusha* are still alive.

Taking into account the significance of the year, we had originally decided to hold the General Conference this year, changing its quadrennial cycle and moving it forward one year.



However, given that the COVID-19 pandemic is unlikely to come to an early end, we have decided not to hold the General Conference this year, but to work on holding it in Hiroshima in August next year —returning it to its regular quadrennial cycle—after consultation with the Executive Cities.

In line with this postponement, while Mayors for Peace will adopt a new Vision and its Action Plan at the General Conference in 2021, it has been determined that the 2020 Vision will terminate at the end of this year and that the current Action Plan based on the 2020 Vision will temporarily remain effective until the General Conference in 2021.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

■ The European Chapter supports the call for a global ceasefire

In response to the UN Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire, the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace issued a statement to support it, an excerpt of which is as follows: "It is time to put also armed conflict on lockdown and focus together on promoting international cooperation, solidarity, diplomacy and global leadership. Instead of fighting each other, people all over the world must now join together to overcome coronavirus."

Let us all stand now for peace, human rights and an end to violence in all its many forms.

▼ Full Statement (on Granollers City website, available in English and Spanish):
<https://wp.granollers.cat/alcaldesperlapau/qui-som/manifests/>

Member City Activities

<Hannover, Germany>

The City of Hannover supports the World Choir for Peace

Singers from 28 different countries gathered online to produce a music video with their messages of solidarity in current difficult times, with support of the City of Hannover.

The World Choir for Peace, founded in Berlin in 2018, has recorded the song "I Hope" composed by a Norwegian composer Kim André Arnesen together with the Chamber Choir Hannover. The City of Hannover promotes and supports this initiative as a choir city, UNESCO City of Music and a Mayors for Peace Lead City. The video illustrates that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, it is possible to make music together and send a sign of hope and peace into the world.



"I HOPE" performed by the World Choir for Peace

The video ends with the words of Mayor Belit Onay: "I very much appreciate it that singers from all over the world have taken part in this project, thereby committing themselves to universal solidarity and hope for a better future. By singing together, young people from every continent are sending out a strong signal for peace."

The choir is planning to hold a concert in Hannover to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the end of World War II, if the situation allows.

▼ Link to the video (Youtube):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4e2XfGXTtA>

<Manchester, UK>

Interview on the TPNW

Mr. Sean Morris, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary, was interviewed online on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) with Greater Manchester & District Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. In the first half of the interview (video available at the link below), he talks about the treaty itself; its background, objectives, function and current status. He then shares what towns and cities could do to support the treaty—to step forward to make it come into force, and how individuals can get involved in doing so.

▼ Link to the video (Youtube):

<https://youtu.be/RILMYRofZZg>

<Montreal, Canada>

Events on World Environment Day

As the North American host city and North American Ambassador for World Environment Day, the City of Montreal will hold a series of relevant events on June 5 in partnership with the UN Environment Programme. The Day is celebrated annually across the globe to focus the world's attention on a pressing environmental issue. Celebrations in Montreal include a live event on Facebook, talks by environmentalists and other experts in the area, a live conversation between the Mayor and citizens, and an announcement from the City of their new policies and initiatives to be taken.

The City of Montreal invites all member cities of Mayors for Peace to join it in celebrating and promoting World Environment Day, to raise awareness and encourage action for the fragile environment, and thus for the future of our planet.

▼ See the link below to learn more about World Environment Day:

<https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/>

■ Calling all women mayors!

The year 2020 is an important milestone. Amidst the COVID-19 related challenges the world is facing, we are also commemorating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. On the occasion of *International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament* (May 24, 2020), we think it meaningful to highlight women's voices and the role of women in addressing the threats to humanity and the environment resulting simultaneously from the COVID-19 pandemics, armed violence, nuclear weapons, and climate change.

In consultation with a number of women legislators, religious leaders and civil society leaders, the global women's appeal: *Human security for public health, peace and sustainable development* was produced by [Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament](#) (PNND), [Women Legislators' Lobby](#) (WiLL) and [World Future Council](#) (WFC), with input from Mayors for Peace Executive Advisor, Ms. Jacqueline Cabasso. This appeal will be sent to all world leaders (presidents, prime ministers, and United Nations officials) and fed into the UN 2020 Summit, which will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the UN.

