

Mayors for Peace News Flash

December 2018 / No.108

Mayors for Peace Member Cities 7,688 cities

in 163 countries and regions

(as of December 1, 2018)

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Table of Contents

- Granollers and Manchester City Councils approve resolutions to support the TPNW and the ICAN Cities Appeal
- The 8th Japanese Member Cities Meeting
- > Request to invite mayors of your sister/friendship cities to join Mayors for Peace
- Meeting Report: The 6th Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
- > Invitation for applicants to the Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns"
- > Receiving an Intern from Tehran at the Mayors for Peace Secretariat
- Regional Chapter Activities
- Member Cities' Activities
- Peace News from Hiroshima (Provided by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center of the CHUGOKU SHIMBUN)
- > Mayors for Peace Collaboration with "The Hibakusha Appeal" Signature Campaign
- Request for Payment of the 2018 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee
- > Last Month's Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace
- Mayors for Peace Member Cities 7,688 Cities in 163 Countries/Regions

■Granollers and Manchester City Councils approve resolutions to support the TPNW and the ICAN Cities Appeal

[November 27and 28, 2018]

At a municipal plenary session held on November 27, the City of Granollers, Spain, a Vice President City of Mayors for Peace and the Lead City of the Catalan Chapter, unanimously approved a City Council resolution to express its support for <a href="https://doi.org/10.21/20.2

pose to communities and paves the way towards their abolition for the sake of responsibility and safety.

Mayor Josep Mayoral of Granollers has explained "this resolution is the result of a global campaign that has had the courage to demand the abolition of nuclear weapons". He has affirmed that this "is not a symbolic resolution, it is a resolution initiated 3 years ago with a resounding success". The Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace intends to spread the word about this resolution and will encourage other municipalities to join the initiative.

- ▼ The resolution translated into English (Mayors for Peace website)
- ▼ The original press release in Catalan (Mayors for Peace Catalan Chapter website)

The following day, on November 28, the City Council of Manchester, UK, a Vice President City of Mayors for Peace and the Lead City of the UK & Ireland Chapter, unanimously passed a resolution that formally supports the TPNW and calls on the UK Government to engage in the process of multilateral nuclear disarmament.

Councillor Eddy Newman, who proposed this resolution as the representative of the Manchester's Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) said: "As one of the signatories to Manchester's famous 1980 'nuclear weapons free city' resolution that established the NFLA, it is an honour to propose this resolution fully committing the Council to support the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It allies Manchester with prominent progressive cities around the world and with ICAN's important



Lord Mayor of Manchester, Cllr June Hitchen with the Lord Mayor's Consort, Cllr Carmine Grimshaw, and a copy of Manchester's resolution (Photo: Nuclear Free Local Authorities)

Cities Appeal. It also shows our complete solidarity with our fellow Mayors for Peace lead cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, who understand the true destructive nature of nuclear warfare. The atomic bomb survivors' message has been a consistent 'No More Hiroshimas!' and 'No More Nagasakis!' By the passing of this resolution we stand side by side with them for a more peaceful Manchester, and a more peaceful world. I hope many other towns and cities now follow our lead."

▼Press release with a full text of the resolution (NFLA website)

< Report by Helena Aranda Mayor, staff of the Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace, and Sean Morris, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary>

The 8th Japanese Member Cities Meeting

[November 5 - 6, 2018]

On November 5 and 6, the 8th Japanese Member Cities Meeting was held in Takayama City, Gifu Prefecture, attended by 148 representatives from 91 municipalities, including 39 municipal heads. The participants discussed and approved the agenda items including the submission of a letter of request to the Japanese government and the intensification of efforts in membership expansion through inviting sister/friendship cities.

