



# Mayors for Peace News Flash

March 2020 / No.123

## Mayors for Peace Member Cities

**7,869** cities

**in 163 countries and regions**

(as of March 1, 2020)

**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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**■ Comment by Mayor of Hiroshima on the 50th Anniversary of the NPT entry into force**

[March 5, 2020]

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On March 5, 1970, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) entered into force. Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace, issued a comment regarding the 50th anniversary of the treaty, in which he expressed his hope for this year’s NPT Review Conference (RevCon) to agree on innovative solutions to advance concrete nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measures.

▼ Comment by the Mayor of Hiroshima (The Mayors for Peace Website):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/data/20200305\\_Mayor\\_Matsui\\_comment\\_NPT50.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/data/20200305_Mayor_Matsui_comment_NPT50.pdf)

RevCon, which is held every five years to review the implementation of the NPT, was supposed to take place this year at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from April 27 to May 22. Mayors for Peace was planning to send a delegation to the conference, however, due to the spread of COVID-19 and its effects worldwide, there is a high possibility that RevCon will be postponed. A formal announcement has not been made, and while it is unfortunate to lose the opportunity to present the voices of the hibakusha, Mayors for Peace, and many other groups to civil society at large, we appreciate RevCon’s concern for health and safety of conference attendees.

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## ■ Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace addresses UN Conference of Teachers

[New York, NY, US; February 28, 2020]

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On 28 February 2020, the Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) held an all-day “No More War” conference at the United Nations. The event, which was co-sponsored by the Republic of Korea’s UN Mission, was held to mark the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. The CTAUN seeks to promote global awareness, interdependence, and the goals of the UN Charter through educational programmes at the high school and graduate levels. The conference was attended by 673 people, both educators and students, including 70 Fulbright students from 30 countries.

Speakers this year included feminist Gloria Steinem and Nobel Peace Laureate Leymah Gbowee and the conference featured panels on: creating peace; peace education; transformative education; new technologies; women, peace and security; and world peace through law. In addition, a separate panel discussed disarmament issues, with UN Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu addressing conventional weapons issues and Randy Rydell (Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace) covering nuclear-weapon-related issues (disarmament, non-proliferation and nuclear terrorism).

On the respective contributions of the UN and civil society in ending war, Ms. Steinem concluded, “Honor, respect and pressure the UN, but don’t wait for the UN. Just do it.”

<Report by Randy Rydell, Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace>

### ▼ Links:

- CTAUN: <https://teachun.org/>
- Conference video:  
(AM session) <http://webtv.un.org/watch/part-1-2020-ctaun-war-no-more-conference/6137004798001>  
(PM session) <http://webtv.un.org/watch/part-2-2020-ctaun-war-no-more-conference/6137094687001> (Rydell starts at 47 minutes)
- Article:  
[https://www.passblue.com/2020/03/06/peace-begins-at-home-gloria-steinems-recipe-for-a-nonviolent-world/?utm\\_source=PassBlue+List&utm\\_campaign=8b69e392a2-PassBlue\\_Fordham\\_2020&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_4795f55662-8b69e392a2-29911629](https://www.passblue.com/2020/03/06/peace-begins-at-home-gloria-steinems-recipe-for-a-nonviolent-world/?utm_source=PassBlue+List&utm_campaign=8b69e392a2-PassBlue_Fordham_2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_4795f55662-8b69e392a2-29911629)
- UNODA disarmament education page:  
<https://www.un.org/disarmament/education/>

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## ■ “Peace News from Hiroshima”

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

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The ongoing spread of the novel coronavirus in countries throughout the world has also greatly affected Hiroshima. The A-bombed city, which is ordinarily busy throughout the year with many tourists from Japan and overseas, appears vastly different. In Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, only a small number of visitors, and no students on school trips, can be seen.

Recently reported was that the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), held once every five years, is expected to be postponed. The conference was scheduled to open at the United Nations headquarters in New York City on April 27. A-bomb survivors and Hiroshima citizens have been preparing their visit to the conference venue to convey messages from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, while keeping an eye at the same time on news related to the coronavirus situation. Were the news about postponement to come to pass, it would be a “great disappointment,” according to members of the group scheduled to travel to New York.

