



Mayors for Peace News Flash

January 2019 / No.109

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

7,701 cities

in 163 countries and regions

(as of January 1, 2019)

Please also check our website and Facebook page:

Website:

<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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■ The Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" – Thank you for your participation

In order to further promote peace education in member cities around the world, Mayors for Peace hosted its first children's art competition on the theme of "Peaceful Towns", which was open for submissions from October 1 until December 28, 2018. We are pleased that we have received 469 works from 29 member cities in 14 countries and would like to thank everyone that took part in this competition.

The judges had a very difficult task of screening the submissions, as the standard of entries was so high, but they managed to select eight prize-winning works. The grand-prize artwork will be printed on plastic folders which Mayors for Peace will be using to promote its work. The prize-winning works can be seen on the Mayors for Peace website.



The grand-prize winning work by Ms. Anastasia Skobeltsina (9 yrs) from Krasnodar, Russia

▼ The Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns":

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects/2018_education.html

■ 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.

By the end of November 31, 2018, we had received 57 such reports from 41 member cities. We thank all who have responded to our call and submitted inspiring examples of peace education initiatives. 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.

The Mayors for Peace Secretariat will continue to accept reports on a rolling basis, so please send your report whenever your project is completed.

▼ Call for Input on the Mayors for Peace Website:

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

■ Joint Mayors for Peace / PNND European meeting takes place in Basel

[Basel, Switzerland; January 15, 2019]

Representatives from Mayors for Peace Vice Presidents Hannover, Frogn, Granollers and Manchester took part in meetings around the 3rd [Basel Peace Forum](#) in Switzerland.

The Forum brought over 150 people together from cities, Parliamentarians, NGOs and civil society for two days on January 13 and 14 in discussing innovative ways to develop peace. Mayors for Peace members helped PNND at a special pavilion to 'count' 27 billion Euros of arms exports from Europe and choose how that could be better spent using the U.N.'s Millennium

Development Goals. A special evening meeting included a presentation from the Deputy Mayor of Hannover on the city's policies on peace, disarmament and divestment. Other speakers included UK MEP Molly Scott-Cato, PNND Vice President Christine Muttonen and a speaker from Fossil Free Germany.



Participants of the joint meeting between Mayors for Peace and PNND on January 15

The main meeting for Mayors for Peace representatives was a joint European seminar with PNND on January 15, facilitated by the Basel Peace Office. This was opened by Lukas Ott of the Basel Stadt Kanton who noted how they wished to get more involved in the work of Mayors for Peace. Presentations at the meeting were given by the Deputy Mayor of Hannover Thomas Herrman on the work of the German Mayors for Peace Chapter, the Honorary Mayor of Frogn Thore Vestby on the role of legislators and Manchester's Mayors for Peace officer Sean Morris on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan and the Council's peace education policies. Other speakers talked on the PNND Action Plan, nuclear disarmament and nuclear divestment policies. A [Basel Appeal](#) was also adopted calling on the US and Russia not to abrogate from the INF Treaty and work rather on multilateral nuclear disarmament initiatives.

There was also time for a short meeting for Mayors for Peace Lead Cities in Europe to discuss progress with developing a European Chapter and encourage greater cooperation in peace across the continent.

<Report by Sean Morris, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary>

■ Reports on the 2018 Youth Exchange for Peace: Support Program for "HIROSHIMA and PEACE" Course

Since 2016, Mayors for Peace has invited selected youths from various member cities to Hiroshima to participate in its Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program. As part of this support program, nine young representatives from nine member cities around the world attended Hiroshima City University's intensive summer course "HIROSHIMA and PEACE," in which students from around the world study and discuss

Hiroshima and peace in English from August 1 to August 10. In addition to the university's course, they attended the Mayors for Peace's own program, in which they exchanged views on their future peace activities.

Please read the reports of nine young representatives from member cities who participated in the program, which are now posted on the Mayors for Peace website.

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects/2018_HAP_result.html

This year again, Mayors for Peace will conduct a program to provide financial and other support to selected youth from member cities participating in "HIROSHIMA and PEACE," and will start accepting applications for participation from member cities in mid-February. Application details will be posted in next month's News Flash.

