

## **Hannover, Germany**

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This year marks the 74th anniversary of the atomic bomb drops on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. 74 years ago, the usage of these two weapons of mass destruction destroyed these two cities in the blink of an eye and changed the world forever. Even today, the Hibakusha are suffering from the aftermath on their lives and loved ones that these weapons brought upon them. But the years go by and the eyewitnesses, who could report on those horrors are dwindling and with them their memories. Who will tell us on the upcoming 75th year anniversary, and who on the 100th year one, what happened on August 6th and August 9th, 1945? Who will remind our future generations, so they won't repeat this abomination?

We, the youth, are obliged not to make these memories fade away, to keep them alive. To fulfill this duty, young people from more than 13 cities came to Hiroshima and participated in this year's international youth conference for peace in the future. We discussed current issues affecting the world and worked together to find solutions for sustainable peace in the future.

We concluded that an education, which cultivates peace as a central component, is irreplaceable. But for our generation, which fortunately has never experienced war, it is difficult to understand the immense prosperity that results from it. The other side is unknown to all of us and so are the consequences. Hence, the idea of peace must be carried and appreciated by everyone personally. Normal schooling alone is not enough, no matter how highly developed or how diverse a society's education is. Only personal experiences can form an opinion which is anchored in the heart and which allows someone to be committed to a cause out of conviction.

That is precisely why we need continuous intercultural exchange. But none that processes through a fixed sequence of programs, sightseeing and seminars. None, in which you never leave your personal group or environment. None that finishes after two or three days. What we require is an immersive experience of several days, in which you must share with the participants of the conference, push aside one's usual standards and enter new territories. An exchange, which confronts you with events that are not forgotten after two or three days but leave a long-term imprint. An imprint on one's own idea of cultural understanding, in which preserving a peaceful world must be encouraged.

The IYCPF 2019 has provided us with exactly that. We gained deep insights into the different cultures of the participating nations, giving us a comprehensive understanding of our cultural differences and similarities. On this basis we developed strategies aiming at a sustainable, reliable communication network, which will help us develop ideas and create communities of peace inside our hometowns and all over the world. Thorough, we want to spread our ideas of peace and elaborate solutions for a world without nuclear weapons. We all came from different stages of life, different countries and different religious backgrounds, but still, the desire for world peace united us in our thoughts and actions.

So far, we are all in close contact, maintaining our newly acquired network and continuing to exchange information on current events. We carry the ideas we took from the conference, our mutual created youth peace appeal and further develop them together in our network. Our final buildup is going to be presented to our communities, hoping that they will be thoroughly accepted, for that more and more people will be interested in our cause. Together, our results, which we will gather until the next conference, are going to lead the upcoming conferences to an even greater success as this year was. The young people, who will participate in IYCPFs over the next coming years, shall use our preliminary work, to do better as we did and evolve superior approaches to a peaceful world without weapons of mass destruction.

To follow up on these ideas, we did local peace activities regarding mutual cultural understanding in Hannover. We showed a movie (Eternal Zero) in our local friendship circle and prepared family trees to

highlight our own ancestry, to discuss these afterwards, to find similarities across all our different ethnics. Furthermore, a conference call between Russia, Japan and Germany took place, where we presented conducted peace activities and ideas for new projects to each other. Next Monday, the Mayors for Peace Executive Conference will take place in Hanover, in which I will take part. Additional to that, I will present my report of this year's International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future to the German Mayors for Peace Conference 2020.



Let us motivate all generations to work together. Let us ensure, that the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki does not repeat itself again. Let us ensure, that the world of tomorrow will be one without nuclear weapons. A world with peace in the future.