



# Mayors for Peace News Flash

April 2020 / No.124

**Mayors for Peace Member Cities**  
**7,902 cities**  
**in 163 countries and regions**  
(as of April 1, 2020)

**Check our website and follow us on SNS:**

**Website** 

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/index.html>

**Facebook** 

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace>

**Twitter** 

<https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace>

"Like" and share our Facebook and Twitter posts to help spread awareness of our mission.

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## ■ Release of a Joint Appeal on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

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Given that the 2020 NPT Review Conference has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mayors for Peace has canceled its delegation to the conference. It is with great regret that we have lost, for the time being, an opportunity to promote the importance of advancing nuclear disarmament under the NPT structure. Yet if we see the situation positively, the postponement allows all NPT States Parties more time for preparations.

In order to urge the Parties to make the most of the time allowed by the postponement, to build sincere and constructive dialogue aimed at nuclear disarmament and to reach an agreement eventually during the postponed conference, Mayors for Peace has drawn up a Joint Appeal. It was sent to all NPT States Parties and the UN officials involved with the conference.

▼ Joint Appeal on the NPT:

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/statement/openletter/data/MfP\\_Joint\\_Appeal\\_NPT\\_2020.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/statement/openletter/data/MfP_Joint_Appeal_NPT_2020.pdf)

Please share this Appeal with as many people as possible by making this widely known and accessible to your citizens, civil society partners and representatives of your national government.

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## ■“Now is the Time to Unite and Promote Solidarity” – a Message from the President –

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The global COVID-19 pandemic touches us all; infection could happen to anyone. The whole of humanity must unite to address this crisis.

In the spirit of mutual aid and for the greater good of society, every individual must now make behavioral changes. Such action will play a significant role in preventing the further spread of infection.

While keeping physical distance, every citizen of every city must act with a strong sense of solidarity, without alienating or “cutting off” others.

Mayors for Peace believes that together with abolishing nuclear weapons, realizing safe and resilient cities is indispensable to achieve lasting world peace.

In collaboration with our 7,900 member cities, Mayors for Peace will make every proactive effort to strengthen initiatives to foster and expand solidarity between citizens in the fight against this common threat.

(MATSUI Kazumi, President of Mayors for Peace and Mayor of the City of Hiroshima)

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## ■Mayors for Peace has started a Twitter

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To keep all member cities and supporters updated, Mayors for Peace has started a Twitter account. Please follow our account, like, retweet, and comment!

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace/>



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace>



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## ■Initiatives Taken to Call for Solidarity in Member Cities

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Member cities are taking steps to call for citizens’ solidarity amid the challenges presented by COVID-19.

In Barcelona, Spain, children are expressing their feelings through drawing while staying at home. Their works are posted on a website set up by the City and are presented as a "picture diary" of the whole city. In addition to drawings, the site shares a variety of works in other forms of art, such as poems, stories, and photographs. Their families, friends, and other community members can browse through the website and take in children's feelings about the pandemic.

In Montreal, Canada, measures have been taken to ensure the hygiene, health and safety of the homeless by opening new shelters and providing food assistance and sanitary products. The City has announced it will contribute to an emergency fund in order to support the most vulnerable residents in need. Public health instructions are displayed in multiple languages to keep foreign residents informed.

In Manchester, UK, the streets are empty but people are staying in touch as best as they can. Many neighborhoods across the city have set up online chat groups for individual streets where neighbors can talk, ask for help and exchange information. Movements to support each other are growing, such as putting up pictures of rainbows in their windows to give walkers an uplifting message of solidarity.



Drawings by children (Barcelona)



Girl putting a picture of rainbow on window (Manchester)  
Photo: Courtesy of Manchester City

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## ■ UN Secretary-General Calls for Global Ceasefire

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In the fight against a common enemy, COVID-19, the Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres is calling for a global ceasefire. He is appealing for the world to end the sickness of war and fight the disease that is ravaging the world. Please respond to the call if your situation allows.

- Appeal for global ceasefire:  
<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2020-03-23/secretary-generals-appeal-for-global-ceasefire>
- To sign online:  
[https://secure.avaaz.org/campaign/en/global\\_ceasefire\\_loc/](https://secure.avaaz.org/campaign/en/global_ceasefire_loc/)

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## ■ Invitation for the Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" 2020

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Mayors for Peace has put emphasis on peace education to raise awareness among future generations as part of its intensified efforts outlined in the Action Plan from 2017 to 2020, which was adopted at the 9th General Conference. In order to further promote peace education in member cities, Mayors for Peace holds an annual art competition on the theme of "Peaceful Towns" for children in all these cities.

