



# 2018 Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference:

## Youth Perspectives on Peace from Manchester

By Christopher J Moss



# Contents

1. Understanding ‘peace’
2. Personal interpretations of peace:
  - I. Project G
  - II. International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future (IYCPF) 2017
3. Reflections on peace

# What is 'peace' ?

- Peace has multiple meanings.
- Interpretations differ from person to person, peace transcends genders, generations, nationalities and faiths.
- Peace can also occur at a range of scales: individually / collectively or nationally /internationally.

# What is 'peace' ?

- Embedding a 'culture of peace' requires:
  - Education;
  - Sustainable development;
  - Human rights;
  - Gender equality;
  - Democratic participation;
  - Understanding, tolerance and solidarity amongst citizens and between nations;
  - Participatory communication and the free flow of information;
  - International peace, continued disarmament and security (de Rivera, 2004).

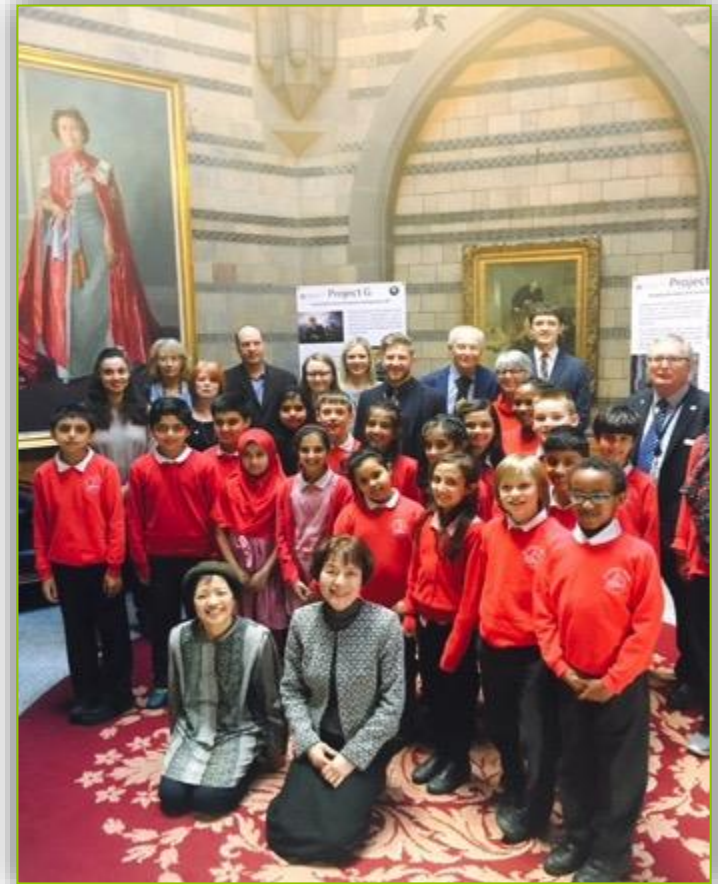
# Personal interpretations of peace

- ‘Project G’ :
  - Shared the memory of the atomic bombing;
  - Explained the symbolism of the Gingko tree;
  - Engaged with school children to communicate an overarching message of hope, resilience and peace.



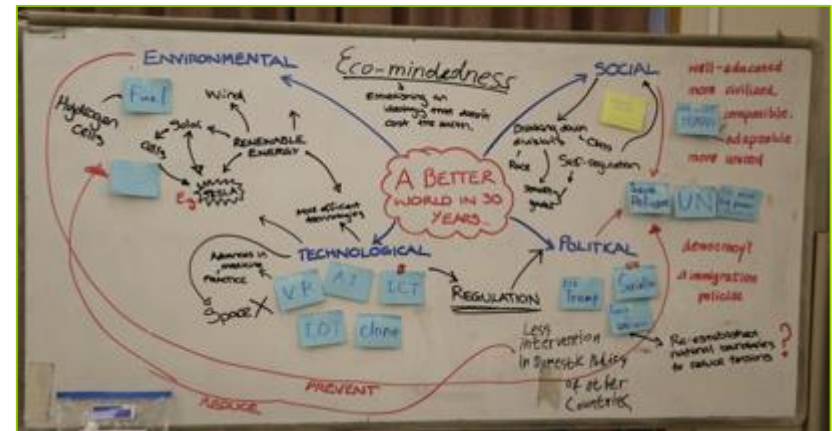
# Personal interpretations of peace

- ‘Project G’ :
  - Has instilled in a young generation the importance of moving towards a nuclear free and peaceful world.
  - Has an annual legacy that continues to facilitate events that spread the message of peace.



# Personal interpretations of peace

- IYCPF 2017:
  - We remembered and reflected on the events of 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August 1945, contextualising their importance in contemporary society.
  - We were asked: what is the meaning of peace? What are the obstacles to peace? And what can we do – as young people – to work towards a more peaceful





# Personal interpretations of peace

- IYCPF Hiroshima Appeal 2017:
  - The value of community can overcome perceived cultural divides;
  - More holistic and sustainable approaches to life are essential to on-going peace;
  - An openness to communicating with – and learning from – one another would enable collaborative efforts for peace.





# Personal interpretation of peace

- IYCPF 2017 Legacy:
  - Shared my experiences with officers at Manchester City Council.
  - Engaged with children from 4 primary schools across Manchester about the events of 1945 and developed bespoke 'peace plans' with them.





# Reflections on peace

- My experiences have shown me the value of working towards peace by any means possible.
- We all have a role to play in advancing the message of peace within our schools, universities, organisations and societies as a whole.
- By understanding our differences we can forge relationships and work towards establishing a collective ‘culture of peace’.