A-bomb survivors have been communicating their experiences at such places as the United Nations and calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons based on their sense of mission that future generations should never have to go through what they experienced. At the same time, they are determined never to let the sadness of the voiceless A-bomb victims become forgotten history. The outlook concerning the coronavirus remains unclear, and the situation may well have changed for the worse by the time this Mayors for Peace newsletter is posted. Now, precisely the time it has become difficult for aging A-bomb survivors to take advantage of the opportunity to communicate their fervent wishes to the world, survivors and younger generations should consider how to work together to maintain momentum in the movement toward elimination of nuclear weapons in this crucial 75th year since the atomic bombings.

Please access the following websites and read our peace-related news.

- A-bomb survivors disappointed by NPT Review Conference postponement, wanting their call for nuclear weapons abolition to be heard  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=96494>
- A-bomb survivor presents new “ICAN” rose-variety seedlings to Tama City  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=96106>
- Names and photos of 16 overseas A-bombed priests and monks to be registered at Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=96279>
- This summer, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Nagasaki City to hold first joint A-bomb exhibit at Pearl Harbor  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=96226>
- Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima 75 years after the atomic bombing—Hiroshima City begins investigating return of one person’s remains in Atomic Bomb Memorial Mound to surviving family: Second case since fiscal 2010  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=96011>

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## ■ Announcement from Hiroshima City University: Admission information for HCU’s Graduate School of Peace Studies (International Students, October 2020 Admission)

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Hiroshima City University, a public university in Hiroshima, established the Graduate School of Peace Studies (Master's Degree Program) in April 2019 for the purpose of serving as a world-class hub for education and academic research on peace and peace building.

The Graduate School aims to contribute to the realization of world peace by providing an interdisciplinary curriculum that fosters graduates who have acquired: i) analytical academic methodologies in specialized areas such as peace studies, international politics, international law and international relations, and ii) the specialized wide-ranging skills needed to analyze a diverse range of real problems.

To welcome students from abroad, HCU will conduct special entrance examinations for international students and will teach some of the Graduate School of Peace Studies’ courses in English to accommodate such students. There is an admission and tuition fee exemption system aimed at people working for national and local governments, news media, and international organizations. (Applications will be screened.)

Please share this information with officials in your local government as well as with any relevant educational institutions.

More details on course curriculum, entrance examination, and related matters are available on the Hiroshima City University website:

▼ The Graduate School of Peace Studies, Master’s Degree Program and Admissions Guide

<https://www.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp/english/graduate-school/masters-degree-program/graduate-school-of-peace-studies/>  
(Entrance Examination information is to be updated in early April)

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## ■ Regional Chapter Activities

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### <Catalan Chapter>

#### **The Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace accompanies Setsuko Thurlow in her visit to Barcelona**

In late February, Setsuko Thurlow, a survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bombing and one of the recipients of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of ICAN, visited Barcelona, Madrid and Andorra to raise awareness for and continue adding support to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

On February 18, Mayor Ada Colau of Barcelona met with Ms. Thurlow, who was joined by: Laia Bonet, Deputy Mayor for Agenda 2030, Digital Transition, Sports and Metropolitan and Regional Coordination; David Llistar, Director of Global Justice and International Cooperation of the Barcelona City Council; Carlos Umaña, Regional Vice-President of Latin America of the



Meeting on February 18 (Photo courtesy of Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace)

International Association of Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW); Josep Mayoral, Vice President of Mayors for Peace/Lead City Mayor of the Catalan Chapter/Chairman of the European Chapter; and Pedro Arrojo, a former deputy.

### **The City of Barcelona and Barcelona Provincial Council approve resolutions to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

The meeting coincides with the approval of an institutional statement by the Barcelona City Council Plenary Council's Committee on Social Rights, Culture and Sports, that urges the Spanish government to sign and ratify the TPNW. The resolution expounds upon the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities and demands joint efforts for their abolition in the interests of responsibility and safety. In this statement, Barcelona endorses ICAN's global campaign to demand that governments, through cities, sign and ratify the Treaty and engage clearly and precisely with nuclear disarmament, as well as take concrete steps towards its achievement.

The Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace, together with Fundipau, has been encouraging city councils in the Catalan region to join this global campaign, and since 2018, Catalan councils such as Granollers, Vallromanes, Canovelles, and La Garriga have approved similar motions.

