



Mayors for Peace News Flash

February 2019 / No.110

Mayors for Peace Member Cities
7,709 cities
in 163 countries and regions
(as of February 1, 2019)

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.

Table of Contents

- Applications for the 2019 Youth Exchange for Peace: Support Program for "HIROSHIMA and PEACE" Course
- Mayors and parliamentarians call on Russia and the US to preserve the INF Treaty
- Article by Mayors for Peace Executive Advisor: "The Guterres Disarmament Agenda"
- Receiving an Intern from Montreal at the Mayors for Peace Secretariat
- Regional Chapter Activities
- Peace News from Hiroshima (Provided by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center of the CHUGOKU SHIMBUN)
- Call for Input: Examples of initiatives to foster peace-seeking spirit
- Request to Promote Various Measures Based on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020)
- Mayors for Peace Collaboration with "The Hibakusha Appeal" Signature Campaign
- Last Month's Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace
- Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,709 Cities in 163 Countries/Regions

■ Applications for the 2019 Youth Exchange for Peace: Support Program for "HIROSHIMA and PEACE" Course

"HIROSHIMA and PEACE" is an intensive summer course hosted by the Hiroshima City University, in which students from around the world study and discuss Hiroshima and peace in English. This year again, Mayors for Peace will conduct a program to provide financial and other support to selected youth from member cities participating in the course and is now accepting applications for participation in this program from member cities.

We request that each member city widely advertise this program in their city, choose up to three local applicants, and email the required documents **by Friday April 12, 2019** at 3pm in Japan Standard Time (UTC +9).

Hiroshima City University and the Mayors for Peace Secretariat will select the participants and notify member cities of the results in the middle of May 2019.

▼ Details of the program on the Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects/2019_HAP.html

▼ Please email completed application documents to:

mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

▼ Report of last year's program on the Mayors for Peace Website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects/2018_HAP_result.html

■ Mayors and parliamentarians call on Russia and the US to preserve the INF Treaty

At a European regional conference on Nuclear Disarmament and Divestment in Basel, January 15, representatives from Mayors for Peace Vice Presidents Hannover, Frogn, Granollers and Manchester assisted in the drafting and adopting of [the Basel Appeal for Disarmament and Sustainable Security](#), which calls on the US and Russia not to abrogate from the INF Treaty and work rather on multilateral nuclear disarmament initiatives. The Appeal was agreed at a joint meeting with the Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), hosted by the Basel Peace Office.

This Appeal was sent to Presidents Putin and Trump, to the leaders of the Russian and US legislators, and to other officials working in international security on January 29. Mayors, parliamentarians, policy experts and civil society representatives from 40 countries, mostly Europe and North America, endorsed the appeal. Many mayors, city councilors and Mayors for Peace officials added their names to the list and also helped spread this appeal. It also received considerable international media coverage. Mayor Frank Cownie of Des Moines, Iowa, a Vice President of Mayors for Peace and the Lead City in the US, took the initiative to solicit US mayors' signatures during the recent US Conference of Mayors winter meeting in Washington, D.C. and arranged for 18 US mayors to sign the Appeal.

In a similar show of concern, on January 30, the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki also sent out Letters of Request to Russia and the US over the termination of the INF Treaty, saying that “the demise of the treaty without alternative measures will increase the risk of the use of nuclear weapons.” The two mayors visited the American and Russian Embassies in Tokyo on February 12, to submit the original letters to representatives of the two countries.

Seeking to show its solidarity with Hiroshima and Nagasaki's action, the European and North American Vice Presidents of Mayors for Peace issued a joint statement of concern following the decision of the United States and Russian Governments to suspend the INF Treaty in early February. The statement supports the call for renewed dialogue and raises concerns over the potential for a new nuclear arms race and nuclear weapons returning across Europe.

<Report by Sean Morris, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary>

▼ Press release on the Basel Appeal: Mayors and parliamentarians call on Russia and the U.S. to preserve the INF Treaty (The Basel Peace Office Website):

<http://baselpeaceoffice.org/article/mayors-and-parliamentarians-call-russia-and-us-preserve-inf-treaty>

▼ Letters of Request by Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the US and Russia regarding the INF Treaty (The City of Hiroshima Website):

<http://www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/www/contents/1548818627054/files/besshi1.pdf>

▼ Op-Ed: “As Treaties Collapse, Can We Still Prevent a Nuclear Arms Race?” by PNND representatives and Jacqueline Cabasso, North America Coordinator for Mayors for Peace (The INTER PRESS SERVICE News Agency Website):

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2019/02/treaties-collapse-can-still-prevent-nuclear-arms-race/>

▼ Joint statement by European and North American Vice Presidents and Lead Cities on the INF Treaty (The Mayors for Peace Website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/data/2019/mfp_european_and_north_american_lead_cities_statement.pdf

■ Article by Mayors for Peace Executive Advisor: “The Guterres Disarmament Agenda”

Randy Rydell, an Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace, contributed an article to the January/February issue of “Arms Control Today”, published by the US-based Arms Control Association.