Mayors for Peace invites all women mayors to endorse the appeal, which is available in the following languages: [Arabic](#); [English](#); [French](#); [German](#); [Russian](#); and [Spanish](#). You can do so by filling out a short form at this [link](#). You can alternatively submit your endorsement by sending your name, title, country of origin/residence and photo (preferably a headshot) to vanda@pnnd.org. The appeal is open for endorsement until May 21. On May 22, the appeal will be released to the press, and on May 24, the appeal will be sent to world leaders.

■ Request for payment of the 2020 Mayors for Peace membership fee

In order to facilitate future activities and strengthen the sense of solidarity amongst member cities, Mayors for Peace introduced an annual Membership Fee in 2015.

This year again, we ask each member city to pay a fee of 2,000 Japanese yen (about 19 USD/18 Euro as of March 18, 2020) per city. If your city has not paid their Membership Fee in previous years, we ask your city to pay the total amount owed for each unpaid year since 2015. The collected Membership Fees will be allocated toward new and existing projects listed on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan 2017-2020.

A request for payment of the 2020 membership fee was sent to each city by email on April 1. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

▼ Request for the 2020 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/outlines/membership_fee.html

■ Announcement from Hiroshima City University: release of Research Journal Vol. 7

The Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) of Hiroshima City University (HCU) issued the Hiroshima Peace Research Journal Vol. 7 in March. The HPI Journal has been released annually since its launch in 2013.

- The opening essay, "Preservation and Progression of the Unfavorable Legacy of Past Deeds," was contributed by Fujimoto Reiji, a former HCU president. Born in Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, Professor Fujimoto grew up in a military family where his father served in the Navy. In his childhood, the family moved to Kure City, Hiroshima Prefecture, and the war ended when he was in the second grade of junior high school. Since his father was killed in battle just before the end of the war, he was raised in a single-parent family. At the beginning of his essay, he describes his childhood war experiences collectedly and in plain terms. Then, Fujimoto describes his impressions of various memorial sites in Germany that he visited after resigning from HCU about ten years ago. He compares the German sites to Japanese memorials, and describes his ideal way to preserve buildings that survived the atomic bombings. At the end of the essay, Fujimoto, who is a specialist in Irish literature, also considers the passing down of memories of Ireland's tragic experiences and suggests to us Hiroshima's task: how to convey the memories of the atomic bomb to the future. He brings the weight of his testimony and experiences to bear quite powerfully in his essay.

- The theme of the special feature section is “current security issues in Asia”. Of the two research papers, one (in English) focuses on security in Southeast Asia and the other on that in East Asia. Additionally, two research articles analyze, respectively: 1970s newspaper coverage of the Japanese soldier who remained at his post in the Philippines after the war; and the process of forming the Japanese Constitution—the so-called “Peace Constitution” for a “Peace Nation”—after WWII. The four papers mentioned above are contributed by HPI researchers.
- There are two special reports. One, in English, focuses on the antinuclear & peace movements and one of their leaders in the former West German Republic from the 1950s to the 1980s. The other, contributed by a young female correspondent who has covered interactions between Japanese and Korean university students for eight years, focuses on changes in students in Pyongyang.
- A book review considers *War of History and War of Thought* (Shueisha, 2019), written by Yamazaki Masahiro, in which the author clarifies the logic behind his methods for analyzing the so-called “History Wars” that evoked controversy in the world of Japanese scholars and journalists.

(Mizumoto Kazumi, Professor, Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University)

▼ Back issues of the Hiroshima Peace Research Journals are available on the HPI website:

https://www.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp/peace_e/category0010/content0238/

■ Peace News from Hiroshima

(Provided by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center of the CHUGOKU SHIMBUN)

The “exit” from the crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic has yet to come into view. Since this year marks the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings, under normal circumstances numerous peace-related events would be held here in Hiroshima, throughout Japan, and in other countries. Truly regrettable is that nearly all such opportunities will be lost.

Amid such a situation, however, people in different locales have been working to share ideas and listen to A-bomb survivors’ experiences using online conferencing and other technologies.

