



# Briefing paper

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Date: 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

No.17

Subject: ICAN UK meeting, Manchester Children's Peace Trail and Chapter progress

## 1. Introduction

This report has been developed by the Chapter Secretary to outline a number of relevant developments for Chapter members –

- The recent meeting of the ICAN UK Steering Group in Manchester and its plans for the future. Mayors for Peace works closely with ICAN - the 2017 Nobel Peace Laureate.
- European developments of Mayors for Peace and the creation of a Working Group to move forward and enhance continental cooperation.
- The launch of the Manchester City Centre Children's Peace Trail and ongoing work to promote peace education. This is a key objective of the Mayors for Peace.
- The plans to support events commemorating the 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan and around the world.
- The next meeting of the Chapter in Scotland to coincide with International Peace Day and a major peace rally.

## 2. ICAN UK partners meeting and international developments

As Mayors for Peace members will know, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 for their campaigning work with other groups and states to realise the UN International Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). In July 2017 122 nations agreed to implement the treaty. At present 11 states have now ratified the Treaty through their national Parliaments, the latest being Costa Rica. A further 59 states have signed it and are actively in the process of ratifying it. When a minimum 50 states ratify the treaty it is then transferred into international law. Conversely, a core of around 40 states, including the nuclear weapon states and states under the US 'nuclear umbrella' oppose the treaty. While the Republic of Ireland Government is in the process of ratifying the treaty, the UK Government is one of the foremost opponents to it.

The Chapter Secretary attended a recent meeting of the ICAN UK Steering Group in Manchester on the 27<sup>th</sup> June. Globally, ICAN is a coalition of 468 partner groups in 101 countries. (1) Mayors for Peace are one of 29 international partners of ICAN. (2) ICAN UK is made up of 25 supporting groups including Abolition 2000, Article 36, Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT), CND, Medact, Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA), a wide range of faith / peace groups and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). (3)

The ICAN UK partners meeting takes place periodically to share information on ICAN activity and build collaboration on joint or parallel activities and projects where relevant.

The group also assist with promoting ICAN's international objectives to 2019, which are:

- Achieve entry into force of the TPNW (50 state ratifications) and achieve 100 state signatories.

## THE UK & IRELAND CHAPTER OF MAYORS FOR PEACE

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c/o Nuclear Policy, City Policy Section, Level 3, Town Hall Extension, Manchester, M60 3NY  
Tel: 0161 234 3244 E-Mail: [s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk) Website: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>

- Ensure states are prepared for the first meeting of states party (to take place within a year of entry in to force).
- Increase the pressure nationally on nuclear armed and dependent states using the treaty.
- Strengthen the international norm established by the treaty of the illegality and unacceptability of nuclear weapons.

The meeting noted that a signing ceremony for the TPNW was taking place at the UN on the 26<sup>th</sup> September. As part of this, ICAN are working with the Harvard Law School to look at the compatibility with the TPNW and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which has governed the disarmament debate since its signature on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1968. The Harvard academic B. Docherty found that existing security agreements for NATO countries and other US allies do not prevent states from joining the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. (4)

Key aspects of the Harvard study include:

- **States will have to step out from under the ‘nuclear umbrella’** (the military cooperation agreements between at least two countries in which a nuclear-armed state agrees to protect a non-nuclear-armed state with nuclear weapons). According to Docherty, umbrella arrangements violate article 1(1) (e) and (f) which ‘prohibits assisting (or seeking assistance), encouraging or inducing anyone to possess, use, or threaten to use nuclear weapons’. Therefore, under the TPNW ‘umbrella states’ would have to reject any role for nuclear weapons within their security policies – including the threat of use on their behalf. However, this does not mean these countries would have to leave long-standing security and military alliances.
- **Stepping out of the nuclear umbrella would not violate existing agreements with nuclear-armed states (including NATO)** - the TPNW does not require states to abandon existing security alliances with nuclear-armed states. Docherty’s global review of nuclear umbrella arrangements found that collective security agreements generally do not pose insurmountable legal obstacles either. Nuclear umbrella arrangements are often political statements made outside security agreements, not legally binding commitments.
- **The North Atlantic Treaty does not actually specifically require (supporting) nuclear weapons** - A state that wishes to withdraw from the nuclear umbrella associated with NATO can do so without violating any legal obligations to the alliance, and would in fact have the full right to do so. Docherty found that the North Atlantic Treaty itself does not explicitly mention nuclear weapons, or specify the capacities states need to ‘separately and jointly ... maintain and develop their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack’. This presently explains why NATO members have different policies on nuclear weapons on their territories for example.
- **South Korea, Japan and Australia can and should leave the US nuclear umbrella** - Docherty found that none of the collective security treaties that Australia, Japan and South Korea have signed with the US specifically reference nuclear weapons, or require these countries to accept nuclear umbrella arrangement as part of a defense strategy. Instead, their condition as umbrella countries comes from later – non-legally binding – political commitments or statements.
- **The TPNW would not interfere with joint military operations with nuclear-armed states** - in the case of joint military operations, Docherty concludes that participation in a joint operation with a nuclear-armed state does not in and of itself violate the TPNW. Based on the way other humanitarian disarmament treaties (such as the Mine Ban Treaty) have been implemented, the biggest criteria to assess a violation would be the existence of a ‘nexus’ between the operation and the use of nuclear weapons.

The ICAN UK meeting also noted that there is a US initiative encouraging cities to become compliant under the Treaty – the Chapter Secretary will investigate this matter with ICAN US groups. Similarly considerable work is also going on to encourage banks and pension funds to divest from any investment in companies associated with nuclear weapons. Early evidence suggests a number of banks have recently changed their divestment policies. (5) ICAN groups in Scotland held a special ‘Don’t Bank on the Bomb!’ event at the Scottish Parliament, as well as supporting a Parliamentary debate on a Nukewatch ‘Unready Scotland’ report which suggested local authorities and the emergency services were unprepared for an accident with a nuclear weapon road convoy, and were deficient in the information they were not providing to the public. (6)

A number of other events were held by ICAN UK groups, including:

- The Chapter Secretary noted Mayors for Peace seminars in Manchester and Leeds highlighting meetings which gave Councils an update on the core issues and provided some best practice examples of promoting peace education with schoolchildren.
- Scientists for Global Responsibility have assisted the development of a video on 'Global Networks of Peace'.
- The Global Network Against Nuclear Weapons in Space' held its international conference in Oxford.
- The Nuclear Free Local Authorities English Forum and Scottish Forum meetings considered the concerns around the transportation of nuclear weapons and developments in Scotland.

The meeting also had short updates on recent, relevant events:

- ICAN and Mayors for Peace were active at the NPT Preparatory Conference in Geneva in late April. A full report on this can be found in Policy Briefing 16. (7)
- Rebecca Johnson provided a report of the Nobel Women's Initiative, in which a group led by female recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize went to the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea at the time the two Korean Leaders were meeting. The event generated considerable publicity. (8)
- ICAN advocated a roadmap to the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula during the historic summit between President Trump and North Korean political leader Kim Jong-Un. While welcoming the summit, ICAN argued for a more comprehensive agreement that linked in to the TPNW. (9)

The meeting considered as well upcoming plans and events for ICAN at the global and national levels. These included:

- On the first anniversary of the agreement (7<sup>th</sup> July) to adopt the TPNW ICAN groups held events celebrating it around the world. ICAN's global headquarters also published a detailed opinion poll that showed the large majority of the public in Germany, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands would like to see US nuclear weapons removed from their country. (10) A 'No to NATO' rally was also held on the 7<sup>th</sup> July in Brussels.
- ICAN affiliated groups in Scotland would be holding a major rally on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September by the Faslane Trident naval base. Medact would be holding its AGM close by to encourage its members to attend, and all groups were encouraged to support it. The Mayors for Peace Chapter is holding an event on the 20<sup>th</sup> September, as noted in section 6 below.
- Christian CND had worked with a number of Bishops to put a motion to the Church of England Synod encouraging it to support the TPNW and commit itself to support multilateral nuclear disarmament. This motion was passed on the 8<sup>th</sup> July by 260 votes to 26. (11)
- WILPF are working with groups in France to encourage a Parliamentary delegation from the UK and France to go to the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki later in the year. The Chapter Secretary has provided WILPF with contacts from the two cities.