Summary:

In May 2018, UN Secretary-General António Guterres announced in Geneva his new “disarmament agenda”, which the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs later elaborated in a non-paper and an “implementation plan”. This article describes this agenda, compares it to past initiatives by his UN predecessors, and identifies its obstacles and opportunities. Mayors will be interested in several elements of this plan: its emphasis on the

humanitarian consequences of the use of indiscriminate weapons in cities; its recognition of the social and economic costs of massive weapons investments; and its sweeping comprehensive scope, covering all weapons of mass destruction, conventional arms, missiles, new types of weapons, military spending, the arms trade, and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

The full text is now available on the Arms Control Association's website.

▼ Article by Randy Rydell "The Guterres Disarmament Agenda" published in Arms Control Today:
<https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2019-01/features/guterres-disarmament-agenda>

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

[January 16 – February 13, 2019]

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 January 16 to February 13, the Mayors for Peace Secretariat welcomed Ms. Amélie Dumont, a clerk at the city hall of Montreal, which is an Executive City of Mayors for Peace and the Lead City in Canada.

Ms. Dumont made the following comment about her internship: "I strongly believe that Montreal and Hiroshima have so much to learn from one another. Our past is quite different but our vision for the future has a common goal. Keeping in mind the ultimate ambition of a real lasting peace, Mayors for Peace Action Plan 2017-2020 expanded its objectives to also target other challenges facing our cities. This internship gave me the opportunity to talk about our challenges in Montreal with the Mayors for Peace team and citizens of Hiroshima and I am convinced that sharing our experiences and our peace initiatives brings us one step closer to our common goal. I am grateful to have the opportunity to bring home Hiroshima's past experience as well as great peace initiatives to share with my colleagues and friends."

▼ Posts on the Mayors for Peace Facebook page about Ms. Dumont's internship in Hiroshima:

https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/2066963330231056?_tn=-R

https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/2071966999730689?_tn=-R

https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/2080164132244309?_tn=-R

https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/2081368572123865?_tn=-R

■ Regional Chapter Activities

< UK & Ireland Chapter >

* The first Chapter Meeting of 2019

The UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter met in Manchester Central Library on the 8th February. In a meeting chaired by the Lord Mayor of Manchester and attended by a number of member authorities and civil society groups, the joint meeting with ICAN and NFLA had presentations on Chapter progress from the Chapter Secretary Sean Morris.

There were also presentations on best practice examples of peace education from Kelly Simcock of the Foundation for Peace and Sara Belhay of Peace Jam UK, who are holding Youth Leadership Conferences in Winchester and Leeds in March. The meeting also allowed for discussion on development of the Chapter and to encourage more of its members to pass resolutions supporting the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons through the ICAN Cities Appeal.

The below policy briefing reports on this meeting and also outlines international developments with Mayors for Peace, and plans for further European development of the organisation.

<Report by Sean Morris, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary>

▼ More details on the UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Policy Briefing 21 (Nuclear Free Local Authorities website):

[http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/M4P_Briefing_No_21_Chapter_meeting_INF_and_p
rogress.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/M4P_Briefing_No_21_Chapter_meeting_INF_and_progress.pdf)

<<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 February 15):

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)

The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, a scientific journal in the United States, has announced that it has begun the year by setting the Doomsday Clock at two minutes to midnight, which represents how close the world is to a possible nuclear catastrophe. The minute hand has not moved since last year, but the future of nuclear disarmament is actually darker than these “two minutes” indicate. The administration of President Donald Trump has notified Russia that the United States intends to withdraw from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, which has played a historic role in preventing the escalation of a nuclear arms race.

Mr. Trump says that Russia’s new cruise missile, among other actions it has taken, have violated the provisions of the INF Treaty and that there is no point in upholding the treaty if Russia is not forthcoming about its actions. He also has pointed to the current circumstances in which China’s efforts to build up its nuclear forces are not bound by international treaties. While it is true that there is a lack of transparency with regard to China’s nuclear capability and that this should not be left unchecked, if the United States, a nuclear superpower, unilaterally terminates the treaty, such a move would clearly run counter to the tide of nuclear disarmament in the post-Cold War era. Mr. Trump has mentioned a new framework for nuclear disarmament that will involve China, but it is not realistic to expect that discussions will be promptly held to craft an agreement that would replace the void left behind by the INF Treaty.