Please advertise this competition widely among schools and other organizations in your city. Member cities are asked to accept entries from interested local applicants, select up to 5 artworks for Category 1 (6-10 year olds) and Category 2 (11-15 year olds), and submit the scanned artworks in PDF along with the other required documents by email to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat by the designated deadline.

\*Due to the growing COVID-19 outbreak, we expect that many member cities must currently be occupied with necessary measures. We would be grateful if you could advertise this art competition after things settle down.

▼ Details of the competition on the Mayors for Peace Website:

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects/2020\\_Art\\_Competition.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects/2020_Art_Competition.html)

### **Submission Deadline:**

5:00PM (Japan Standard Time), Friday November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### **Submission:**

Email the application materials to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat at [mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto:mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

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## ■ Request for Payment of the 2020 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee

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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/18 Euro as of March 18, 2020) 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 2020 membership fee was sent to each city by email on April 1. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

▼ Request for the 2020 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/outlines/membership\\_fee.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/outlines/membership_fee.html)

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## ■ Second Generation A-bomb Tree Seeds

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Mayors for Peace runs a project to distribute seeds from trees that survived the atomic bombing to member cities that wish to receive them. It is hoped that taking care of these trees, which serve as symbols of peace, will help raise citizens' awareness of peace.

Through nurturing the descendants of survivor trees, we want people around the world to learn about the realities of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as well as share in the earnest wish of the *hibakusha* (atomic bomb survivors) for nuclear abolition.

Member cities, why don't you also try raising a second-generation atomic bomb tree?

Details about how to receive seeds and an informational pamphlet on this project are available on the Mayors for Peace website at:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects.html#section04>



Planting ceremony in Veurne, Belgium, in November 2019  
(Photo: Belgium Chapter of Mayors for Peace)

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## ■ Announcement from Hiroshima City University: Release of the latest issue of newsletter "Hiroshima Research News"

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Hiroshima City University's Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) released vol. 22 of its newsletter Hiroshima Research News in March. This volume contains articles related to two events hosted by the HPI and three research articles.

An article on the international symposium "Towards a World Without Nuclear Weapons and Crimes Against Humanity" introduces the contents of the keynote speech, reports from three experts, and a panel discussion. They all examine past and present efforts by the international community to eradicate serious human rights violations such as crimes against humanity, as well as the role of civil society.

Another article on the 2019 international workshop "The East Asian Crisis and the Future of Japan-Korea Relations" explores the structure of the crisis in East Asian international relations, and considers common challenges in the region and solutions to them. Additionally, an article reporting on the public lecture series "Peace and Governance Issues in Asia" describes some themes explored by the five lectures, including: what is global governance; what are the factors which are hindering global governance; and what kind of specific challenges does this pose in Asian countries.

The three research papers are: "From Climate Change to Climate Emergency: Forefront of Global Environmental Action"; "South Korean A-bomb Victims' Movement: Its Development up to the Legal Battles in the 1990s"; and "Current Situation of the Crimea Issue and Pursuit of 'Peace'".

The diary on the last page lists HPI researchers' recent activities.

(XU Xianfen, Associate Professor of Hiroshima Peace Institute)

▼ The newsletter is available online on the HPI website:

[https://www.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp/peace\\_e/category0003/fy2019/](https://www.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp/peace_e/category0003/fy2019/)

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## ■ "Peace News from Hiroshima"

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

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The global spread of the new coronavirus infection continues unabated. The number of people visiting Hiroshima for sightseeing or peace studies has dropped precipitously. Such a situation affects opportunities for A-bomb survivors to share their experiences in testimonies. The number of canceled or postponed events of this kind has reached 500.

The Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was also postponed. A-bomb survivors and citizens of Hiroshima were preparing to visit New York and could not hide their disappointment with the decision. Some said that nuclear-weapon states should take to heart that this decision to postpone represents a moratorium for the advancement of nuclear disarmament. It is hoped that the newly scheduled NPT review conference will serve as a venue for more forward-looking discussion than might have been possible now.

The Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami of March 2011 took a heavy toll on Japan, resulting in a total of 22,167 disaster victims, including the dead and missing. With the nuclear power plant accident, many had to evacuate the area, and more than 47,000 people are still not able to return home. In July 2018, torrential rains killed more than 270 people in 14 prefectures in western Japan, and 138 victims of that total were residents of Hiroshima Prefecture. Now we find ourselves in yet another predicament. What do we need to do for countries around the world to join hands based on relationships of mutual trust and protect in a true sense their people's lives and security from various real-life threats? Now seems to be a good time to question whether or not it is meaningful to prioritize investing huge amounts of money into developing and maintaining nuclear weapons for "security."

