



Mayors for Peace News Flash

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Mayors for Peace Member Cities

7,854 cities

in 163 countries and regions

(as of December 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.

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■ Pope Francis visits Nagasaki and Hiroshima

[November 24, 2019]

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During his four-day trip to Japan, Pope Francis made a visit to the cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima on November 24 as the first Pope to visit Japan in 38 years, following John Paul II in 1981.

In each city, the Pope attended gatherings for peace, where he offered prayers for the victims of the atomic bombings and delivered messages calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

▼ Pope Francis-Nagasaki-Message on nuclear weapons 2019-11-24 (Vatican News - English - YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=563HDHs7N70>

▼ Pope Francis-Hiroshima-Meeting for peace 2019-11-24 (Vatican News - English - YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JphC76a3zYk>

Among the attendees of the gatherings were representatives of *hibakusha*, people from various religions and the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The high school students who joined the Mayors for Peace Youth Delegation to this year’s NPT



The Pope and a *hibakusha* representative at the Hiroshima gathering (Photo Courtesy of Hiroshima City)

Preparatory Committee were also invited to the meeting in Hiroshima and joined the Pope in praying for nuclear disarmament and world peace.

Mayors for Peace hopes that the Pope’s messages from the two atomic-bombed cities will reach policymakers of the world and motivate them to exercise leadership from a long-term perspective, helping reduce tensions heightened by exclusivity, rivalry and self-centered nationalism.

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Secretary General Koizumi’s visit to Geneva

[November 13-14, 2019]
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Following his stay in Hannover for the 11th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace, Mr. Takashi Koizumi, Secretary General of Mayors for Peace, visited Geneva, Switzerland.

He met with representatives of governments and the UN, including the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the UN Office at Geneva, and representatives of organizations with which Mayors for Peace collaborates: the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). Mr. Koizumi discussed with them expectations for the 2020 NPT Review Conference and prospects for the TPNW entering into force, and asked them for their continued support for the activities of Mayors for Peace.



Mr. Koizumi with Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the UNOG on Nov. 13

Detailed reports of Secretary General Koizumi’s Visit to Geneva will be posted on the Mayors for Peace website soon.

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Japan Chapter submits a letter of request to the Japanese Government

[November 28, 2019]
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At its 9th Member Cities’ Meeting in late October, the Japan Chapter agreed on the submission of a letter of request to the Japanese government calling for the promotion of actions to realize nuclear weapons abolition.

On November 28, in accordance with this decision, Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima (President of Mayors for Peace), Mayor Nagami of Kunitachi City (Host City of the 9th Member Cities’ Meeting), and, on behalf of the Mayor of Nagasaki (Vice President of Mayors for Peace), Mr. Mitsutake, the Manager of the city’s Tokyo Office, visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and handed Mr. Norihiro Nakayama, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, a letter of request addressed to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.



(from left to right) Mr. Mitsutake, Mr. Nagami, Mr. Matsui, Mr. Nakayama

Mayor Matsui requested that the Japanese government take to heart the earnest wishes of civil society for nuclear weapons abolition, and sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as soon as possible. He also called on the government to make further efforts in nuclear disarmament, including for the success of the upcoming 2020 NPT Review Conference, and exercise strong leadership as the only country that has suffered atomic bombings.

Mr. Nakayama replied, “I sincerely sympathize with the wish of Japanese member cities of Mayors for Peace. I believe that Mayors for Peace and the Japanese government, which is committed to fulfilling its role as a bridge between the nuclear-armed states and the non-nuclear-armed states, share the same goal of a world without nuclear weapons,” and said “At a time of increased global instability about nuclear weapons, Japan intends to build upon ongoing efforts, while utilizing results of discussions including that of the Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament.”

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Mayors for Peace Secretariat hosted an intern from Santos

[November 18-29, 2019]
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Since 2014, Mayors for Peace has conducted an internship program which invites staff members from member cities to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat in Hiroshima City where they work in fields related to peace and the Secretariat. This year, from November 18 to 29, the Mayors for Peace Secretariat welcomed Ms. Larissa Pauli Scarpa, a technical

assistant in Santos City, a Vice President City of Mayors for Peace and the Lead City in Brazil, to serve as an intern under the program.

While working at the Mayors for Peace Secretariat, Ms. Scarpa also participated in a number of activities to learn about the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, including listening to a *hibakusha*'s eyewitness testimony. She also made a presentation about Santos City's efforts for peace, as well as the culture of Brazil, to members of the public.