Following the meeting, a group and individual photos were taken with a replica of the Nobel Peace Prize that had been given to the members of the ICAN global Steering Group. These are shown at Appendix 1.

### **3. European Mayors for Peace Lead Cities Working Group**

As noted in previous Mayors for Peace Chapter Policy Briefings, for some time now European Lead Cities have been cooperating with each other and the International Secretariat to develop a more definitive structure in Europe. Following the recent April Executive Conference meeting, an officers Working Group has been established which includes the UK and Ireland Chapter Secretary, Sean Morris.

The first meeting of the Working Group was held through a telephone conference in mid-June. The meeting discussed developing a legal identity, future events and other moves forward in this process, which will continue over the next twelve months and be formally adopted at the 2019 Mayors for Peace Executive Conference being planned for Hanover. The Working Group is focusing on supporting the Mayors for Peace's dual objectives of supporting global initiatives for nuclear

disarmament and cooperating on the development of safe, peaceful and resilient cities. The Working Group will hold its next telephone conference in early September.

#### **4. The launch of the Manchester City Centre Young Person's Peace Trail**

A number of UK and Irish cities have developed, like other cities around the world, projects to develop peace trails in their city centre or region. These include Manchester, Bradford, Leeds, London, Birmingham, Coventry and Mayo. The trails look at the major figures, ideas and movements in the city's history and present that link in to different aspects of peace and social justice.

Manchester's Peace Trail project was formally launched in 2011 at a special event at the People's History Museum with the Lord Mayor of Manchester and the Mayor of Nagasaki. Unlike other cities it has always had two Trails – one for adults and one for children that complies with National Curriculum guidelines in the citizenship education work schools do.

In 2015, Manchester was part of an EU Lifelong Learning Fund project which developed new Peace Trail booklets around common themes in seven leading European cities – Manchester, Paris, Vienna, Budapest, Berlin, The Hague and Turin. These can be found in a dedicated website – <http://www.discoverpeace.eu> – and brought the adult's version of the Trail to a much wider audience. There have been over 70 formal trails that have taken place in the city, largely conducted in Manchester by Steering Group member Steve Roman. If you would like to take part in such a trail please contact the Chapter Secretary – [s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk).

Following discussion and a grant from Historic England – as part of their parallel work to promote heritage information to schoolchildren – Manchester City Council has been able to print a second, updated edition of the Manchester City Centre Young Person's Trail. This was formally launched at a special event in Manchester Central Library opened by the Lord Mayor of Manchester and children from two Manchester primary schools – Heald Place Primary School from the Rusholme part of the city, and Webster Primary School from the Greenheys part of the city. Both schools have gingko trees which were sent by Hiroshima to Manchester some time ago – the tree seeds derive from a tree damaged in the atomic bombing of the 6<sup>th</sup> August 1945 that regrew the following spring, and remain powerful symbols of peace. Amongst other attendees were a representative from Manchester Children's Hospital, who also have a gingko tree, and the Chief Executive of Warrington Peace Centre (the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace) who are working to develop a peace education programme across Manchester / Greater Manchester.

At the launch of the Trails, children from the two schools gave short presentations on their ongoing work to promote peace in their own schools in discouraging bullying and understanding the importance of peace, justice and tolerance between them. After a group photograph and media interviews, the schoolchildren took part in an abridged version of the Trail around St Peter's Square and Albert Square, which took in stories about the Peterloo massacre, the campaign for women's suffrage, the remembrance of war, the Corn Laws debate and the campaign to promote a world free from nuclear weapons. Some photos from the event are attached in Appendix 1.

As well as the Trail, a parallel and complementary website is being developed and it can be found at <http://www.manchesterpeacetrail.org.uk>. It will be developed further over the next few months.

