

▼Hiroshima Peace Declaration:

<http://www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/www/contents/1317948556078/index.html>

▼Nagasaki Peace Declaration (available in 11 languages):

<http://nagasakipeace.jp/english/appeal/archives.html>

■Release of Open Letter to UN Member States on Open-ended Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament

[July 29, 2016]

The UN Open-ended Working Group on Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations (OEWG) met in Geneva in February and May this year to substantively address concrete and effective legal and other measures to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons. The third and final session of this Working Group was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland from August 5-19, 2016.

Prior to this August session, Mayors for Peace issued an open letter on July 29 to voice its strong support for the Working Group. The letter was sent to all UN member states, the UN Secretary General, the UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, all Mayors for Peace member cities, and various NGOs.

▼Open Letter (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/statement/request/160729MfP_OEWG_OpenLetter_August.pdf

■The General Assembly of the Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace

[Gavà, Catalonia, Spain; July 4, 2016]

On July 4, the General Assembly of the Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace was held in Gavà, gathering representatives of the Catalan municipalities and other institutions supporting the network. During the session, Mayor Josep Mayoral of Granollers, a Vice-President and Lead City of Mayors for Peace, was appointed as the president of the Chapter, and the mayors of eight municipalities were ratified as members of the Chapter's Executive Committee. (Cervera, Figueres, Gavà, La Garriga, Manlleu, Sant Feliu de Llobregat, Santa Coloma de Gramenet and Vallromanes).

With the aim of developing initiatives towards better coordination among the member cities and sharing experiences and resources, the General Assembly approved next year's Working Plan. Plans to promote the creation of a network of cities for peace in the Mediterranean basin were also approved.

200 Catalan municipalities are members of Mayors for Peace, a fact that highlights the strength and dynamism of the Catalan cities in the field of the culture of peace, solidarity and the defence of human rights.

▼ Full report and photos of the Assembly (Mayors for Peace website) :

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2016/Catalan_Chapter/GA_Gava.html

▼ More information on the Assembly (the City of Granollers website, in Catalan)

<http://www.granollers.cat/noticies/alcalde/es-constitueix-la-xarxa-catalana-d%E2%80%99alcaldes-i-alcaldess-es-la-pau>

■Receiving an Intern from Wellington at the Mayors for Peace Secretariat

[July 4 - 15, 2016]

Following the decision at the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in August 2013, Mayors for Peace has conducted an internship program since 2014, inviting staff from member cities to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat in Hiroshima City and having them engage in peace- and Secretariat-related work.

Ms. Melissa Brenzinger, from Wellington, New Zealand, a Lead City of Mayors for Peace, worked as an intern at the

Mayors for Peace Secretariat from July 4 to 15. The Secretariat will have hosted one more intern from Bangkok (Thailand) by the end of March 2017.

▼ Posts on the Mayors for Peace Facebook page about Ms. Melissa Brenzinger's internship in Hiroshima:

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/1614804575446936>

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/1619688261625234>

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/1620401681553892>

■ The Second Regional Meeting of Mayors for Peace in Mexico City (September 20-21, 2016)

The Mayor of Mexico City (CDMX), Mr. Miguel Ángel Mancera Espinosa, who is a Vice-President of Mayors for Peace, is inviting mayors from across Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in the second regional reunion of the Mayors for Peace network to be held on September 20 and 21 of 2016 in commemoration of the UN International Day of Peace (September 21).

The meeting will be a High-Level Political Forum that facilitates discussion and dialogue between key stakeholders: Mayors, International NGO's, leading figures from the academic world, as well as outstanding international personalities to exchange knowledge, promote a culture of peace, non-violence and the peaceful resolution of conflicts, as well as the protection and promotion of human rights.

The Government of Mexico City through the Ministry of Social Development and the General Coordination of International Affairs, has the pleasure of cordially inviting members of Mayors for Peace to participate in this meeting titled "Capital Social, Capital de Paz (Social Capital, Capital for Peace)." CDMX has already invited many Mayors for Peace Vice-President cities from around the world, in addition to Nobel Peace Laureates.

Please contact Arlette Cortés, Deputy Director of International Cooperation, Foreign Affairs Office of Mexico City Government at the following email address to obtain more detailed information about the meeting:
mayorsforpeace.mexicocity@gmail.com

■ [Reminder] Invitation from Mayors for Peace French Chapter to Participate in a Poster Contest

The Mayors for Peace French Chapter, AFCD RP (Association des Communes, Départements et Régions pour la Paix) is co-organizing a poster contest on the theme of Peace with l'Académie des banlieues ("Suburbs Academy"), a French NPO. The deadline for submission is September 1st, 2016.

100 posters will be selected by a jury composed of members of AFCD RP, Académie des banlieues, and graphic designers. The Jury will meet to judge the artwork on the symbolic date of September 21 for International Peace Day.