On November 9, in accordance with the decision at the Meeting, Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima (President of Mayors for Peace) and Mayor Taue of Nagasaki (Vice President of Mayors for Peace) and a representative of Takayama City visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and handed Mr. Kiyoto Tsuji, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, a letter of request addressed to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The letter calls on the Japanese government to fulfill its self-appointed role as a "bridge" between the nuclear-armed states and the non-nuclear-armed states by joining the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as it is the hibakusha's earnest wish for all states to join the Treaty. The letter also urges Japan to make further efforts to achieve progress in nuclear disarmament within the framework of the NPT.



Press conference on the Japanese Member Cities Meeting by the Mayors of Takayama, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki on November 6



Representatives of the Japanese member cities of Mayors for Peace meeting with Parliamentary Vice Minister Tsuji on November 9

■Request to invite mayors of your sister/friendship cities to join Mayors for Peace

Among the agenda items approved at the 8th Japanese Member Cities Meeting was that the members of the Japan Chapter will intensify their efforts to expand the Mayors for Peace membership. In Japan, the number of membership stands at 1,732, equivalent to 99.5% of all municipalities in Japan. It was agreed that the Chapter will continue to invite the remaining 9 non-member cities in Japan and also make further efforts to expand the global membership to reach 10,000 members by 2020. It was decided that member cities will invite their sister/friendship cities overseas to join Mayors for Peace by sending invitation letters and on occasions of exchange events with such cities.

In line with this decision, the Mayors for Peace Secretariat has created a letter template in English that can be used when member cities invite their sister/friendship cities to join Mayors for Peace. Please feel free to customize the model letter as needed and invite mayors of your sister/friendship cities who are not yet members to join Mayors for Peace.

▼The template is available on the Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/data/Request_to_join_MfP.docx

■ Meeting Report: The 6th Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

[November 16 - 18, 2018]

The 6th Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons took place in the Peace Hall of the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum November 16 - 18, 2018. Sponsored by Nagasaki NGOs, Nagasaki City, Nagasaki Prefecture and the Nagasaki Foundation for the Promotion of Peace, previous Global Citizens' Assemblies were held in 2000, 2003, 2006, 2010, and 2013.

The Assembly brought together an impressive array of activists, experts, current and former government officials and students. In total, 3,580 people participated in eight workshops and plenary sessions, including 33 participants from Canada, China, Germany, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, and the United States. A 45-person student delegation included 17 foreign students from China, Malaysia, the Republic of



(Photo: The Organizing Committee of the Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons)

Korea, and the United States. Just prior to the Global Citizens' Assembly, the Japanese government hosted a meeting of the international "Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament" in Nagasaki. The purpose of this group is to serve as a "bridge-builder" between the nuclear-armed/nuclear-umbrella States and the States not possessing nuclear weapons. As a result, four "eminent persons" were among the Assembly speakers.

Mayors for Peace North American Coordinator Jacqueline Cabasso spoke in the Opening assembly, Co-chaired and spoke in Workshop IV, and served on the drafting committee for the 2018 Nagasaki Appeal.

During the closing assembly, after hearing reports from each of the workshops, the Assembly participants adopted the 2018 Nagasaki Appeal, summarizing the issues addressed during the Assembly and making recommendations to the Japanese government and the international community. Following the closing assembly, participants marched to the atomic bomb center park and laid flowers on the cenotaph in remembrance of the victims of the U.S. atomic bombing 73 years ago.

< Report by Jacqueline Cabasso, Mayors for Peace North American Coordinator>

► Full report on the Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/data/2018/Report_6th_Nagasaki_Global_Citizens_Assembly.pdf > 2018 Nagasaki Appeal (English):

http://ngo-nagasaki.com/2018/pdf/2018NagasakiAppeal_e.pdf

► The 6th Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons website (English: schedule, photos, reports):

http://ngo-nagasaki.com/2018/e-index.html

■Invitation for applicants to the Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns"

Mayors for Peace has put emphasis on peace education to raise awareness among future generations as its intensified program in the Action Plan from 2017 to 2020, which was adopted at the 9th General Conference.

In order to further promote peace education in its over 7,600 member cities in 163 countries and regions around the world, Mayors for Peace has decided to host a children's art competition on the theme of "Peaceful Towns" targeted at children in all these cities.