The Barcelona Provincial Council (Diputació de Barcelona), which is a second-level local government body made up of the 311 municipalities of the province of Barcelona, also adopted [an institutional declaration](#) in support of TPNW in its plenary session on February 27.

The Provincial Council expressed its support of "all the people and communities affected by the impact of atomic bombs and trials with nuclear weapons," and stated that "the states of the world must commit clearly and precisely to nuclear disarmament and take concrete steps towards its achievement," urging the Spanish Government to sign and ratify the TPNW.



Plenary session of the Barcelona Provincial Council  
(Photo courtesy of Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace)

### **Official launch of the "Building peace within cities and across the world" Campaign**

On Thursday, February 20, another meeting was held at the History Museum of Barcelona, where a new campaign "[Building peace within cities and across the world](#)" was officially presented by the Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace and a local NGO Fundipau. Speaking on behalf of the Mayors for Peace Catalan Chapter, Josep Mayoral stressed that nuclear weapons are aimed at cities, and that is why we have a responsibility, as municipalities, to contribute to banning them. Mayoral emphasized that "we will work to ban nuclear weapons. Not only is it necessary, it is a must. Eventually, the citizens will gain strength because it is the only possible way; the other is destruction."

Follow the campaign on social media with the hashtags #BANNUCLEARWEAPONS #CITIESOFPEACE. Through social media, citizens can also urge their municipalities to support the initiative and ask the government to sign and ratify TPNW.

#### ▼ Related links (in Catalan):

- [https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/relacionsinternacionalsicooperacio/ca/noticia/ada-colau-es-reuneix-amb-setsuko-thurlow-premi-nobel-de-la-pau-i-referent-en-la-prohibicio-de-les-armes-nuclears\\_918766](https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/relacionsinternacionalsicooperacio/ca/noticia/ada-colau-es-reuneix-amb-setsuko-thurlow-premi-nobel-de-la-pau-i-referent-en-la-prohibicio-de-les-armes-nuclears_918766)
- <https://wp.granollers.cat/alcaldesperlapau/2020/02/21/alcaldes-per-la-pau-acompanya-la-premi-nobel-de-la-pau-setsuko-thurlow-en-la-seva-visita-a-barcelona/>
- <https://wp.granollers.cat/alcaldesperlapau/2020/03/02/la-diputacio-de-barcelona-dona-suport-al-tractat-sobre-la-prohibicio-de-les-armes-nuclears/>



(Top) Meeting on February 20  
(Bottom) Mayor of Granollers speaking at the meeting  
(Photos courtesy of Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace)

<Report by Helena Aranda Mayor, staff of the Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace>

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## ■ Member City Activities

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### <Dresden, Germany>

#### **International Congress on Cultures of Remembrance on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the bombing on Dresden in Second World War**

On February 13th, the City of Dresden commemorated the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Dresden, which took place between the 13th and 15th February, 1945.

On this occasion, a broad range of events took place: commemoration ceremonies, a human chain, forums and discussions. These addressed events in the past, but also the development of a future culture of remembrance and commitment to peace, democracy and human rights, in clear rejection of all forms of violence, racism and discrimination.

On February 14th and 15th, the Saxony Education Forum of the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation held the International Congress *Schmerzhaftes Erinnerung* ("Painful Memories") in cooperation with the City of Dresden at the Lower Church of the Frauenkirche Dresden.



(Photo courtesy of the Saxony Education Forum of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation)

First of all, Pastor Sebastian Feydt welcomed the participants and introduced the history of the Frauenkirche, which is inseparably linked to the events of 13 February through its destruction. Afterwards, the Mayor of Hiroshima, Kazumi Matsui, who also serves as the President of Mayors for Peace, addressed the guests in a video message. After the destruction of Hiroshima, a radical new beginning was necessary for the survivors; since then, remembrance has been an integral part of the city community. Mr. Matsui appealed for deepening international friendship and the peace-building as a component of a historically aware civil society that connects cities worldwide.

After further greetings by Dirk Hilbert, the Lord Mayor of Dresden, and Dr. Joachim Klose, Head of the Saxony Education Forum of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, a discussion with representatives of Dresden's twin cities took place. Linda Bigham as representative of Coventry, UK and Dr. Marek Mutor from Wroclaw, Poland discussed together with Lord Mayor Hilbert the divided history of the cities, ways of reconciliation and confidence building and central tasks for the future, which arise from the heritage of history.

