

## Mayors for Peace News Flash (February 2015) No.62

Dear member cities and supporters of Mayors for Peace,

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Below is recent news related to our activities.

If your city has any news it wishes to share with others, please feel free to contact us!

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Mayors for Peace member cities as of February 1, 2015

**6,538 cities in 160 countries/regions with 48 new members**

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Please also check our website and Facebook page:

URL: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/index.html>

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

"Like" our Facebook page to help spread awareness of our mission.

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### ■[Announcement to member city] **Please join Mayors for Peace delegation for the 2015 NPT Review Conference in New York**

As we informed each member city by email on February 10, the NPT Review Conference which takes place every 5 years will be convened at the UN headquarters in New York City from April 27 to May 22. Mayors for Peace will form a delegation represented by the Mayor of Hiroshima, President of Mayors for Peace, which will participate in the Conference and contribute to the advancement of nuclear weapons abolition. We would like to encourage our member cities to join the delegation and work together toward achieving our shared cause. We would also like to ask lead cities to invite other member cities in their regional chapter to join the Mayors for Peace delegation.

Please be informed that we also ask high school and university students to make presentations on their peace-related activities at the 2015 Mayors for Peace Youth Forum as representatives of member cities. We would appreciate it if your city's delegation would take the initiative to invite and include youths who are involved in peace activism. For further details, please refer to our email from February 10 and contact the Mayors for Peace Secretariat.

The following are programs for the Mayors for Peace delegation that are officially planned at this point:

(a) Mayors for Peace 2015 Assembly in New York, titled "Mayors Have a Mission to Protect the Lives and Property of Their Citizens" (This program also contains a kick-off ceremony to officially start the lead city operation of Mayors for Peace.)

(b) 2015 Hiroshima-Nagasaki Appeal Assembly in New York

(c) 2015 Mayors for Peace Youth Forum

(d) The Civil Society Presentations of the 2015 NPT Review Conference

In order to join the delegation, please read our email from February 10 and submit a registration form to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat.

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### ■ **Formal agreement of UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter in Manchester**

[January 30, 2015, Manchester, UK]

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At a 30th January meeting in Manchester Town Hall, UK and Irish members of Mayors for Peace formally agreed the constitution, voluntary membership fees and remit of its cross-national Chapter. Given the nature of local government in the UK and Ireland, it was agreed to call the group the 'UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter'. The Lord Mayor of Manchester will be the Chair of the Chapter and Manchester City Council will provide its Secretariat. Membership fees of 120 pound/150 euro (based on January 2015 exchange rates) for County, Metropolitan and District / Borough Councils and 60 pound/75 euro for Town Councils and smaller levels of local government were also agreed. These would be voluntary in nature, but would be strongly encouraged as a reasonable fee to develop the group. Councillors also discussed the remit of the Chapter and agreed that it was important to focus on nuclear disarmament issues, but also other issues relating to peace, conflict resolution and humanitarian support. Peace and disarmament groups will be encouraged to attend Chapter meetings in an observer capacity. Attendees were also given a guided tour of the Manchester City Art Gallery exhibition - 'The Sensory War: Art and Conflict 1914 - 2014'. The next meeting of the Chapter will be held in Manchester Town Hall on the 19th June and UK and Irish members are encouraged to attend it.

▼ Detailed information:

[http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/about/UK\\_and\\_Ireland\\_M4P\\_Chapter\\_formally\\_agreed.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/about/UK_and_Ireland_M4P_Chapter_formally_agreed.pdf)

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### ■ **Active promotion of efforts by Dutch Mayors for Peace against nuclear weapons**

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In 2014 Dutch Mayors for Peace newly welcomed 14 cities to our organization and raised the number of Dutch Mayors for Peace members to 125. In total there are 393 Dutch communities, which means that almost 1/3 of the country belongs to Mayors for Peace. The background of their success is that five dedicated Mayors for Peace members of different political colors, Mayor Jan Hoekema (Wassenaar), Mayor Frank Koen (Capelle a/d IJssel), Mayor Hans Martijn Ostendorp (Bunnik), Mayor Geert Van Rumund (Wageningen) and Mayor Hans Romeyn (Heiloo) put their names on several letters mailed to fellow Dutch mayors asking them to become a member. It is a very effective way for mayors to persuade their colleagues.