Ms. Scarpa made the following comment about her internship:

"The internship in Japan at Mayors for Peace was a marvelous opportunity for my personal and professional life. I came to Hiroshima and visited the memorials two years ago, but learning about the memories of Hiroshima more deeply, and especially hearing the eyewitness testimonies of the *hibakusha*, turned out to be a whole new experience for me, making me realize how urgent it is to abolish nuclear weapons. When I go back to my country with this experience, I hope I can spread the messages of Hiroshima to the people of Santos."

▼ Posts on the Mayors for Peace Facebook page about Ms. Scarpa's internship in Hiroshima can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/2273313402929380?> tn =-R

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/2279002952360425?> tn =-R

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/2283216585272395?> tn =-R

■ Regional Chapter Activities

< Belgium Chapter >

Second-generation A-bombed tree planting ceremonies in Belgium

At a Mayors for Peace meeting in Vienna in 2012, Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima gifted Luc Dehaene, then Mayor of Ypres in Belgium, seeds of *ginkgo biloba* whose mother tree was exposed to the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Mayor Matsui requested that the seeds be grown in Ypres. Ever since, the City of Ypres' Green Service has taken care of the seeds, which have sprouted into seedlings up to one and a half meters tall.

In March this year, the City of Ypres, Vice President City of Mayors for Peace and Lead City of the Belgium Chapter, decided to plant one of the trees in Ypres and offer the remaining 10 trees to Belgian Chapter members in order to spread the messages of Mayors for Peace. While many Belgian cities expressed their interest in receiving a tree, the Cities of Veurne, Lichtervelde, Oudenburg, Ichtegem, Ghent, Tessenderlo, Erpe-Mere, Moorslede, Deinze and Wortegem-Petegem were selected as the first ten cities to receive trees.

The Cities of Ghent, Veurne, and Ypres each held planting ceremonies on the commemoration of the WWI armistice. Other cities are expected to follow suit and hold planting ceremonies in the coming months.

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

▼ Full report on the Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/19November_Belgium_Chapter_ginkgo.html

■ Member City Activities

<Manchester, UK>

Manchester unveils Gandhi statue on 150th anniversary of his birth

A multi-faith service and ceremony to unveil a statue of Mahatma Gandhi, a pivotal 20th century leader of ideas around non-violent action to pursue political aims, was held in Manchester Cathedral on the 25th November. Gandhi had visited Manchester and Lancashire in 1931 to meet textile workers. 2019 is the 150th anniversary of his birth. The statue was donated partially as a response to the 2017 Manchester Arena attack as a way to share in the multi-faith and multi-cultural diversity of Manchester.



Ceremonies in Ghent, Veurne, and Ypres
(Photo: Belgium Chapter of Mayors for Peace)



Unveiling ceremony on November 25
(Photo: Manchester City Council)

The statue was donated to the city by the Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur (SRMD), who highlights the role of Shrimad Rajchandra, Gandhi's spiritual advisor. Manchester City Council had assisted SRMD in developing a peace education programme in which 16 schools and 1750 children had taken part, learning Gandhi's values of peace and non-violence.

This is the third new public statue in the city in the past 12 months highlighting some of the radical history of the city and the struggle for peace and human rights. These include the unveiling of a statue to Emmeline Pankhurst and the movement for women's suffrage, and a statue for the 200th anniversary of the 'Peterloo' incident calling for universal suffrage for all people. Manchester City Council welcomes these three statues into the city centre as part of its work to be a city of peace.

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

▼ Full report on the Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/191125_Manchester_Gandhi_statue_unveiling.html

<Hannover, Germany>

ICAN Director signs the Golden Book of the City of Hannover

On November 11th and 12th, the City of Hannover, a Vice President of Mayors for Peace and the Lead City of the German Chapter, hosted the 11th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace. In conjunction with this conference, Hannover organized a public event entitled "Renaissance of nuclear weapons? Challenges for Europe's Security Architecture". The invited speakers were: Beatrice Fihn, the Executive Director of International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN); Frank A. Rose, Fellow of the Robert Bosch Academy, Senior Fellow for Security and Strategy in the Foreign Policy Program of The Brookings Institution in Washington D.C.; Jürgen Trittin, Member of the German Bundestag, Alliance 90/The Greens.