Please advertise this program widely among schools and other organizations in your city, gather up interested local applicants, and submit the required materials by email to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat by Friday, December 28, 2018.

▼Application Guidelines on the Mayors for Peace Website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects.html#section08

Submission:

Email the application materials to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat at mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

Submission Deadline:

December 28 (Friday), 2018

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

[November 12 – 28, 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 November 12 to 28, the Mayors for Peace Secretariat welcomed Ms. Sahar Seyed Tafreshiha, a staff member of Tehran Peace Museum, which is managed by the City of Tehran, an Executive City of Mayors for Peace and the Lead City in Iran, as an intern. Ms. Tafreshiha made the following comment about her internship: "This internship opened a new window in my life. I learned a lot of things about the work of Mayors for Peace and also about Japan. Before, I knew a little about the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, but now I know much about the painful attack and its effects on people's lives through the visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and meeting with a hibakusha. I will share all that I learned through this internship with my colleagues and friends."

The Secretariat will have hosted two more interns from Volgograd (Russia) and Montreal (Canada) by the end of March 2019.

▼Post on the Mayors for Peace Facebook page about Ms. Sahar Seyed Tafreshiha's internship in Hiroshima: https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/2027448344182555?_tn_=-Rhttps://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/2035255473401842?_tn_=-Rhttps://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/2035255473401842?_tn_=-R

https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/2036517876608935?__tn__=-R

Regional Chapter Activities

< German Chapter >

* Action calling for the preservation of the INF-Treaty

The City of Hannover, a Vice President of Mayors for Peace and the Lead City of Germany, has informed our German members of the <u>comment by the Mayors for Peace President</u> expressing his concern about the US's threatened withdrawal from the INF-Treaty.

With the President Tump's announcement and Russia's harsh answers, the members of the German Chapter are gravely concerned about the rising danger of a new nuclear arms race.

In early November, the German Chapter joined an initiative by local peace groups titled "No! Nein! Njet! Disarmament creates security",



Peace group members beside the town sign of Mutlangen, Germany (Photo: The City of Mutlangen)

in which two kinds of <u>postcards</u> were created addressed to the US and Russian Ambassadors to Germany calling for the preservation of the INF Treaty. A letter was also sent to the Foreign Ministry of the German Government. In Mutlangen, a former deployment site for nuclear Pershing II missiles, a large banner was attached to the town's welcome sign, stressing the importance of this action.

< Report by Evelyn Kamissek, Office for International Affairs, the City of Hannover>

▼Report in German on the Mayors for Peace German Chapter website:

 $\frac{https://www.hannover.de/Leben-in-der-Region-Hannover/Politik/Politische-Gremien/Mayors-for-Peace/Aktivitäten/Stellungnahme-zur-möglichen-Aufkündigung-des-INF-Vertrags$

< UK & Ireland Chapter >

* UK & Ireland Chapter progress report

The UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary has developed a progress report outlining recent activity of the Chapter:

- ➤ The work to encourage UK members of Mayors for Peace to consider passing resolutions supporting the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and lining up with ICAN's Cities Appeal
- A recent meeting with the Mayor of Oslo while she was in London
- ➤ The successful visit to Manchester, Oldham and Coventry of the Hiroshima A-bomb Legacy Ambassadors and Memoir Readers in early November
- > The House of Lords International Relations Select Committee consultation on UK nuclear weapons policy
- > The Joint European Mayors for Peace / PNND meeting in Basel taking place in January
- > The Bike for Peace upcoming global tour, which starts in London in February
- < Report by Sean Morris, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary>
- ▼UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Policy Briefing 20 (Nuclear Free Local Authorities website): http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/M4P Briefing No 20 TPNW Declarations and Legacy Ambassadors.pdf

Member Cities' Activities

< Volgograd, Russia >

*Hosting the 5th International Forum of People's Diplomacy and the 29th General Assembly of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities

The City of Volgograd, a Vice President of Mayors for Peace and the Lead City in Russia, recently hosted two international events on the theme of global peace and understanding.