Mr. Bert Sweerts, 2020 Vision Campaigner, and Mr. Hans van Iterson made a translation into Dutch of 'The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki – The 5000-Member Milestone Exhibition'. This exhibition was shown for the first time on September 23, 2013 in the municipality of Rucphen. Since then it has been shown in Wageningen, IJmuiden and Heemskerk.

Two meetings with this group of five mayors were held in 2014. These meetings were successful, as attendees got to know each other and were able to discuss several Mayors for Peace topics and strategies.

Currently, Dutch Mayors for Peace led by the group of five mayors are promoting the petition of the well known Dutch peace organization, PAX, called 'Sign against nuclear arms'. This petition is meant to collect the 40,000 signatures needed to get the case of nuclear arms to be discussed in Dutch parliament. The Mayors of Wassenaar (Mr. Hoekema), Vlaardingen (Mr. Blase), Maasluis (Mr. Karssen), Capelle aan den IJssel (Mr. Koen), Wageningen (Mr. Van Rumund), IJsselstein (Mr. Van den Brink) and Montfoort (Mr. Jansen) already signed this petition, hoping that discussion in parliament will result in the prohibition of nuclear arms in the Netherlands. Dutch Mayors for Peace has an important role to play in getting as many citizens as possible to sign this petition. So far 23,000 signatures have been collected in the country.

▼ Detailed information (Mayors for Peace website)

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/memberscity/2015/Dutch\\_MfP/report2014activities.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/memberscity/2015/Dutch_MfP/report2014activities.html)

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### ■ **3-day international conference "A Century of Weapons of Mass Destruction: Enough!"**

[Ypres, Belgium, April 22-24, 2015]

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The city of Ieper, together with Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association, is organizing a 3-day international conference, titled "A Century of Weapons of Mass Destruction: Enough!" for April 22-24.

This 3-day conference will include commemorations and high level speakers on the first day, a review by experts on a century of WMD on the second day and a focus on its campaign titled "cities are not targets", with large input from Mayors for Peace, on the third day.

▼For conference information (program, practical guide, registration) please go to:  
[www.gas1915.be/en/conference](http://www.gas1915.be/en/conference)

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## ■2-day conference on nuclear war and its impact by leading authorities

[New York, U.S.A., February 28 and March 1, 2015]

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The growing threat of planet-wide nuclear extinction will bring some of the world's leading scholars and researchers on disarmament and nuclear war to New York City for a two-day symposium from February 28 to March 1, 2015.

This conference, titled "The Dynamics of Possible Nuclear Extinction," will be held at the New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Ave., N.Y., NY, and is sponsored by The Helen Caldicott Foundation For A Nuclear Free Future.

Dr. Caldicott is an Australian physician, author, and anti-nuclear advocate who has founded several associations dedicated to opposing the use of nuclear power, depleted uranium munitions, and nuclear weapons. She has been awarded 21 honorary doctoral degrees and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by Nobel Laureate Linus Pauling.

Among the conference discussion topics are:

- \* How many times have we come close to nuclear war with Russia? What are the precipitating human and technological factors?
- \* What are the medical and environmental consequences of a limited or major nuclear war?
- \* How can we cure the present political pathology leading the world to the brink of nuclear war?

Moderators: Feb. 28, Kennette Benedict, Executive Director and Publisher, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists;  
Mar. 1, Ray Acheson, Director, Reaching Critical Will.

▼For more details and to buy a ticket for the symposium:

<https://tdopne.ticketbud.com/symposium-the-dynamics-of-possible-nuclear-extinction>

<http://helencaldicottfoundation.org/symposium-the-dynamics-of-possible-nuclear-extinction-1-february-28-march-1-2015-at-the-new-york-academy-of-medicine/>

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## ■“Peace News from Hiroshima”

- Contributed by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center

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Many events have been planned in Japan and other countries to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings and the end of World War II.

In Hiroshima, the Hiroshima Prefectural Confederation of A-bomb Sufferers Organizations, chaired by Sunao Tsuboi, is planning to hold commemorative events, including a lecture and a symposium for young people. The organization, which is comprised of some 5,000 A-bomb survivors and other members, is seeking to hand down memories of the atomic bombings to the next generation at these events.

Eight students from Hiroshima, including students from Hiroshima University, Hiroshima City University, and various high schools, will visit Poland and the Netherlands to learn about the Holocaust. Along with the atomic bombings, the Holocaust is a symbol of the horror of World War II.