The first-prize winner will receive a Prize of 1,000EUR and will have his/her poster printed by Académie des banlieues. AFCD RP will also present a special award.

▼ More information on how to participate, on the AFCD RP website (in French):

<http://afcdrp.com/affiche-paix/>

■ The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in 2017

The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace will be held in Nagasaki from August 7 to 10, 2017.

The General Conference is hosted by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in turn every four years. The agenda for the 9th conference will include discussions on many important topics such as the Action Plan, which calls for the total abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020. We hope many of you will come to Nagasaki next year to join in this conference. Further information regarding the conference will be provided to each member city as it is decided.

To ensure that this General Conference is guided by our member cities, a questionnaire will be sent to each member

city from Mayors for Peace Secretariat in early September.

■ A Call to Hold Events to Mark the 2016 International Day of Peace on September 21

The United Nations has established September 21 as a fixed International Day of Peace (IDP) and an annual day of non-violence and cease-fire. The theme of the 2016 International Day of Peace is “The Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace.”

Mayors for Peace has been a long-time supporter of the IDP. It is included in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan that all member cities are encouraged to commemorate the International Day of Peace on September 21. In an earlier issue of this Mayors for Peace News Flash sent on June 20, we included a message titled “Message for the 100-Day Countdown to the International Day of Peace,” and asked all member cities to hold a commemorative event marking this day.

In accordance with these initiatives, the city of Takayama, Japan, a member city of Mayors for Peace, will organize a Peace Bell Ceremony where like-minded bell owners in the city, such as temples and churches, will sound their bells in unison at noon on the IDP. Furthermore, the mayor of Takayama City requests our member cities to do the same in their own, local time, in order to offer as many people as possible an opportunity to renew their determination to bring peace to the globe.

In this context, we humbly ask that you consider calling for the ringing of bells at noon on September 21 at facilities and organizations which own bells in your city. If you intend to organize such an event, the Secretariat would be pleased if you would inform our office.

▼Request from Takayama City (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2016/Sep21_peaceday/Request_from_Takayama_City_IDP2016.pdf

<<PLEASE SEND INFORMATION ON YOUR CITY’S 2016 IDP EVENT >>

If your city is planning to organize an event to commemorate the International Day of Peace, please send your event report to our secretariat. We will share the report on the Mayors for Peace website, etc.

▼Please mail us with an outline of your event at:

mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■ “Peace News from Hiroshima” (Contributed by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

On August 6, Hiroshima observed the 71st anniversary of the atomic bombing and there seemed to be more excitement in the city than on previous anniversaries. This may be because it was the first anniversary of the bombing after U.S. President Barack Obama visited the city in May. The historic visit, the first by a sitting president of the United States, drew the world’s attention and heightened awareness, among A-bomb survivors and Hiroshima citizens, of the city’s important mission.

“Among those nations like my own that hold nuclear stockpiles, we must have the courage to escape the logic of fear, and pursue a world without them.” This passage from Mr. Obama’s speech was quoted in this year’s Peace Declaration. His words point to the obstacles that must be overcome to advance the abolition of nuclear weapons, the longtime appeal of Hiroshima. Mr. Obama’s words also suggest a call to abandon the idea of nuclear deterrence, where a larger, stronger arsenal is needed to maintain feelings of security in the face of rivals.

The reality is that the nuclear weapon states, including the United States, have not even begun discussions for a legal framework that would ban such weapons. At the same time, the Japanese government holds a negative view toward establishing a nuclear weapons convention. In this way, though, Japan is in the minority among the international community. Hiroshima should continue voicing its call for the abolition of nuclear arms. Let us move forward with confidence and patience.

Visit the following links for articles from the Hiroshima Peace Media Center.

- August 6 in Hiroshima: Action needed to take advantage of Obama’s visit

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=63614>

- Editorial: 71 years after the A-bombing, realize a world without nuclear arms while the survivors are alive

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=63529>

- As A-bomb anniversary again dawns, Hiroshima calls on world to abolish nuclear arms

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=63390>

- Nationwide survey: 90% of A-bomb survivors' organizations view President Obama's visit to Hiroshima as "meaningful"

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=63397>

- Seven A-bomb survivors' organizations solicit signatures for the abolition of nuclear weapons

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=63377>

■ Member City Activities

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The Hiroshima Junior Marimba Ensemble 3rd French Tour
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The Hiroshima Junior Marimba Ensemble will be performing in France from September 19 to ~~September~~ 26, in commemoration of International Peace Day in several French member cities of Mayors for Peace: Gonfreville l'Orcher, Malakoff, Choisy-le-Roi, Paris and Vitry-sur-Seine.