From October 31 to November 1, the 5th International Forum of People's Diplomacy "Dialogue on the Volga: Peace and Mutual Understanding in the 21st Century" was held in Volgograd, welcoming experts from 18 countries and representatives of international and inter-municipal associations, who took part in discussions, conferences, and thematic round tables.

In conjunction with the Forum, the 29th General Assembly of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities (IAPMC) took place between October 30 and November 1, gathering representatives from 16 cities in 14 countries. The IAPMC was established in 1988 to recognize and encourage the role and responsibility cities have in creating a culture of peace. It has been extensively involved in numerous campaigns including those related to nuclear non-proliferation, human rights.



Round table of the International Forum of People's Diplomacy (Photo: The City of Volgograd)



Participants of the IAPMC General Assembly laying flowers to the Eternal Fire Memorial in Volgograd (Photo: The City of Volgograd)

On November 1, the International Forum of People's Diplomacy and the IAPMC General Assembly jointly adopted a <u>resolution</u> calling on cities and nations to actively contribute to the process of peace strengthening in the international relations, as well as to support all initiatives aimed at the building of a meaningful dialogue amidst expert communities and political leaders of the world. The joint resolution has been distributed to all the Missions of member countries of the United Nations.

< Report by Maria Deeva, International Relations Officer, The City of Volgograd>

▼ Full report on the Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/181207_Volgograd_events.html

< Hiroshima, Japan >

*Hosting the exhibition "50 Cities - 50 Traces: One world without nuclear weapons"

The City of Hiroshima, the President City of Mayors for Peace, hosted the international art and peace exhibition "50 Cities -50 Traces: One world without nuclear weapons" from November 18 to 30, as the first Japanese city to hold the exhibition.

The exhibition, which features 50 photographic artworks of "traces" of human presence found in different member cities of Mayors for Peace, was held at the lobby of the International Conference Center Hiroshima located in the Peace Memorial Park. The opening day coincided with the annual International Festival, and the exhibition venue was crowded with around 2,000 visitors.

With its visit to Hiroshima, the exhibition has traveled eight member cities of Mayors for Peace. It is aimed to travel to 50 interested cities around the world through 2020. It is hoped that the tour will culminate with an exhibition at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

<Report by Mayors for Peace Secretariat>



http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/181206_50-50_Hiroshima.html



The opening ceremony on Nov 18 (Photo: Mayors for Peace Secretariat)



Mayor of Hiroshima visiting the exhibition (Photo: Mayors for Peace Secretariat)

▼ Please contact the City of Hannover if you would like to learn more about this project or want to host the exhibition in your city:

Email: mayorsforpeace@hannover-stadt.de

< Ypres, Belgium >

*A-bomb survivor from Hiroshima gives her testimony to the public

On the occasion of the A-Bomb exhibition held in Ypres from November 9th until December 2nd, Ms. Sadae Kasaoka, who survived the A-Bomb attack on Hiroshima at the age of 13, visited the city for a short stay.

In the evening of November 19th, she attended the daily Last Post ceremony where she prayed for the soldiers killed during WWI and laid down a wreath on behalf of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. The Last Post ceremony is held every day under the Menin Gate in honour of the fallen commonwealth soldiers.

On November 20th, Ms. Kasaoka gave two lectures, one for secondary school students and one for adults. She testified on what happened on August 6th 1945 and shared the public the impact the bombing had on her for the rest of her life, such as opportunities she missed and her husband, also a hibakusha, who died very young. Life was never easy because of what happened to her when she was a young girl. The audience thanked her with a very warm round of applause. The Vice Mayor Verschoore thanked her for coming to the city and for her determination to travel around at her age to share the horror of what happened 73 years ago.