#### **5. CND at 60 symbol national tour and '7 Symbols of Peace' meeting**

2018 is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of the largest post-war social movements in the UK and Ireland – the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND). At its height, it attracted over a million people on to the streets in demonstrations against nuclear weapons and wider conflicts, like the 2003 Iraq War. As part of its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, CND has created a large version of its globally famous symbol, which has been recognised as one of the core symbols of the peace movement, for exhibition at focal places around the UK and Ireland. These include close to Stonehenge, by the Clifton Suspension Bridge, in front of the Scottish Parliament and in front of York Minster.

Whilst the symbol was exhibited in Manchester, a visit was arranged with the group '7 Symbols of Peace'. This initiative by Swiss-Canadian Bernard Webber, follows on from a previous project '7 Modern Wonders of the World' and similar schemes which have encouraged over 600 million people to vote on sites they thought indicated great modern wonders of the world. The new project has put

together a long list of 20 well known symbols of peace, and is encouraging people to vote on their 7 favourite symbols. Amongst the symbols put forward are the CND symbol, the peace crane symbol of Hiroshima, and the dove and olive branch, a symbol used by Mayors for Peace and the NFLA.

In Manchester, the Chapter Secretary met with Bernard Webber and John Paul de la Fuente from the '7 Symbols of Peace' group and discussed future plans. The website is now up and running, and photos with the Chapter Secretary and the Lord Mayor of Manchester took place. The photos are attached within Appendix 1. The website to vote on the list of potential symbols of peace can be found at <https://7symbolsofpeace.com>.

## 6. **Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day events, August 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Since 1946, the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have held annual peace ceremonies to remember the atomic bombings of August 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 1945, which killed in total around 350,000 people in their totality.

These ceremonies are held before thousands of people and include survivors (often referred to as 'hibakushas'), young children and senior politicians. The Mayors of both cities deliver annual peace declarations, and there are also addresses by the Prime Minister of Japan and a representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations. At the 2017 ceremonies, the Lord Mayor of Manchester laid a wreath as part of his role as a Vice President of Mayors for Peace. (12)

Many other towns and cities around the world also hold similar events to show their solidarity with Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Members of the UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter are encouraged to cooperate and organise their own local events. As usual, there are planned events around England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales and the Chapter Secretary encourages members to email details of their local events to him at the following address – [s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk).

Manchester's annual ceremony will be held in the Living Worlds Gallery in Manchester Museum on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 10am and will be led by the Lord Mayor of Manchester. (13) All are welcome to attend it.

## 7. **Next UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter meeting, Clydebank Town Hall, 20<sup>th</sup> September**

The next meeting of the UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter will be held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September between 1pm and 3.30pm in Clydebank Town Hall, West Dunbartonshire. It is an attempt to now bring the meetings around the five constituent nations of the Chapter. The meeting coincides with International Peace Day (on the 21<sup>st</sup>) and the ICAN UK event by the Faslane naval base on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Chapter meeting will hear from some of the leading ICAN figures who will be in Scotland at the time, an update on peace education best practice and promote ways towns and cities can support the work of Mayors for Peace and ICAN. Further details will be provided once the speaker programme has been confirmed. Mayors for Peace members, particularly those in Scotland, are encouraged to attend.

Over the summer, the Chapter Secretariat is being assisted by two student interns, Petra Matouskova and Jack Price-Derbyshire, to improve administration, assist with upcoming events, process voluntary annual invoices and start a new recruitment campaign. All members will be hearing from us over the summer period.

The Chapter Secretary is also delighted to report that in early November, a number of Hiroshima Legacy Ambassadors will be in Manchester and other parts of the UK to deliver talks about the hibakusha. The Ambassadors are directly related to survivors of the bomb, and will provide powerful testimony at a number of events. Further details will be provided shortly.

## 8. **Conclusions and recommendations**

This Policy Briefing has highlighted ongoing process in the Chapter's interaction with ICAN UK partner groups, with '7 Symbols of Peace', and in relevant global and local Chapter developments. There remains a lot of positive work and progress, despite the dangerous currents that exist in global foreign and defence policy.