Invited by the Mayors for Peace French chapter, AFCD RP-Maires pour la Paix France, the young music students from Hiroshima will also have the opportunity to introduce their hometown to young people in each host city and talk with others about peace and a nuclear free future. The Hiroshima Junior Marimba Ensemble has toured in several countries and Mayors for Peace member cities. They also performed for the opening of the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in 2013.

This tour will be their 3rd cooperative effort with AFCD RP-Maires pour la Paix France following their tours in 2003 and 2011.

▼ More details on the AFCD RP website (in French):

<http://afcdrp.com/affiche-paix/>

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Biograd na moru, Croatia
2016 Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemoration service
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On August 6, the city of Biograd na moru, a Vice-President of Mayors for Peace, held a commemorative event in front of the statue of the crane on the waterfront of the city. The new ambassador of Japan and his wife attended the event. The mayor of Biograd, Mr. Ivan Knez gave a speech and so did the Japanese ambassador, Mr. Keiji Takiguchi. Other Mayors for Peace member cities of Croatia were also in attendance.

▼ Full report and photos on the City of Biograd na moru website (in Croatian):

<http://www.biogradnamoru.hr/novosti/grad-biograd/2016-08-07/obljetnica-pada-atomske-bombe-na-hiroshimu-i-nagasaki>

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Manchester, UK
2016 Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemoration service
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On August 6, Manchester City Council, as a Vice-President and Lead City of Mayors for Peace, held its annual commemoration service to remember the innocent civilians who died in the atomic bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the over 60 million civilians who have died in conflicts and terrorism since August 1945, and to also remember civilians who have died in recent terrorist attacks and conflicts in the likes of Turkey, France, Belgium, Germany, Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Syria.

▼ Full report and photos on the Nuclear Free Local Authorities website:

http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/2016_Hiroshima__Nagasaki_service.pdf

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Oldham, Greater Manchester, UK

Special event to commemorate the UN Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, and a new Mayors for Peace member

Manchester will welcome their neighbouring authority Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council into Mayors for Peace as part of a special ceremony on September 26th, the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

Oldham Council are the first Council in the UK to sign the 'Pledge to Peace' initiative, which was established in 2011 at a special conference in the European Parliament. Institutions and organisations are invited to sign the Pledge to help create a "culture of peace" across Europe by carrying out practical actions for peace in their communities. As part of its involvement in Pledge to Peace, Oldham will be holding a 'Peace Week' with special events on International Peace, establishing a peace section in its library and rededicating its peace garden. The week will culminate in a special ceremony in Oldham Civic Centre on the 26th September where the Mayor of Oldham, Councillor Derek Heffernan, will formally sign the membership form to join Mayors for Peace in the presence of the Deputy Lord Mayor of Manchester and other Mayors from Greater Manchester.

▼ Full report on the Mayors for Peace website:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/memberscity/2016/Manchester/Sep26th.html>

▼ Oldham Council's signing and joining the Pledge to Peace initiative:

http://www.oldham.gov.uk/press/article/977/council_first_in_the_uk_to_sign_pledge_to_peace

▼ More information about the Pledge can be found on the following websites:

<http://www.pledgetopeace.eu/>

<http://www.associazionepercorsi.com>

UK groups and the local Mayors for Peace chapter welcome the Peace Boat to special events in London

A special symposium and reception welcoming the Japanese Peace Boat group will take place in London on October 3rd. It will directly follow on from the business meeting of the UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter.

▼ Full report on the Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/memberscity/2016/UK/Peace_Boat.html

▼ For more information on Peace Boat and the other places the 92nd voyage is docking at (the Peace Boat website):

<http://peaceboat.org/english/>

Leeds, UK

Caroline Lucas MP to give the Leeds International Olof Palme Memorial Peace Lecture

The leading MP and Chair of the Parliamentary CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament) group, Caroline Lucas, will give the annual Leeds International Olof Palme Memorial Peace Lecture in Leeds Civic Hall at 7pm on October 27th. **The lecture has been organised by the Leeds City Council Peacelink group and the Praxis Centre, Leeds Beckett University.**

▼ Full report on the Mayors for Peace website:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/memberscity/2016/Leeds/lecture.html>

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Opening of "Making Peace" exhibition

On August 1, "Making Peace," a major photo exhibition on the theme of sustainable peace was opened in the busy Ipanema Metro station in Rio de Janeiro, a few days ahead of the Olympic Games and will remain until the UN International Day for Peace on September 21.

▼ Full report of the event on the Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2016/Rio_de_Janeiro/Making_Peace.html

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Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Hiroshima Commemoration
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Hiroshima commemoration in Rio de Janeiro with involvement of Eduardo Kobra, a world famous Brazilian artist
On August 6, a 30-square meter colorful Peace Mural was inaugurated in the favela of Babilônia, in Rio de Janeiro.
Eduardo Kobra, a world famous Brazilian artist who creates enormous and colorful murals about peace around the globe, participated in this project. The inauguration ceremony was attended by a hibakusha of Hiroshima, the Consul of Colombia and two artists of Kobra's team.