<Report from the Saxony Education Forum of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation>

▼ More photos of the event on the Mayors for Peace Website:

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/2020Feb\\_Dresden\\_conference.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/2020Feb_Dresden_conference.html)

### <Mexico City, Mexico>

#### **Mexico City commemorates the 53rd anniversary of the signature of the Treaty of Tlatelolco**

On February 14, a ceremony to commemorate the 53rd anniversary of the signing of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco was held. The event was hosted by the Congress of Mexico City together with the Government of Mexico City, the Cuauhtémoc City Hall, the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL by the Spanish acronym).

The ceremony took place in the Theater of the Cultural Center "Ernesto Gómez Cruz", located precisely in the neighborhood of Tlatelolco. Speakers included representatives of Mexico City Congress, Mexico City Government, Secretariat of OPANAL, Cuauhtémoc City Government (one of the 16 boroughs of Mexico City which accommodates Tlatelolco) and the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who all stressed the importance of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which established the world's first nuclear-weapons-free-zone in a populated area.



(Photo courtesy of Mexico City Congress)

Then, an award ceremony for a children's drawing competition was held. Winners of the contest, who drew pictures on the theme "Imagine your city in peace and a world without nuclear weapons", were invited to have their photo taken during the ceremony, followed by a showing of a video message from Mr. Kazumi Matsui, Mayor

of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace. The ceremony was closed with the inauguration of an artistic installation by a Mexican artist named "Atomic Amnesia".

A number of related events were also held from February 10 to February 21 to commemorate the Treaty's anniversary.

<Report by Paola Gallardo, Committee of International Affairs of the Congress of Mexico City>

▼ More photos of the event on the Mayors for Peace Website:

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/2020Feb\\_CDMX\\_53rd\\_anniversary\\_of\\_Tlatelolco.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/2020Feb_CDMX_53rd_anniversary_of_Tlatelolco.html)

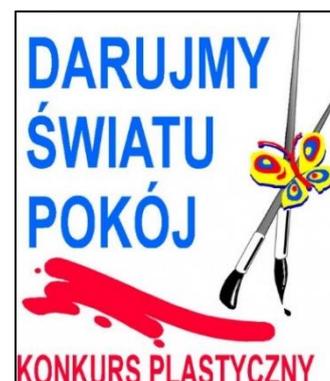
### <Oświęcim, Poland>

#### International art competition for children and youth "Let's Give Peace to the World"

The City of Oświęcim, Poland, which is known for being the site of the Auschwitz concentration camp, has been a member city of Mayors for Peace since 1993. The City is currently supporting the 19th edition of the international art competition: "Let's Give Peace to the World". Children and youth from 7 – 19 years old are invited to submit artworks that present their surrounding reality in an artistic way that expresses the right to live in a world free of wars.

Artworks in flat stiff envelopes should be sent to the following address by the deadline date of June 26, 2020:

Oswiecimskie Centrum Kultury, ul. Sniadeckiego 24, 32-600 Oswiecim, Polska / Poland



▼ English document with details for submission:

<http://www.ock.org.pl/XIX-Miedzynarodowy-Konkurs-Plastyczny-Darujmy-swiatu-pokoj-2020-5995.html>

### <Sant Cugat del Vallès, Catalunya, Spain>

#### "School Day for Peace and Non-Violence" – peace workshop for children through art

Sant Cugat del Vallès, a town north of Barcelona, has been a member of Mayors for Peace since 2009. Every year since 2014, Sant Cugat has organized a peace project for local public schools called "School Day for Peace and Non-Violence" targeting children from 9 – 10 years old.



The activity is intended as a creative and experiential educational process to work on key aspects of the culture of peace and non-violence through artistic expression.

The initiative begins in November and ends at the end of January (first quarter of every academic year). Each year the project comes with a theme, such as "Step by step – Gandhi and non-violence" (2014), "Live – Hibakushas" (2016), or "Feeling good – Antimilitarism" (2020).



▲ School activity in 2016

◀ Installation in 2016 with the theme of Hibakushas

The activity consists of three 90-minute sessions. The first session is facilitated by an educator from local peace institute Universitat Internacional de la Pau, and the other two sessions by an art educator. The theme of the year is introduced at the first session, and during the next two sessions, the students work on the subject through artistic expression, specifically, by creating plastic works.