For instance, the non-governmental organization Peace Boat held an online event in late April, when the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was scheduled to be convened in New York City. Young people, citizens, and A-bomb survivors all expressed their fervent belief that the momentum in the movement for the elimination of nuclear weapons should not be lost while people are “staying home.” The online event seems to provide a readily accessible venue for people who cannot ordinarily visit Hiroshima or Nagasaki to listen live to survivors’ experiences and gain encouragement that people all over are seriously considering issues involving nuclear weapons. This style of communication has expanded the potential for new ways of communicating about nuclear abolition that transcend geographic boundaries.

Still, it would be ideal if people could actually experience being at the actual sites at which the atomic bombings took place and listen directly to the voices of survivors. We hope for the return of such a day before too long.

Please see the following for more peace-related news.

Peace Boat holds online meeting to continue nuclear-abolition discussion, calls for collaboration in face of NPT review conference postponement

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=97680>

Peace Museum visitors reach record 1.75 million in 2019 despite one-month closure due to coronavirus, demonstrating building-renovation, other effects

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=97222>

Panels at Honkawa Elementary School Peace Museum convey A-bomb experience of only survivor of atomic bombing in school at time of bombing

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=97476>

A-bombed piano to be exhibited permanently in Peace Park’s Rest House after building is reopened

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=97678>

Descendant of “White Russian” Palchikoff has 300 family photos showing life during 1922–1945 in Hiroshima before atomic bombing

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=97774>

■ Call for Input: Examples of initiatives to foster peace-seeking spirit

The Mayors for Peace Secretariat has been seeking examples of peace education initiatives conducted by any organization (city hall/school/NGO, etc.) in Mayors for Peace member cities that are conducive to raising peace-seeking spirit among future generations. The Mayors for Peace Secretariat accepts reports on a rolling basis, so please send your report whenever your project is completed. The submitted reports will be posted on our website and in the Mayors for Peace News Flash as a source of information for other member cities that are planning to launch their own peace education program.

▼ Call for Input on the Mayors for Peace website:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects.html#section10>

■ Request to promote various measures based on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020)

At the 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace held in Nagasaki in August 2017, we decided our Action Plan for up to the year 2020, aiming for lasting world peace. Together, we hope to make significant strides toward realizing this goal. Please promote all appropriate measures based on the Action Plan within your own municipality or regional group.

▼ Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/report/meeting/data/9th_meeting/Action_Plan_2017-2020_E.pdf

For example, you can promote the following measures:



In November 2019, the Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace decided to set the following three items as priorities for action until the end of 2020, the final year of the 2020 Vision.

1. Expand membership to support the agreed goals of Mayors for Peace, including the entry-into-force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

For more information on “[Expanding membership](#)”

2. Conduct peace education to raise awareness among future generations

For more information on “[Promotion of peace education](#)”

3. Strengthen support for existing projects to receive youths in Hiroshima and Nagasaki such as “The Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program”

For more information on “[The Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program](#)”

■ Mayors for Peace collaboration with “The Hibakusha Appeal” Signature Campaign

Based on the Action Plan decided at the 9th General Conference in August 2017, Mayors for Peace is promoting a petition drive urging the nuclear-armed states and their allies to participate in the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It was also decided that in doing so, Mayors for Peace would collaborate with “The Hibakusha Appeal”, a signature campaign launched by the *hibakusha* of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Mayors for Peace Secretariat will compile the number of signatures collected and present it to affiliates of the United Nations.

▼ For more information about “The Hibakusha Appeal”:



■ Mayors for Peace member cities - 7,905 Cities in 163 Countries/Regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on May 1, we gained 4 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 7,905.

From Switzerland, we welcomed the City of Schaffhausen, thanks to an invitation from the City of Winterthur, which also recently joined.

From Germany, 3 new cities joined thanks to the continued efforts of Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City of the German Chapter of Mayors for Peace.

We encourage further initiatives to promote membership and can provide support from Hiroshima as needed. Please continue inviting mayors who are not yet members to join Mayors for Peace.

▼ List of New Members (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/03_newmembers/2020/newmembers2005_en.pdf

▼ Map of Member Cities:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/membercity/map.html>

Mayors for Peace Official Social Media Accounts

〈Twitter〉 
<https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace>



〈Facebook〉 
<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace>



If you have any comments or questions, please contact us at:

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