▼Full report of the event on the Mayors for Peace website:
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2016/Rio_de_Janeiro/Peace_Mural.html

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Volgograd, Russia
Peace ceremony in memory of the victims of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima
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On August 6, the city of Volgograd, a Vice-President of Mayors for Peace, hosted its annual ceremony to commemorate the atomic bombing of Hiroshima to manifest the city's solidarity with its Japanese twin-town and in memory of those who perished during and after the atomic bombing of 1945.

▼Full report and photos on the Mayors for Peace website:
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2016/Volgograd/Commemorative_Event_August6_2016.pdf

■Request to Promote Various Measures as Based in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan

At the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace held in August 2013, an Action Plan for up to the year 2017 was decided on with the aim of raising international support for nuclear weapons abolition through a variety of different measures. You will find some examples of the types of events you can organize throughout the year on the webpage below.

▼Examples of measures:
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/2013_2017action_plan/index.html

▼Mayors for Peace A-bomb poster exhibition:
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/poster/index.html>

▼DVD rental for screenings:
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/DVD/index.html>

▼Please send a report about your event to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat to:
mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■Mayors for Peace Information System

An online information system for Mayors for Peace has been launched in order to facilitate information sharing among member cities. This system enables searches for member cities' information, the renewal of records by each member as well as payment of membership fees by credit card without any transfer charges. We hope that each member city will utilize this system for their activities related to Mayors for Peace.

Please check your city's information on the system such as the name and contact information of the mayor, contact person, etc. If this information needs revision, we ask that you log into the system and make corrections. We would greatly appreciate each city keeping its own information up-to-date.

Instructions on how to use this system and your city's login information are included in an email which was sent to each member city on July 15, 2015. To newly joined members after August 2015, the same information was sent when they joined Mayors for Peace.

▼ Mayors for Peace Information System:

<https://www.mfpinfosys.org/>

▼ Mayors for Peace Information System Operating Manual:

https://www.mfpinfosys.org/manual/secure/pdfs/lec7/lm/07manu_pdf_en.pdf

▼ Please email us at the following address if you have any inquiries about the Mayors for Peace Information System:

mfpssystem@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■ Request for Payment of the 2016 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee

At the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in August 2013, the introduction of an annual Membership Fee was determined in order to strengthen the foundation of Mayors for Peace and the sense of solidarity amongst member cities. Following this decision, last year, we launched an annual membership fee of 2,000 Japanese Yen (about USD19/EUR17) per city. This year again, we would like to ask each city to contribute the same amount. If you have not paid the 2015 Membership Fee but intend to do so, please send it along with this year's payment. The funds raised by this fee will be utilized as a resource for the projects listed on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017).

A request for payment of the 2016 membership fee was sent to each city on June 24. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

▼ Request for the 2016 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website):

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

■ Plea to Support Our Nuclear Weapons Convention Petition Drive

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. Mayors for Peace is promoting a global grassroots petition drive as a way in which all member cities can call for an immediate start to negotiations of a nuclear weapons convention. Promotion of this petition drive is included in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017) that was adopted at the 8th General Conference in August 2013.

Thanks to many supporters across the world, we have received 2,395,951 signatures as of August 1, 2016.

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

▼ Online petition:

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

■ Visitor(s) to the President of Mayors for Peace (August 1-7)

Hiroshima City received many visitors on and around August 6th. President Kazumi Matsui welcomed the following visitors between August 1 and 7 and asked them to support the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate towards membership expansion.

*August 3 - H.E. Mr. Sergio Duarte, Former UN Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs

*August 4 - H.E. Ms. Claudia Roth, Vice-President of the German Parliament

*August 5 - Hon. Mr. Jaime R. Fresnedi, Mayor of Muntinlupa, Philippines

*August 5 - H.E. Mr. Kim Won-soo, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs,

United Nations

*August 5 - Hon. Mr. Khder Kareem, Mayor of Halabja, Kurdistan, Iraq

*August 6 - Delegation of the SCWVS (Society for Chemical Weapons Victims Support) and Tehran Peace Museum, Iran

In addition, Hiroshima City requested representatives from 91 countries who attended the August 6 ceremony to cooperate towards membership expansion of Mayors for Peace.

■ Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,114 Cities in 161 Countries/Regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on August 1, we added 19 new member cities, bringing total membership to 7,114.

Thanks to the continued efforts of the team at the Tehran Peace Museum, 13 cities from Iran joined this month and the total number of Iranian member cities reached 893.

We also welcomed two cities from Japan, one city each from Austria, France, Germany, and Greece.

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

▼ List of New Members (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2016/newmembers1608_en.pdf

▼ Map of Member Cities:

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

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

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Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp.

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