◀ Installation in 2020 with the theme of antimilitarism

The works of the students from all the participating schools are compiled into one artistic installation, which is publicly displayed in a public place on the Sunday closest to the 30th January. The art installation is also displayed in a public library during a month after the celebration of the School Day for Peace and Non-Violence.

(Photos courtesy of Sant Cugat del Vallès)

A total of 1,400 children from 9 – 10 years have participated in the project and 4,000 adults have indirectly involved in the project by visiting art installation. For this year, five schools out of 11 public schools joined this initiative. The number of participating schools changes from year to year, but the organizer hopes to involve all of the schools.

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

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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>

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

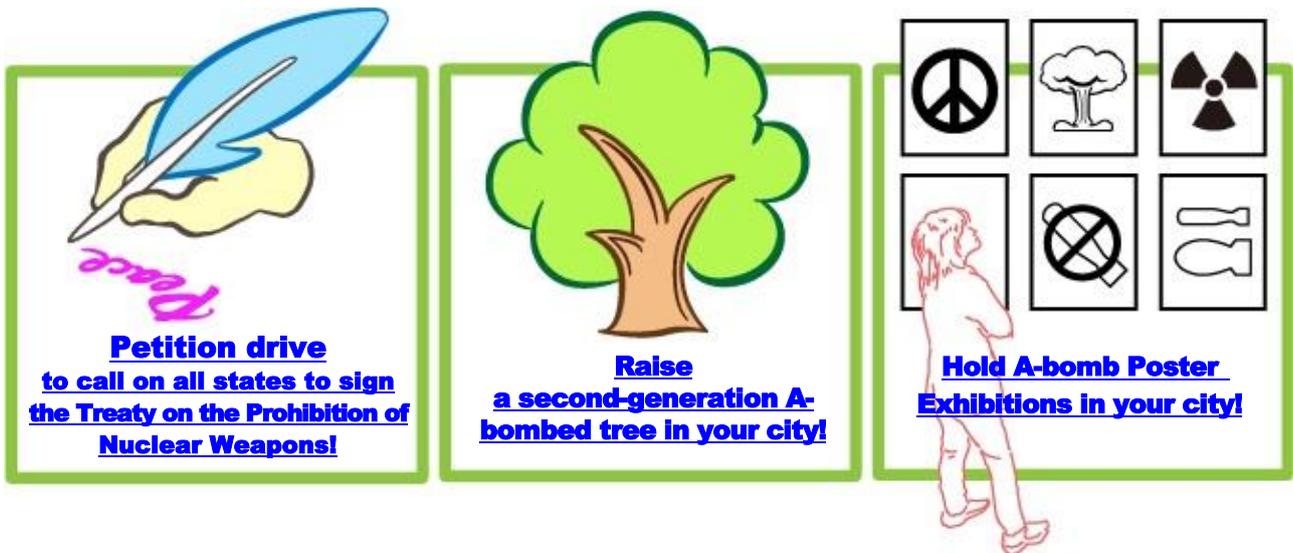
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At the 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace held in Nagasaki in August 2017, we decided our Action Plan for up to the year 2020, aiming for lasting world peace. Together, we hope to make significant strides toward realizing this goal. Please 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](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](#)”*

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

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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”:



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## ■Last month's visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace

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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.

\*February 4 – H.E. Mr. Ichiro Ogasawara, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament

\*February 10 – H.E. Mr. Aziz Ahmad Gulistani, Deputy Minister of Urban Development & Land, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

\*February 12 – The Co-Chairs of the Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group: The Honourable Jim Munson, Senator, and Mr. Terry Sheehan, M.P.

\*February 12 – H.E. Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Ali Thabit, Vice Minister of Public Works and Highways of Republic of Yemen

\*February 18 – Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

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## ■Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,869 Cities in 163 Countries/Regions

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Thanks to your invaluable support, on March 1, we gained 6 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 7,869.

From Croatia, we welcomed Obrovac thanks to the efforts of Biograd na Moru, a Vice President and Lead City of the Croatian Chapter of Mayors for Peace. We also welcomed two cities from Argentina and one city each from France, Gambia, and Japan.

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/newmembers2003\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/03_newmembers/2020/newmembers2003_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:

### **Mayors for Peace Secretariat**

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