



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Project G – Manchester’s peace education work to promote the message of the ‘hibakusha’

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What I will talk about

- **Development of Project G 2014 - 19**
- **Milestones for Project G**
- **Plans for the future and links with other projects**
- **Promoting wider peace education through the UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter**



Project G – the seeds from Hiroshima



**Lord Mayor Susan Cooley
with the original seeds in
our launch event, 2014**

**12 of Hiroshima's ginkgo seeds arrived
safely in Manchester and have been
grown at the National Trust gardens in
Dunham Massey, near the airport**



Project G - an art and poetry learning project



In early 2015, the Council instituted an art and poetry competition asking children to look at the Hiroshima A-bomb attack and the role of nature in recovering after devastation – over 120 entries were received from 6 participating Manchester primary schools

Presenting to the Mayors



After exhibiting pictures at the Hiroshima Day 70th anniversary event, we welcomed the Mayors of Hiroshima and Manchester to a special ceremony in the Rutherford Institute, where the atom was first split

Children meet the hibakusha



In 2017, we took two hibakushas to see our ginkgo seeds and talk to schoolchildren



'The spirit of Manchester'



In May 2017, a terrorist attack led to the deaths of 22 people, most of whom were young children, at an Ariana Grande concert. Civic leaders signed the 'We Stand Together' pledge to ensure Manchester remained a tolerant, inclusive and peaceful city

Schools Peace Plan event



In Autumn 2017, we widened Project G to look at schools developing a peace plan - to take into account the impact of the Arena attack; and to also announce that the schools would be getting their gingko trees and a new Peace Trail shortly



Planting of trees at the schools



In late 2017, the six participating schools received their ginkgo trees and planted them in their school garden. A 7th tree was also presented to Manchester Children's Hospital for their Health Garden

Children's Peace Trail launch



In summer 2018, we launched the second version of the Manchester City Centre Children's Peace Trail with support from English Heritage

Legacy Ambassadors event



In Winter 2018, Manchester hosted 4 Hiroshima Peace Legacy Ambassadors – they talked to children about the experience of the hibakusha and also visited the school’s ginkgo tree

Manchester Met Uni plaque launch



In May 2019, the 8th tree was planted in Manchester Metropolitan University. All 7 trees also received plaques and each school, hospital and university had a competition to 'name' their tree

Future plans



A new Manchester Peace Garden is being developed and opened in Spring 2021 – it will include 2 of the ginkgo trees and lots of other nice things!

Other trees are planned for Manchester University and two of our large parks

Promoting peace education – Chapter work



Chapter meetings are partially used to promote peace education – e.g. Peace Education Scotland, Peace Jam, Warrington Peace Centre, Ripple of Hope, CRESST, Pledge for Peace, Peace Partners



Other members and their trees



There are ginkgo trees also with Edinburgh, Shetland Islands, Oldham, Hull, & South Ayrshire - here they are being planted in a school in Brae, Shetland Islands and the Oldham Peace Garden

Conclusions



- **Manchester has used its ginkgo trees as an effective peace education tool**
- **Brought out the story of the hibakusha to children in particular**
- **A collaborative project – partners include National Trust, Manchester University, Manchester Metropolitan University, Historic England, schools and Manchester Children’s Hospital**
- **Allowed the Council to widen into other areas of peace education – e.g. peace trail, school peace plans, peace garden**
- **UK & Ireland Chapter sees the promotion of peace education as a core element of its activity**