



Mayors for Peace News Flash

February 2020 / No.122

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

7,863 cities
in 163 countries and regions
(as of February 1, 2020)

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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■ Applications for the 2020 Youth Exchange for Peace: Support Program for "HIROSHIMA and PEACE" Course

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

For this year, it is planned that during the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in Hiroshima from August 3 to August 6, a few participants in this support program will give presentations about youth-led activities carried out in collaboration with member cities in a session about the role of youth.

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 3pm on Thursday March 12, 2020**, 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 mid-April 2020.

"HIROSHIMA and PEACE" in 2019



▲ (Photo credit: Hiroshima City University)



◀ (Photo credit: Hiroshima City)



▼ Details of the program on the Mayors for Peace website:
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects/2020_HAP.html
▼ Please email completed application documents to:
mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■ Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace speaks at the New York City Council's historic hearing on nuclear disarmament

[New York, NY, US; January 28, 2020]

On January 28, 2020, the New York City (NYC) Council held a historic public hearing on two bills that would declare and advance NYC's support for nuclear disarmament and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The hearing was impassioned and inspiring, lasting 4-1/2 hours. In all 63 people testified, from a wide range of perspectives, all supportive of the measures. Speakers included indigenous people, student interns reading testimonies of *hibakusha*, Japanese Americans, physicians, bankers, lawyers, scientists, artists and activists.

Speaking on behalf of Mayors for Peace, North American Coordinator Jacqueline Cabasso expressed support for both bills and quoted relevant passages from several Mayors for Peace-sponsored resolutions adopted by the United States Conference of Mayors in recent years. She also publicly invited NYC Mayor Bill De Blasio to join Mayors for Peace.

Votes have not yet been scheduled, but NYC activists are hoping to see both bills passed before the start of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference on April 27.

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

▼ Full report on the Mayors for Peace Website:
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/200128_news.html



NYC Councilmember Daniel Dromm at press conference on steps of City Hall before hearing
(Photo credit: Gabriele Holtermann-Gorden)



L - R: Jacqueline Cabasso, Mayors for Peace North American Coordinator; Ray Acheson, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (holding ICAN Nobel Peace Prize medal); Alice Slater, World Beyond War
(Photo credit: Ari Beser)

■ Mayors for Peace Secretariat hosted an intern from Manchester

[February 3-14, 2020]

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.

From February 3 to 14, the Mayors for Peace Secretariat welcomed Ms. Elena Tompkins, who works as a policy assistant at Manchester City Hall, to serve as an intern under the program. Manchester is a Vice President City of Mayors for Peace and the Lead City of the UK and Ireland Chapter.

While working at the Mayors for Peace Secretariat, Ms. Tompkins participated in a number of activities to learn about the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, including listening to a *hibakusha*'s eyewitness testimony. She also visited a local high school and made a presentation about Manchester and its peace initiatives.

Ms. Tompkins made the following comment about her internship: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my internship and leave with a much more detailed picture of the Mayors for Peace work which will be useful for my work back home. Hiroshima is a beautiful city and the Peace Memorial Hall and the Peace Memorial Park are special places of remembrance, recognition and paying respect to the victims of the atomic bombing. During my stay I have come to realise that the aim to abolish all nuclear weapons is still as topical and urgent today, and I will continue to work towards spreading the message of Hiroshima to the people of Manchester and the UK."

▼ Posts on the Mayors for Peace Facebook page about Ms. Tompkins' internship in Hiroshima can be found here:
https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/2343457539248299?_tn=-R
https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/2349441295316590?_tn=-R
https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/2350163048577748?_tn=-R

■ Regional Chapter Activities

< European Chapter >

Launch of the cross-national European Chapter

As per the decision at the Executive Conference in November last year, the Mayors for Peace European Chapter was formally launched in January 2020, with the Mayor of Granollers as its Chair.

The legal statutes of the Chapter, are now being developed. Other issues are also being discussed among core working members, including drafting of the Operational Plan in 2020, establishment of the Secretariat in Granollers, and putting together of a European Chapter website. As 2020 moves forward, the Chapter will move forward its activities across the continent.

European Mayors for Peace representatives attend the Basel Peace Forum and associated meetings

The Mayor of Granollers led a delegation of European lead city representatives to Basel in Switzerland to attend the annual Basel Peace Forum and a number of associated meetings. The Basel Peace Forum was initiated by the civil society group 'Swisspeace' and is partially funded by the Cantonal City of Basel. Every January it brings together an impressive collection of civil society groups; local, national and international politicians and officials; academics, humanitarian organisations; business contacts, journalists and artists to discuss different aspects of peace-making and peace-building.

The 2020 Basel Peace Forum focused on the issue of 'Cities for Peace' and included a lead panel discussion between the Mayor of Tirana, Albania, the Mayor of Maidan Shahr, Afghanistan, and an architect who was formerly a senior official at the City of Aleppo in Syria. The two-day event included an interesting mix of seminars and workshops.



