



Mayors for Peace News Flash

June 2020 / No.126

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

7,907 cities

in 164 countries and regions

(as of June 1, 2020)

Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!

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.

Table of Contents

- Introducing our core concept for 2020: "No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki!"
- Uploaded reports on the Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program 2019
- 100-day countdown message for the International Day of Peace
- Member City activities
- Regional chapter activities
- Reports by Executive Advisors
- Request to promote various measures based on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan
- Call for input: examples of initiatives to foster peace-seeking spirit
- Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,907 cities in 164 countries/regions
- Request for payment of the 2020 Mayors for Peace membership fee
- IPB's petition calling for "Healthcare Not Warfare"
- Peace news from Hiroshima (provided by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center of the CHUGOKU SHIMBUN)
- Mayors for Peace collaboration with "the Hibakusha Appeal" signature campaign

■ Introducing our core concept for 2020: "No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki!"

This year marks 75 years since the atomic bombings. It also is the last year to achieve the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision, which was developed in the hope of realizing nuclear weapons abolition while the *hibakusha* are still alive. However, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic we will not be able to host many guests in Hiroshima and Nagasaki this summer.

At a time when we must unite globally more than ever in the fight against the pandemic, unilateralism is gaining momentum in the international community. It is now all the more important for all nations to take action to tackle common threats such as infectious disease or nuclear weapons from a humanitarian perspective, and for civil society to support political leaders in the pursuit of such goals.

Given the above, to commemorate this milestone year we have planned the below projects, with a core concept of "No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki!" Our aim is for people around the world, many of whom are currently unable to visit the atomic bombed cities, to share in the earnest desire of the *hibakusha*: "no one else should suffer as we have."



1. Video messages

We are now collecting video messages from survivors of the atomic bombings, representatives from national governments, NGOs, and Mayors for Peace Executive Cities. These will be compiled into one video, available on social media in mid-July, which will ask viewers to share and voice their support, thus raising and spreading public awareness throughout the world toward abolition of nuclear weapons.

2. Educational webinar on peace

We are going to hold an educational webinar on peace on Tuesday August 4. The participants will be 7 young people, 2 from Hiroshima and Nagasaki who are involved in local peace activities and 5 from other member cities around the world. After learning about international circumstances concerning nuclear weapons in a lecture, they will give a presentation on their peace activities, then will exchange ideas and opinions with each other. The webinar will be streamed live on YouTube, with the aim of encouraging young people to be proactively engaged in peace activities.

3. Core concept: “No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki!”

We are introducing our core concept for 2020: “No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki!” This has been formulated to raise public awareness for abolition of nuclear weapons, calling on all citizens of the world to join us in taking action.

When your municipality holds a commemorative or peace-related event, please make use of the core-concept “No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki!”, such as in the title of the event or as the event’s theme. Please also upload the banner above (available for download from [this link](#)) on your municipality’s website, and post it on your official social media accounts.

■Uploaded reports on the Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program 2019

Since 2016, Mayors for Peace has invited selected youths from various member cities to Hiroshima to participate in its Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program. Young people represent their own cities and participate in programs run by Hiroshima City, with financial and other support by Mayors for Peace.

The programs aim to share in the messages of hibakusha and to discuss their desire for peace. They are designed to build connections and friendships between participants from around the world.

Following a briefing about Mayors for Peace, participants were engaged in activities led by the Secretariat and had an opportunity to exchange thoughts and ideas among them.

Visit the links below to read the uploaded reports of participants of 2019 programs.

▼ HIROSHIMA and PEACE (July 30 – August 9, 2019):

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

▼ The International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future, 2019 Hiroshima (August 4 – August 12, 2019):

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

■ 100-day countdown message for the International Day of Peace

[June 13, 2020]

The United Nations has established September 21 as the International Day of Peace (IDP) and an annual day of non-violence and ceasefire. Mayors for Peace has been a long-time supporter of the IDP and encourages all member cities to commemorate the International Day of Peace on September 21.

On June 13, the President of Mayors for Peace issued a message for the 100-day countdown to the IDP, inviting all members to commemorate the 2020 International Day of Peace in their city.

▼ Message for the International Day of Peace, 100-day countdown by the President of Mayors for Peace (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/statement/mailmag/pdf/200613_IDP100day_message_E.pdf

▼ International Day of Peace 21 September (The United Nations website):

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace>

<<PLEASE SEND INFORMATION ON YOUR CITY'S 2020 IDP EVENT >>

If your city is planning to organize an event to commemorate the IDP, please send an event report to our secretariat. We will share the report on the Mayors for Peace website, etc.