■ **Receiving an Intern from Volgograd at the Mayors for Peace Secretariat**

[December 3 – 19, 2018]

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 work related to peace and the Secretariat.

From December 3 to 19, the Mayors for Peace Secretariat welcomed Ms. Elena Malushko from Volgograd, Russia, an Executive City of Mayors for Peace and the Lead City in Russia. She is an Associate Professor and Assisting Director in educational IT at the Institute of Philology and Intercultural Communication of Volgograd State University. In addition to getting involved in the work of Mayors for Peace Secretariat, Ms. Malushko participated in a number of activities to learn about the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, including listening to a hibakusha's eyewitness testimony. She also visited a local elementary school and made a presentation about Volgograd and its peace initiatives.

Ms. Malushko made the following comment about her internship: "Hiroshima and Volgograd both share the tragic history of having suffered total destruction during the WWII. I had learned quite a lot about the atomic bombing before I came to Hiroshima, but there is a big difference between simply knowing and having direct experiences. When I go back to my city, I will share this valuable experience with my students, colleagues, and citizens of Volgograd. I also hope that I will help build further cooperation between Volgograd and Mayors for Peace."

The Secretariat will have hosted another intern from Montreal, Canada, by the end of March 2019.

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

https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/2040032359590820?_tn=-R

https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/2044738019120254?_tn=-R

https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/2048602018733854?_tn=-R

■ **Mayors for Peace Staff Member's Attendance of the Obama Foundation Leaders Design Workshop: Asia Pacific**

[Honolulu, HI, USA; January 4 - 6, 2019]

A member of the Mayors for Peace Secretariat staff was invited to join the Obama Foundation Leaders Design Workshop: Asia-Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii, from January 4-6, 2019. The workshop was hosted by the Obama Foundation as part of its efforts to inspire, empower and connect emerging leaders around the world.

Twenty-one emerging leaders from 16 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, actively working in various fields, participated in sessions designed to inspire, further motivate and connect the young leaders by sharing what skills and resources they need to grow and scale their work, and what is expected to demonstrate leadership in the region. It also included an opportunity to meet Former President Obama, when the participants discussed with him challenges and opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region, and ideas to help his foundation design a curriculum and agenda for its leaders program. The Mayors for Peace staff member exchanged views with other young leaders from the region and introduced the work of Mayors for Peace, asking for their understanding and cooperation.

■ Regional Chapter Activities

< UK & Ireland Chapter >

* The 2019 Leeds International Peace Lecture on February 5

Over the past 30 years, Leeds has organised an international peace lecture in memory of the former Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, which has each year brought a high profile figure to the city to talk about different aspects of peace-making, peace-keeping and peace-building.

Leeds City Council, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds Peacelink Group and Mayors for Peace have decided to start a new series of international peace lectures. The inaugural lecture will be 'Routes to Peace in an Uncertain World' by Paul Rogers, Emeritus Professor of Peace Studies, University of Bradford. Paul Rogers is a global expert on international security and has just published a new book providing an overview of 50 years of intensive work in this area. As we start a new year with lots of serious international concerns around the world, Paul Rogers will be using this lecture to look at positive ways to deal with some of the great problems and issues that beset our world.

The lecture will take place in the Banqueting Suite, Leeds Civic Hall on the evening of Tuesday 5th February starting at 7pm. The lecture will be opened by the Lord Mayor of Leeds and will be chaired by the Deputy Leader of Leeds City Council.

<Report by Sean Morris, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary>

▼ Tickets are free for this event, and can be reserved at:

<https://leedspeacelecture2019.eventbrite.co.uk/>

▼ For all enquiries please email:

R.Julian@leedsbeckett.ac.uk / S.Morris4@manchester.gov.uk

<<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 send us information including the date, venue, organizers and a description of the event. We look forward to receiving information from your city.

▼ Please send a report about your event to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat at:

mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

▼ List of peace events as based on those in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (As of January 15):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/03_newmembers/2018_List_of_Activities_en.pdf

■ "Peace News from Hiroshima"

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

The Vatican made an announcement at the end of last year that is very good news for the A-bombed cities: Pope Francis will visit Japan in 2019 and has indicated his desire to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki. His trip will take place in late November or December, and this will be the second papal visit, following the visit by the late Pope John Paul in February 1981. With the governor and mayor of Hiroshima appealing for Pope Francis to visit the city, hopes are high among the people here.