The French public national television broadcaster dispatched a crew to Hiroshima to produce a history documentary on the atomic bombings. France is the third largest nuclear-armed state, after the United States and Russia. In addition, A-bomb survivors have been nominated for this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

Please visit the following links for relevant articles from the Hiroshima Peace Media Center:

▼Related stories:

- Hidankyo plans projects to mark 70th anniversary of A-bombing  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=40527>
- Students to visit Europe to learn about Holocaust  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=40496>
- Study tour to include visit to Anne Frank's house  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=40494>
- French broadcaster interviews Hiroshima A-bomb survivor for documentary about meaning of atomic bombings  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=40655>
- A-bomb survivors are nominated for Nobel Peace Prize  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=40645>

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## ■Member City Activities

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\*Ijmuiden and Heemskerk, The Netherlands

Mayors for Peace A-bomb Poster Exhibition in Ijmuiden and Heemskerk

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'Women for Peace IJmond' took the initiative to present on September 6th 2014 the Mayors for Peace A-bomb Poster Exhibition in the library of the municipality of Ijmuiden. Mr. F. Weerwind, Mayor of Ijmuiden, opened the exhibition by folding the 1,000th crane to join 999 others as a symbol of the struggle against nuclear weapons. The story of Sadako, a girl from Hiroshima who suffered leukemia and died 10 years after the bombing, was told, as well. In this period where there is so much worldwide suffering from war, the speakers made an appeal to all people to turn the tide. These problems are in the hands of mankind to change.

Pax, a peace movement in the Netherlands, had started a campaign to collect 40,000 signatures. These are needed to get the case of the nuclear weapons discussed in the Parliament. The organizers of this exhibition asked the 30 visitors present at the opening to sign this petition. The exhibition in Ijmuiden was held from September 6 to 30, 2014.

In the town hall of the municipality of Heemskerk the exhibition was also presented on December 10, the International Day of Human Rights, and was open to the public until December 29. Mrs. M. Baltus, Mayor of Heemskerk, opened the exhibition also by folding the 1,000<sup>th</sup> paper crane.

▼ Full text of the report (Mayors for Peace website):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2014/IJmuiden\\_Heemskerk/exhibitions.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2014/IJmuiden_Heemskerk/exhibitions.html)

▼ Related information (the municipality of Heemskerk website, in Dutch)

<https://www.heemskerk.nl/actueel/nieuws/nieuwsbericht/artikel/burgemeester-baltus-opent-tentoonstelling-van-mayors-for-peace/>

\*Manchester, UK

Manchester's development of 'Project G' and preparation for special 70th anniversary commemoration service

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Manchester City Council is moving forward with an exciting project to promote the receipt of ginkgo tree seeds from Hiroshima. The seeds, which are growing well at Hulme Community Garden Centre in south Manchester are the focus of a school's art poster competition which will officially launch in April. Schoolchildren in the city will be asked to devise posters considering the importance of nature in regenerating areas damaged by warfare, and the wider necessity for peace. It has now been agreed to exhibit winning entries in the Manchester Museum, which is linked to Manchester University. The Museum contains a fragment of warped glass from the atomic blast in Hiroshima in its collections, which is the centerpiece of a new exhibit which contains hundreds of paper peace cranes and a stuffed crane from the Museum's natural history collection. The Museum will also host Manchester's commemoration service for the 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings next to this Hiroshima exhibit in August. Senior figures from the City Council, the University, faith groups, peace groups and other organizations will take part, along with the children successful in the art competition, and their parents.

▼ Full story (Mayors for Peace website):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/Manchester/1502Project\\_Ginkgo.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/Manchester/1502Project_Ginkgo.html)

Please visit the "Member City Activities" page on our website for event ideas to implement in your city.

▼ To see the "Member City Activities" webpage, click on the link below:

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

<<PLEASE SEND US INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CITY'S PEACE ACTIVITIES>>

Please help us tell others about what you are doing!

We can create a link to your city's website or the website of your peace event to help you advertise.

Please include comprehensive information including the date, venue, organizers and a description of the event.

We look forward to receiving information from your city.