(Photo credit: European Chapter of Mayors for Peace)

A side meeting was held between the Basel Peace Office, the Mayors for Peace European Chapter and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) which brought together a wide mix of youth groups working on climate change, nuclear non-proliferation issues and peace education. The meeting included short presentations from the Mayor of Granollers and the Vice Chair of PNND, as well as presentations on a number of dynamic youth education projects. This included the awarding of the first 'Peace and Climate action of European Youth (PACEY)' award to a project in Mitrovica, Kosovo. The project is trying to bring together young people from the Kosovan Albanian and Serb communities in this divided city to create a community garden on the roof of the City Hall. Mayors for Peace is in touch with the organisers of this project as part of developing wider links in the area.

The Mayors for Peace delegation also held a meeting with senior leaders of Basel City Canton and held a short meeting discussing progress with the European Chapter.

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

▼ Basel Peace Forum 2020:

<https://basel-peace.org/2020/>

▼ Roundtable meeting of parliamentarians & city leaders with youth campaigners from the European climate, peace and nuclear disarmament movements (The PNND Website):

<http://pnnd.org/event/climate-peace-and-security-youth-voices-policy-action>

<Catalan Chapter>

Launch of website for new campaign

The Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace, in collaboration with Fundipau (a Catalan NGO and a member of ICAN), has launched a new website that promotes "Building peace within cities and across the world", an awareness campaign to demand, through cities, that governments sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The European Chapter of Mayors for Peace, for which the Catalan Chapter serves as a leading member, has set forth an objective to campaign for nuclear disarmament with a European focus on security and community cohesion/tolerance, and this new campaign is fully consistent with this objective.



▼“Building peace within cities and across the world” website (available in Catalan, Spanish and English): <http://ciutatsdepau.org/>

■ Member City Activities

<Mexico City, Mexico>

Mexico City Council delegation meets with President of Mayors for Peace

On January 16, a delegation from the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Congress of Mexico City, led by Deputy Jannete Elizabeth Guerrero Maya (President of the Committee) met with Mayor Kazumi Matsui of Hiroshima City (President of Mayors for Peace) at the embassy of Mexico in Tokyo.

Deputy Guerrero personally handed Mayor Matsui a letter of invitation to an event in Mexico City in February commemorating the 53rd anniversary of the signing of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco.



Deputy Jannete Elizabeth Guerrero Maya (right) and Mayor Matsui (left)

At the meeting, Mayor Matsui conveyed his respect to Mexico for its leadership in nuclear disarmament, including the country's swift signing and ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. He also thanked Mexico City for its ongoing support for Mayors for Peace as a Vice President and the Lead City of Mexico. Mayor Matsui asked Deputy Guerrero for her support in membership expansion in Mexico, especially expressing his hope for the mayors of the 16 distinct cities of the federal district of Mexico City to join Mayors for Peace in their own right, and she reaffirmed Mexico City's support in this regard.

Further reports will follow on the commemorative event from February 13 to 14, where a video message from the President of Mayors for Peace will be presented.

<Tehran, Iran>

“Science for all” festival

In November 2019, two members of the volunteer staff of the Tehran Peace Museum, which also serves as the Iranian Secretariat of Mayors for Peace, raised public awareness about the effects of weapons of mass destruction in Iran by participating in the “Science for all” festival run by Iran's National Science Museum.

“Science for all” is a festival which provides people with the opportunity to gain knowledge about different aspects of science. In this festival, Ms. Farzaneh Nazari, who was one of the participants of the HIROSHIMA and PEACE 2018 course, delivered a speech on peaceful ways of using nuclear energy. The main sections of her speech were about: nuclear structure; application of nuclear energy in health, agriculture, and water resource management; the nuclear disasters in Fukushima and Chernobyl; and the atomic bombing in Hiroshima.



(Photo by the Iranian Secretariat of Mayors for Peace)

Ms. Mona Badamchizadeh, who worked as an intern at the Hiroshima Secretariat of Mayors for Peace in September 2019, held a digital art exhibition with support from the Tehran Peace Museum and the National Science Museum, which exhibited artworks related to the consequences of use of weapons of mass destruction. The exhibit also included drawings by atomic bomb survivors from the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum's collection.

Peace Journalism Simulation

The Iranian Secretariat of Mayors for Peace held a workshop titled "Peace Journalism Simulation" in collaboration with the Peace Reporters Association and Iranian Association for Peace Studies at the Tehran Peace Museum on December 27 and 28, 2019.

On the first day of the workshop, the participants learned the basics and principles of peace journalism and ways to avoid bias. The topic of the second day was the principles of humanitarian law, the need to protect civilians and not to attack civilian places, and the protection of journalists. Also discussed was the political history of Afghanistan and the process of peace negotiations between the US and the Taliban.