It was on February 25, 1981, in the snowy Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, that Pope John Paul II delivered a historic message of peace that began with "War is the work of man." It was the time of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union, and the world was facing the threat of a nuclear war. His message reached every corner of the world, strengthening public opinion for nuclear disarmament.

What is the world like at the beginning of this new year? In 2018, U.S. President Donald Trump announced that his nation will withdraw from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, which was signed by the United States and the Soviet Union and serves as a symbol of the end of the Cold War. In response, Russia has put forward a plan to develop a new type of nuclear weapon. Though North Korea seemed to begin moving toward denuclearization last year, the prospects for this are still dim. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was adopted in 2017, is coming closer to its entry into force, but the nuclear weapon states are still nowhere near adding their signatures to it.

The Vatican, among other states, ratified the treaty promptly. If Pope Francis delivers a message from the A-bombed cities, it would be an important alarm bell against a possible New Cold War where powerful nations adopt an increasingly confrontational stance toward one another.

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

- Editorial: Path to nuclear abolition needs wave of action from Hiroshima

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=89049>

- Editorial: Hope for advancing nuclear abolition in visit by Pope to A-bombed cities

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=89035>

- A-bomb survivors hope visit to Hiroshima by Pope Francis can boost nuclear abolition aim

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=88992>

- “Appeal for Peace at Hiroshima”, Pope John Paul II in February 25, 1981

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=83842>

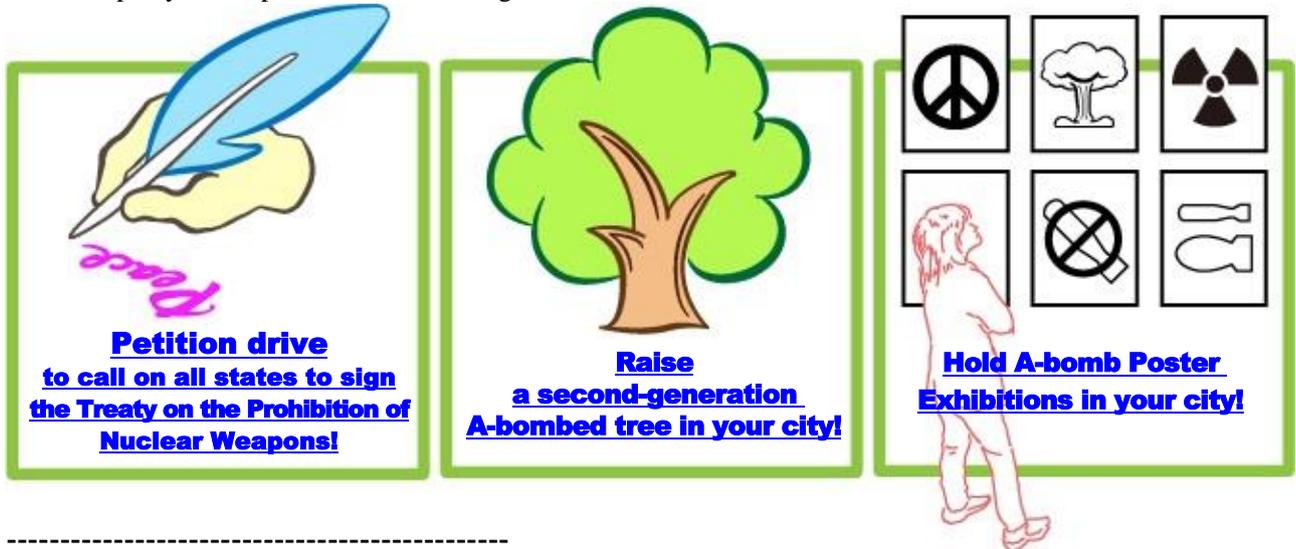
■Request to Promote Various Measures Based on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020)

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:



■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”:



■Last Month’s Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace

President Kazumi Matsui welcomed the following visitors last month and asked them to support the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate on membership expansion.