Fihn (center) was received by Hannover's First City Councillor Sabine Tegtmeier-Dette (right) and Deputy Mayor Thomas Hermann (left) and signed the Golden Book in the Council Chamber of the New Town Hall.

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The City of Hannover took the opportunity to invite Beatrice Fihn to sign the Golden Book of Hannover. The Golden Book is a special guest book that has been in existence since 1913. Prominent persons in politics, science, sports who visit Hannover are invited to sign. Fihn was invited to sign the Golden Book as the Executive Director of ICAN, a coalition of non-governmental organizations that was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 for its contribution to the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

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

<Granollers, Spain>

Mayor of Granollers brings the voice of local governments to the UN

Mayor Josep Mayoral of Granollers, a Vice President of Mayors for Peace and the Lead City of the Catalan Charter, participated in the session 'Pathways to Conflict Prevention for Local Governments' held on 6 November 2019 at the United Nations Office at Geneva to share experiences concerning the role of local governments in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The session took place in the framework of Geneva Peace Week 2019 (GPW19) and brought together United Nations staff officers, academic researchers and civil society organizations among others.



(Photo: The Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace)

Mayor Mayoral stressed during the session that "Peace is built from the local level in each neighbourhood, community and municipality". Mayoral also shed new light on the necessity to link the global discourse of, for instance, the SDG's to the local level, particularly with regard to SDG 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) and SDG 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development).

<Report by Helena Aranda Mayor, staff of the Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace>

▼ Full report on the Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/191106_Granollers_UN.html

<Granollers, Spain>

Mayor of Granollers represents Mayors for Peace in the 6th UCLG World Congress

From November 11 to 15, the 6th Congress of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders took place in Durban, South Africa. The event brought together more than 3,000 people from local and regional organizations, international experts and civil society from all over the world.

Mayors for Peace has designated UCLG as one of the associations of local authorities which we collaborate with. Mayor Josep Mayoral of Granollers, a Vice President of Mayors for Peace and the Lead City of the Catalan Chapter, who also serves as a member of the UCLG World Council, participated in the World Congress to represent Mayors for Peace and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP).

Among the programs Mayor Mayoral participated was the launch of the campaign “Plant Trees Not Bombs”, an initiative of Global Peace inspired by a visit to Hiroshima and its A-bomb survivor trees planting program. The campaign will seek to plant, in partnership with young people, government and their Ministries of Defence, 75 million trees during 2020 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the UN. The campaign is designed to highlight the need for increased action to reduce and halt the effects of climate change. A ceremony to plant the first tree was held on November 14 in Durban.



(Photo: The Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace)

<Report by Helena Aranda Mayor, staff of the Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace>

▼ The Durban Political Declaration adopted at the Congress (The UCLG Website):
https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/uclg_thedurbanpoliticaldeclaration_en_rv.pdf

▼ Full report on the Mayors for Peace website:
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/191111_15_UCLG_2019_Granollers.html

■ “Peace News from Hiroshima”

(Provided by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center of the CHUGOKU SHIMBUN)

“The use of atomic energy for purposes of war is today, more than ever, a crime.” Pope Francis spoke these words on his visit to the A-bombed city of Hiroshima. Both in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the pope used the strong language to denounce nuclear weapons as illegal and to call for humanity to free itself from possession and dependence on such weapons for its security.

In his 14-minute speech, the pope asked, “How can we propose peace if we constantly invoke the threat of nuclear war?” In this way, he criticized nuclear weapons states for relying on nuclear deterrence and turning their backs on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). He denounced the current international situation in which countries are engaged in a new arms race that includes development of smaller, low-yield nuclear weapons. The pope called on not only political leaders but also people throughout the world to act to eliminate nuclear weapons.

Amid escalating tensions between the nuclear superpowers, namely the United States and Russia, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty has expired—despite that the treaty was considered to have marked a turning point in the Cold War. As nuclear arsenals are being modernized, China is bolstering its military might. In his Hiroshima message, Pope Francis criticized such nations for vying for power without consideration of humanity as a whole.

The pope said the key to a breakthrough against the backdrop of the current circumstances is human memory: “To remember, to journey together, to protect.” Handing down the memories of the atomic bombings to future generations, he said, “Ensures and encourages the building of a more fair and fraternal future.”

While holding that Japan is the only nation to have experienced atomic bombings, Japan’s government has yet to join the TPNW, which emphasizes the inhumanity of such weapons. How will the Japanese government now

respond to the pope's words "Future generations will rise to condemn our failure if we spoke of peace but did not act to bring it about among the peoples of the earth"?"