(Photo by the Iranian Secretariat of Mayors for Peace)

The final section was a simulation of peace journalism. The participants were divided into different groups and worked on a news report on Afghan peace negotiations, based on what they learned during the workshop. After the representatives of each group presented reports, the lecturers corrected the texts and explained the important points of each report.

The two-day workshop ended with the presentation of a certificate of completion to each participant.

■“Peace News from Hiroshima”

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

The Chugoku Shimbun has launched a website (<https://hiroshima75.web.app/>) of the photographic series “Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima: Recreating cityscapes.” The new website features photographs of Hiroshima from before the atomic bombing superimposed on Google maps. The images remind people today about the ‘everyday’ of the people and city lost in the U.S. atomic bombing. The photos are part of the major series “Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima 75 years after the atomic bombing.”

First released on the website were about 150 photos of Hiroshima’s Hondori shopping arcade, Kamiya-cho, and surrounding areas. The photos show the bustle of the city center, smiling children, and social conditions as the city took on a wartime appearance. More photos of other city areas will be posted on the website in the future as the “Recreating cityscapes” space develops further with enhanced content.

To recreate what was lost in the atomic bombing—lives of people, daily life, and cityscapes—the Chugoku Shimbun is now collecting photos of the city’s downtown area taken before the atomic bombing. We also continue to collect photos stored at the Hiroshima Municipal Archives and other public facilities in the city, as well as those kept in private homes and elsewhere.

We invite everyone to visit the new website.

For related articles, please click on the following links:

- Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima 75 years after the atomic bombing—Hiroshima City begins investigating return of one person’s remains in Atomic Bomb Memorial Mound to surviving family: Second case since fiscal 2010
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=96011>
- Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima 75 years after the atomic bombing—Remains of victims wait to be claimed by family
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=96054>
- Hiroshima City develops proposal for display of actual A-bombed remains from former Nakajima district, including construction of one-story exhibit facilities in Peace Park
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=96020>
- Survivors’ Stories: Tsuneo Sato, 86, Hiroshima: Stunned and shocked by total destruction of school in atomic bombing
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=96017>
- “RERF to digitize more than 10 million pages of paper documents—including A-bomb survivor medical records and physician notes”
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=95605>

■ 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>

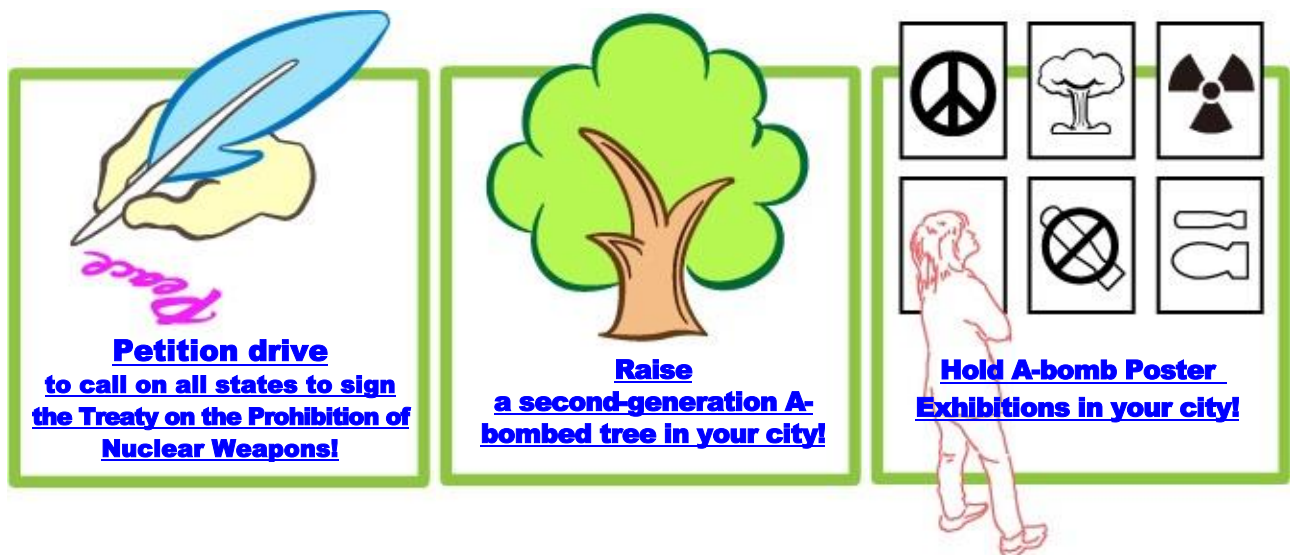
■ Request to promote various measures based on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020)

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 2019, 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”:



■ Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,863 Cities in 163 Countries/Regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on February 1, we gained 2 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 7,863.

From Germany, we welcomed Elxleben thanks to the continued efforts of Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City of the German Chapter of Mayors for Peace. From France, we welcomed the City of Le Rove.

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/2020/newmembers2002_en.pdf

▼ Map of Member Cities:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/memberscity/map.html>

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

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