Another concern is a report that the Trump administration has begun pursuing production of a low-yield nuclear warhead. Regardless of its scale or performance, we cannot help but feel that this is an ominous sign of a three-way nuclear arms race potentially accelerating among the United States, Russia, and China.

This year will be a crucial time for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to enter into force. Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and the member cities of Mayors for Peace must work hand in hand to convey to the world the fundamental message of the horrific consequences of the use of nuclear weapons.

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

- U.S. announcement of withdrawal from nuclear treaty sparks anger and concern among A-bomb survivors

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=89467>

- A-bomb survivors denounce start of U.S. production of first low-yield nuclear warheads

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=89399>

- New rose named “ICAN” is bred by A-bomb survivor

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=89335>

- Hiroshima to hold A-bomb exhibitions in Tokyo during Tokyo Olympics

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=89454>

- Crucial year for 2020 target set by Mayors for Peace to abolish nuclear weapons

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=89324>

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

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>

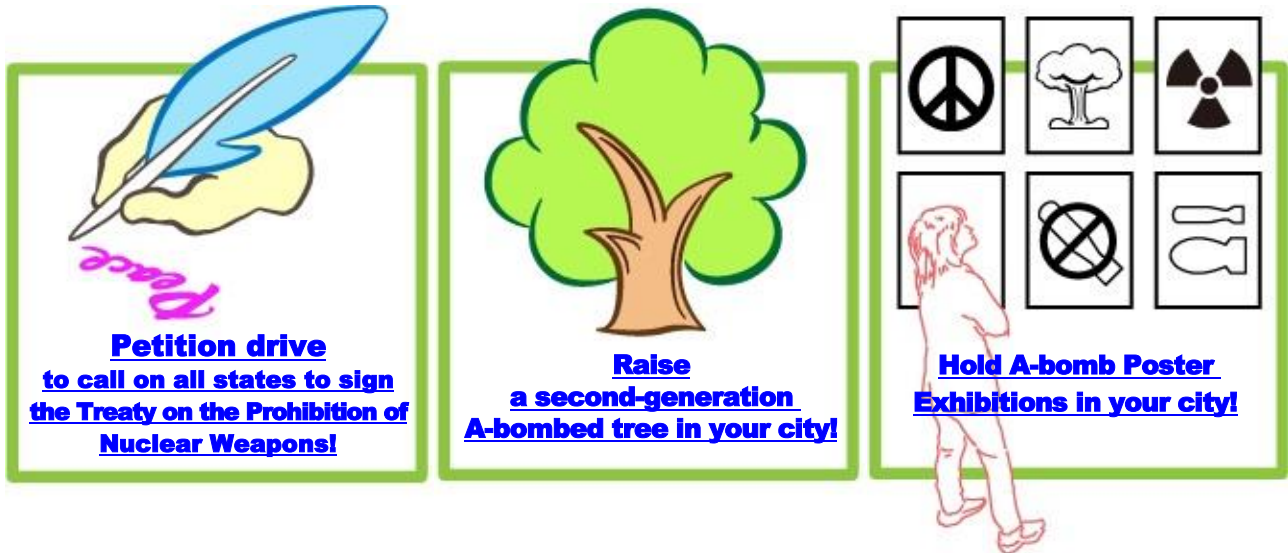
■Request to Promote Various Measures Based on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020)

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

For example, you can promote the following measures:



■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”:



■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.

*January 17 - H. E. Ms. Robiamny Nadesha Balcácer Vasquez, Minister of Youth of the Dominican Republic

*January 28 - H. E. Ms. Patricia Flor, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Japan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

*January 31 - H. E. Mr. Mahamane Amadou Maiga, Permanent Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Mali

■ Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,709 Cities in 163 Countries/Regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on February 1, we added 8 new member cities, bringing the total membership to 7,709.

This month, we welcomed the City of Sharm El-Shiekh from Egypt. In October 2018, the Ambassador of Egypt to Japan visited Hiroshima and met Mayor Matsui, who requested the Ambassador for his help in expanding the membership of Mayors for Peace in Egypt. The Ambassador responded this call and invited mayors in his country to join Mayors for Peace, which led to Sharm El-Shiekh's decision to join our network. From Greece, the City of Corfu, thanks to the help of Peace Boat, a Japan-based peace organization, which visited Corfu during its 99th Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World. From Germany, five 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 the City of Ebba from Lebanon.

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/2019/newmembers1902_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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