Please access the following websites to read more of our peace-related news.

- A-bomb survivor Yoshiko Kajimoto shares account, makes appeal to Pope Francis

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=94773>

- Hibakusha, antinuclear groups express gratitude to Pope for speaking for them during his visit to Hiroshima

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=94636>

- Setsuko Thurlow hopes Pope's message from Hiroshima will help boost ratification of Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=94771>

- Pope's speech, conveyed with love, is etched into heart of Catholic A-bomb survivor

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=94782>

- In the Footsteps of Pope Francis (Part 1): On behalf of A-bomb survivors, Pope Francis proclaims use of atomic energy for purposes of war to be "immoral"

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=94880>

- In the Footsteps of Pope Francis (Part 2): Pope questions world leader attitudes as nuclear disarmament framework on verge of collapse

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=94933>

■ Request for payment of the 2019 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 March 19, 2019) 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 2019 membership fee was sent to each city by email on April 1. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

▼ Request for the 2019 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (The Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/outlines/membership_fee.html

■ 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>

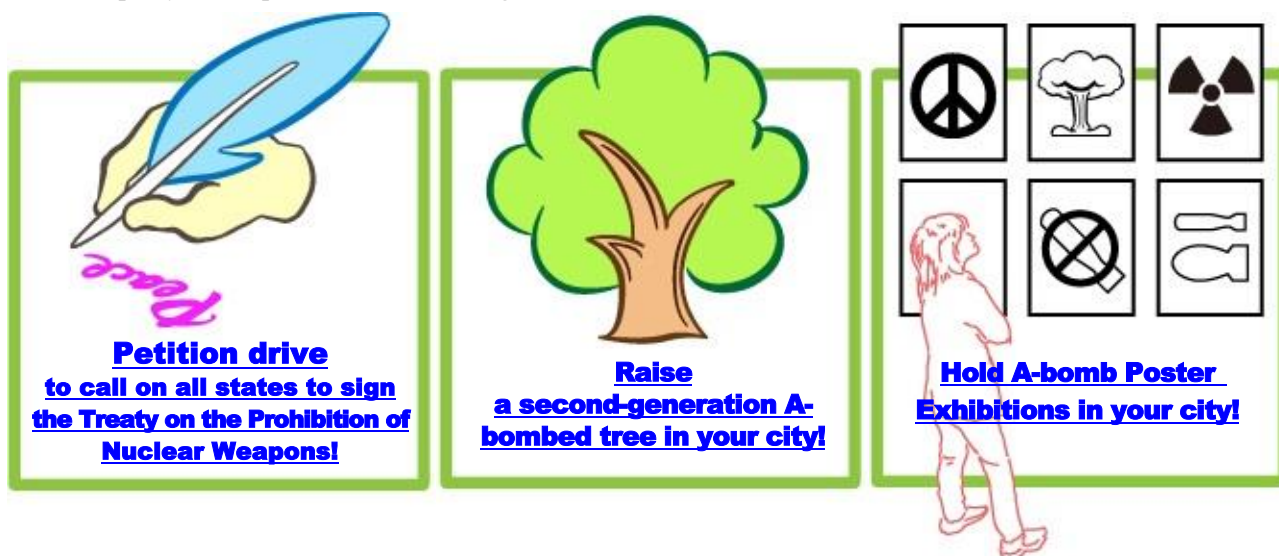
■ Request to promote various measures based on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020)

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:



In November this year, the Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace decided to set the following three items as priorities for action until the end of 2020, the final year of the 2020 Vision.

1. **Expand membership to support the agreed goals of Mayors for Peace, including the entry-into-force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** *For more information on "[Expanding membership](#)"*
2. **Conduct peace education to raise awareness among future generations** *For more information on "[Promotion of peace education](#)"*
3. **Strengthen support for existing projects to receive youths in Hiroshima and Nagasaki such as "The Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program"** *For more information on "[The Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program](#)"*

■ 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.

- *November 9 - Hon. Femi Gbajabamila, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- *November 22 - H.E. Mr. Heiko MAAS, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Federal Republic of Germany
- *November 26 - Mr. Jules Irrmann, Consul-General of the Consulate-General of France in Japan

■ Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,854 Cities in 163 Countries/Regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on December 1, we gained 8 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 7,854.