On the morning of her departure from Ypres on November 21st, Ms. Kasaoka visited Bedford House Cemetery, located in a neighbourhood very close to Ypres. It is one of the over 150 military cemeteries dedicated to the soldiers killed as a result of the heavy battles in the region during WWI.

< Report by Filip Deheegher, City of Ypres, Lead City of Belgium Chapter>







(Photo: The City of Ypres)

<< 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 December 12): 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)

In November, Setsuko Thurlow visited her hometown of Hiroshima. This 86-year-old atomic bomb survivor now lives in Toronto, Canada. Her efforts for nuclear abolition have drawn more attention from the international community since she delivered a speech one year ago on behalf of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

When the atomic bomb was dropped on the city, Ms. Thurlow was a second-year student at Hiroshima Jogakuin Girls' High School and was working as a mobilized student at the Second General Headquarters. She survived and managed to crawl out from under the wreckage of the blast, but 351 students and teachers of her school were killed. When she visits places around the world to share her experience, she always carries a banner with the handwritten names of these victims and asks people to think of each person that lost their life that day. During her visit to Hiroshima, she gave a lecture at Hiroshima Jogakuin University, her alma mater, and exchanged views with young people. She criticized the Japanese government, which has rebuffed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, even though this nation experienced the A-bomb attacks. She called on her listeners to take action from Hiroshima for the elimination of the world's nuclear weapons.

She also gave an interview to the participants in the Chugoku Shimbun's Junior Writer program, who are junior high and senior high school students. She said, "I share my experience because I want to give my children and grandchildren a safe planet Earth. I hope young people will play their role for this cause."

It is regrettable that this year the gap has not been bridged between the nuclear weapon states and our hopes for nuclear abolition. We must mobilize the views of young people and strengthen international public opinion to create a world where human beings can live with greater peace of mind.

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

- City of Hiroshima plans to reopen Peace Memorial Museum next April http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=88390
- U.N. Under-Secretary-General tours Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=88300
- Setsuko Thurlow speaks at anti-nuclear symposium, encourages participants to send out strong message from Hiroshima

http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=88456

- Setsuko Thurlow meets with Hiroshima mayor and governor, seeks support for nuclear weapons ban treaty http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=88194
- My Life: Interview with A-bomb survivor Setsuko Thurlow (Part 1~20) http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=87635
- Nobel Lecture by Setsuko Thurlow http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=79194

■ 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":



Request for Payment of the 2018 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee

In order to facilitate future activities and strengthen the sense of solidarity amongst member cities, Mayors for Peace introduced an annual Membership Fee in 2015. This year again, we ask each member city to pay a Fee of 2,000 Japanese yen (about 19 USD/16 Euro as of April 16, 2018) per city. If your city has not paid their Membership Fee in previous years, we ask your city to pay the total amount owed for each unpaid year since 2015. The collected Membership Fees will be allocated toward new and existing projects listed on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan 2017-2020.

A request for payment of the 2018 membership fee was sent to each city by email on April 2. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

▼ Request for the 2018 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website): http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/outlines/membership fee.html

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.

- *November 2 H. E. Mr. Ahmed Mahmoud Soueid Ahmed, Secretary General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mauritania
- *November 15 Ms. Alison Smale, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, Department of Public Information, United Nations
- *November 21 Ms. Setsuko Thurlow, Hiroshima Peace Ambassador
- *November 26 Delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament

Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,688 Cities in 163 Countries/Regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on December 1, we added 14 new member cities, bringing the total membership to 7,688.

This month, we welcomed the Dakahlia Governorate from Egypt. In October this year, Egypt's Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research visited Hiroshima and met Mayor Matsui, who requested the Minister for his help in expanding the membership of Mayors for Peace in Egypt. The Minister responded to this call and invited mayors in his country to join Mayors for Peace, which led to Dakahlia's decision to join our network. From Germany, eleven cities joined thanks to the continued efforts of Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City of the German Chapter of Mayors for Peace. We also welcomed two cities from Japan this month.

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/2018/newmembers1812_en.pdf

▼ Map of Member Cities:

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

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

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