Members are strongly encouraged to cooperate in hosting local events for the 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki attacks on August 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Members are also encouraged to attend the next Chapter meeting in Scotland on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Members interested in peace education and the development of peace trails should contact the Chapter Secretariat for recommendations on how to progress such projects.

Members are also encouraged to process voluntary invoices which will be sent out over the summer.

Developments of Mayors for Peace in Europe will be updated as further progress is made.

UK and Ireland members of Mayors for Peace are always encouraged to get in touch with the Secretariat on ideas to support the organisation as it seeks to deepen interest within its activity.

## 9. References

- (1) ICAN website <http://www.icanw.org>
- (2) ICAN partner organisations <http://www.icanw.org/campaign/partner-organizations/>
- (3) ICAN UK partner organisations <http://www.icanw.org/campaign/partner-organizations/>
- (4) A summary of B Docherty's reports can be found at <http://www.icanw.org/action/harvard-law-review-nuclear-ban-treaty-compatible-existing-security-agreements-nato-eu-umbrella/>
- (5) PAX, 'Don't Bank on the Bomb', 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 <https://www.dontbankonthebomb.com/2018-dont-bank-on-the-bomb/>
- (6) Nukewatch, 'Unready Scotland', 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017 <http://www.nukewatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/UnreadyScotland-Report.pdf>
- (7) Mayors for Peace Policy Briefing 16 can be downloaded from – [http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/M4P\\_Briefing\\_No\\_16\\_NPT\\_and\\_European\\_development.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/M4P_Briefing_No_16_NPT_and_European_development.pdf)
- (8) Nobel Women's Initiative, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018 <https://nobelwomensinitiative.org/womenpeacekorea-a-delegation-of-women-experts-head-to-south-korea/>
- (9) ICAN, ICAN launches Korean denuclearisation roadmap, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018 <http://www.icanw.org/action/trump-kim-summit-ican-launches-roadmap-to-denuclearisation-of-korean-peninsula/>
- (10) ICAN poll, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2018 <http://www.icanw.org/campaign-news/yougov-poll-europeans-reject-us-nuclear-weapons-support-tpnw-nuclearba/>
- (11) Daily Mail, Church of England launches fresh campaign to ban nuclear weapons, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018 <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5932071/Church-England-launches-fresh-campaign-Britain-nuclear-weapons.html#comments>
- (12) Hiroshima and Nagasaki Peace Declarations 2017  
Hiroshima – <http://www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/www/contents/1318310843806/index.html>  
Nagasaki - [http://www.city.nagasaki.lg.jp/heiwa/3020000/3020300/p030125\\_d/fil/english.pdf](http://www.city.nagasaki.lg.jp/heiwa/3020000/3020300/p030125_d/fil/english.pdf)
- (13) Flyer for Manchester's Hiroshima-Nagasaki 2018 commemoration event <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/events/73rd-anniversary-of-the-hiroshima-nagasaki-atomic-weapons-attack/>

Photos from ICAN UK Partners Meeting, launch of Manchester Children’s Peace Trail and ‘7 Symbols of Peace’ meeting

1. ICAN UK Partners meeting



Members of the ICAN UK Steering Group with the Nobel Peace Prize replica medal



Chapter Secretary with the Nobel Peace Prize replica medal

## 2. Manchester Children's Peace Trail launch



Children from Heald Place and Webster Primary Schools with the Lord Mayor and other attendees at the launch of the Peace Trail outside Manchester Central Library



Children from Heald Place Primary School exhibit their school peace project work



The Chapter Secretary being interviewed by 'This is Manchester' TV

### 3. Meeting with 7 Symbols of Peace



Bernard Webber of '7 Symbols Of Peace' and the Chapter Secretary with the peace symbol outside Manchester Library



The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Cllr June Hitchen (centre) with the Lord Mayors Consort Cllr Carmine Grimshaw (left) and the Chapter Secretary (right) and the peace symbol provided by '7 Symbols of Peace'