Please see the following for more peace-related news.

Citizens' group "Learning from Floyd Schmoie" adds English translation to picture book to communicate Mr. Schmoie's work worldwide

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=96964>

NPT conference postponed A-bomb survivors: "Will continue to make steady efforts" Hiroshima Governor: "Continue talks for rescheduling"

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=96882>

Over 500 A-bomb testimony events canceled, postponed in Hiroshima due to drop in school trip numbers amid novel coronavirus pandemic

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=97135>

Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall registers photograph of Hiroko Kajiyama, an inspiration for A-bomb Dome preservation movement

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=97219>

Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima 75 years after the atomic bombing—RIBM to digitize degraded A-bomb victim samples returned from U.S. military

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=97139>

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### ■ **The Catalan Chapter Calls for Humanitarian Response to the Crisis in the Turkey-EU border**

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The Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace released a statement calling for an immediate humanitarian response to the crisis of Syrian refugees in the Turkey-EU border. The Chapter demands resources, capacity and solidarity from the European Union and the international community as well as an urgent action plan to contribute to tackle the situation and the humanitarian disaster unfolding in the northwest Syria.

▼ Click the link below to see the full statement:

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/2020\\_Catalan\\_Chapter\\_TurkeyEU\\_Statement.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/2020_Catalan_Chapter_TurkeyEU_Statement.pdf)

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

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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>

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

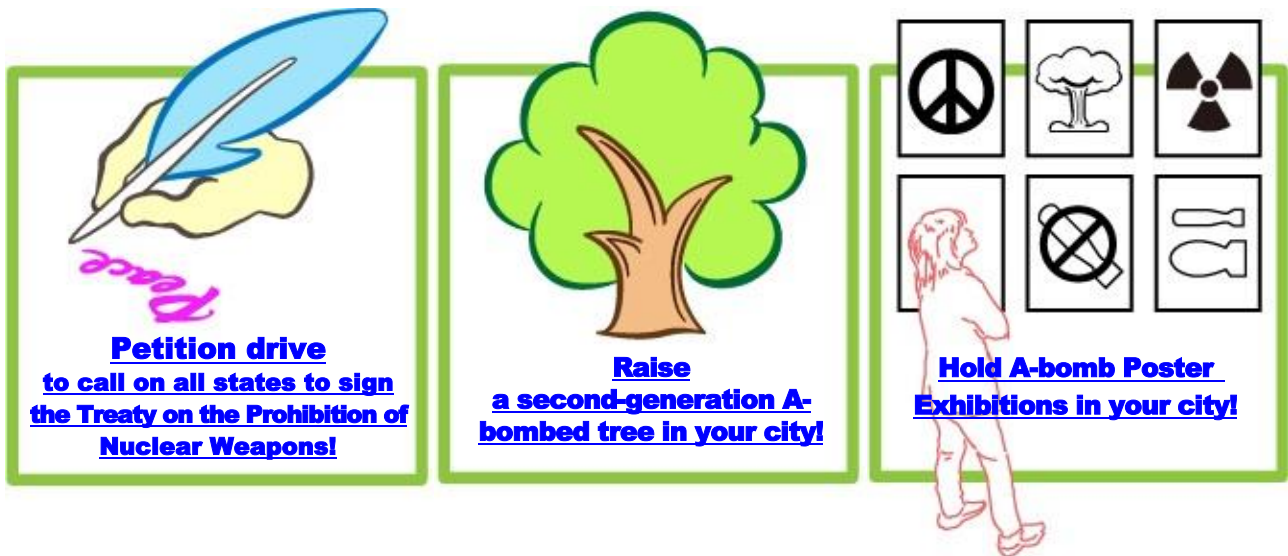
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At the 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace held in Nagasaki in August 2017, we decided our Action Plan for up to the year 2020, aiming for lasting world peace. Together, we hope to make significant strides toward realizing this goal. Please 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](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](#)”*

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## ■Mayors for Peace collaboration with “The Hibakusha Appeal” Signature Campaign

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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”:



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**■ Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,902 Cities in 163 Countries/Regions**  
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Thanks to your invaluable support, on April 1, we gained 33 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 7,902.

From Argentina, we welcomed 31 cities thanks to the efforts of NGOs and others. With this, all 36 municipalities in Catamarca Province have become members. We also welcomed one city each from Mauritania and Switzerland.

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/newmembers2004\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/03_newmembers/2020/newmembers2004_en.pdf)

▼ Map of Member Cities:

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

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

**Mayors for Peace Secretariat**

1-5 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730-0811 Japan

Tel: +81-82-242-7821 Fax: +81-82-242-7452

Email: [mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto:mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

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