▼ Please email us at the following address with the name/title of your event and the URL for it:

[mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto:mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

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**■ Mayors for Peace A-bomb poster exhibition**  
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To commemorate the 5,000-city milestone of the Mayors for Peace membership numbers, we called for all member cities to hold a poster exhibition.

By holding these exhibitions in as many cities as possible, we hope to directly inform millions of citizens of the impact of nuclear war. We would like exhibition attendees to understand that even a limited nuclear war would cause catastrophic climate change resulting in global famine, and to consider the role that city leaders should strive to play.

We have heard from more than 250 cities around the world, such as London in the UK, Volgograd in Russia and Kabul in Afghanistan, that they held poster exhibitions in response to our request.

We ask that your city also hold an exhibition to help bring the issue of nuclear weapons to everyone's attention.

The posters are available in English, Spanish, Catalan, French, Dutch, German, Japanese and Russian. Persian translation is now ongoing. Updated posters can be downloaded from the Mayors for Peace website. We would be most grateful if you would continue to lend your support by using the newest posters available for your municipality's exhibition.

We would also appreciate notification of when you will hold a poster exhibition, and the submission of an event report afterwards to the Secretariat. The report format is provided at the Mayors for Peace website below.

>>Posters: A2 size (approximately 24 by 36 inches, or 61 by 91.5 cm); 18 posters.

▼ Related Information and download link to the posters:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/poster/index.html>

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**■ A plea to support the petition drive for a nuclear weapons convention**  
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The next step in abolishing all nuclear weapons by 2020 is to negotiate a nuclear weapons convention. A nuclear weapons convention will prohibit the development, production, testing, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and all related activities.

At our Executive Conference in Granollers, Spain in November 2011, Mayors for Peace members agreed to promote a global grassroots petition drive, a way in which all member cities can call for an immediate start to negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention. Promotion of this petition drive is also included in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017) adopted at the 8<sup>th</sup> General Conference.

Thanks to many supporters across the world, we have received 1,350,181 signatures as of February 1, 2015. Let us gather millions more and make our voices heard.

(The petition is available to print or to sign online at the links below.)

▼ Petition form (PDF):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/01\\_monthly Updating/11\\_petitionform\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/01_monthly Updating/11_petitionform_en.pdf).

▼ Online petition:

<https://www.ssl-z.city.hiroshima.jp/pcf/en/form.htm>.

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**■ Financial contributions from member cities to the 2020 Vision Campaign  
- Update for November 2014 to January 2015 [Ypres, Belgium]**

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From November 2014 to January 2015, the 2020 Vision Campaign received donations from cities in Austria, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, Norway and Spain and from a private individual, amounting to a total of 3250 euro in November, 4628,99 euro in December, and 4100 euro in January.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the people behind every single donation for their continuing generosity in supporting our efforts to realize a nuclear-weapon-free world by 2020.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/40bb666c2983a47193abf759f2a1d3d4/contributions-november-january.html>

▼ List of cities that made contributions in November:

[http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/2020VC/Home/November\\_contributions.pdf](http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Home/November_contributions.pdf)

▼ List of cities that made contributions in December:

[http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/2020VC/Home/december.pdf](http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Home/december.pdf)

▼ List of cities that made contributions in January:

[http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/2020VC/Home/january\\_2015.pdf](http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Home/january_2015.pdf)

▼ How to make contributions:

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/members/contribute-to-mayors-for-peace.html>

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**■ Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace last month**  
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President Kazumi Matsui of Mayors for Peace welcomed the following visitor last month and asked her to support the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate towards membership expansion.

\*January 21 - H.E. Ms. Chonai KULANDA, Consul General of Mongolia in Osaka

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**■ Mayors for Peace member cities - 6,538 cities in 160 countries/regions**  
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Through your invaluable support, on January 1, 2015, we added 48 new member cities, bringing total membership to 6,538.

Thanks to the continued efforts of the team at the Teheran Peace Museum, 38 cities from Iran joined this month and the total number of Iranian member cities reached 550.

4 cities joined from Japan, making the total number of Japanese member cities 1,539. These Japanese member cities account for 88.4 percent of all municipalities in Japan.

We also welcomed one city each from Argentina, Botswana, Cameroon, Germany, Malaysia and Mauritania.

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

▼ Related information (PDF):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2015/newmembers1502\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2015/newmembers1502_en.pdf)

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**If you have any comments, questions, or would like to unsubscribe or change your contact information, please contact us at:**

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