▼ Please mail us with an outline of your event at:

mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■ Member City activities

<Yokohama, Japan>

Yokohama's efforts towards realizing world peace outlined in new pamphlet

Based on the idea that building international goodwill and mutual understanding at the city level will lead to achieving world peace, the City of Yokohama has established relationships with other cities around the world, including eight sister cities, among them San Diego (U.S.) and Shanghai (China).

To further advance these efforts, the city adopted a proposal to promote peace initiatives in June 2018. With this resolution as a foundation, Yokohama has emphasized efforts aimed at helping realize peace across the globe, through the pillars of international exchange, international cooperation, and support for a multicultural society to encourage goodwill among citizens, support infrastructure improvements in developing countries, and build inclusive local communities.

Since joining Mayors for Peace in 2010, Yokohama has invited the Secretary General to speak to its citizens at a public event, organized exhibitions of posters to raise awareness, and taken other actions as a member city of the Mayors for Peace network to help attain a lasting world peace.

As part of these efforts, a pamphlet and video were published in 2019 to introduce Yokohama's initiatives for peace and show how it can contribute to this goal within the global community.

▼ Link to the video (Youtube):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4e2XfGXTtA>



Pamphlet

<<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 share the activities with other member cities. Please send us information including the date, venue, organizers and a description of the event result. 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 June 12):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/04_list_of_activities/2020_List_of_Activities_en.pdf

■Regional chapter activities

<UK and Ireland Chapter>

Release of the UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Briefing Paper No. 28

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

With most national and international events and meetings being cancelled or postponed due to the Covid-19 outbreak, the Secretary of the UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter has developed a progress report for its members.

The report focuses on the postponement of the NPT Review Conference and the Mayors for Peace Conference and looks to the future as to when they will take place, and what actions will be required. The report also looks at how the Chapter's next meeting and appropriate ways to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks can take place virtually.

The report has updates on the European Mayors for Peace Chapter and on the May Stockholm Virtual Forum for Peace and Development. It considers progress with the ICAN Cities Appeal and looks at an ICAN report on Global Spending on Nuclear Weapons in 2019.

The report concludes by considering some issues around divestment and an International Women's Appeal for Peace and Disarmament. In the UK, six Mayors for Peace members have passed resolutions supporting the TPNW. They are Manchester, Edinburgh, Renfrewshire, Norwich, Fife and Hebden Royd. A number of other members are in the process of doing so. The UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Secretary Sean Morris can provide a model resolution if that would be helpful. Email: s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk

Mayors for Peace would welcome other towns, cities, counties and federal regions to consider passing similar resolutions and supporting the Cities Appeal / TPNW. It also encourages states to continue to ratify the TPNW so that it becomes international law in 2020.

▼ UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Briefing Paper No. 28:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/data/2020/UK_Briefing_No_28.pdf

■Reports by Executive Advisors

<Report on Abolition 2000 Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons Online Annual General Meeting by Ms. Jacqueline Cabasso, the Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace>

The Abolition 2000 Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons held its 25th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 23.

An in-person meeting had been planned during the 2020 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference (RevCon) in New York, but when the RevCon was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Abolition 2000 moved its AGM on line and held an innovative and productive virtual meeting. The AGM was held in two sessions:

Session 1 included updates and reports from working groups and affiliated networks, including Mayors for Peace, a strategy discussion on challenges and opportunities to advance nuclear abolition in the post COVID-19 world, and introduction of proposals. Session 2 included discussion of proposals, and Abolition 2000 administrative and governance matters. Session 1 was held twice, once to accommodate participants from Asia/Pacific and early risers in Europe/Africa, and a second time to accommodate participants in the Americas, Europe, and Africa. The online format enabled nearly 200 participants from 39 countries to participate.

In an effort to make the most efficient use of limited time during the meeting, the organizers pre-recorded short presentations by eight leading NGO activists from around the world, who discussed the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on prospects for nuclear abolition from a variety of perspectives. Participants in the AGM were encouraged to watch these videos before the meeting to prepare themselves for an interactive strategy discussion, which informed the adoption by consensus of proposals, including:

- Promotion of a Petition developed by Chernobyl-Hibakusha Support: “[Stop the intentional discharge of radioactive wastewater from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station!](#)”
- Promotion of international activities in commemoration of the 75th anniversaries of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, including [Gensuikyo’s “Peace Wave” and its 2020 World Conference Against A & H Bombs](#), and an [International Fast from August 6 to August 9, 2020](#).
- Support for the development of a global online “[Money be Good!](#)” campaign to move the nuclear weapons money to social, humanitarian, and environmental projects.
- Establishment of a new working group on developing a “Human Values Economy” and connecting nuclear abolition to wider social movements.
- Adoption and promotion of an Abolition 2000 statement on nuclear testing and the nuclear arms race, “[Absolutely Unacceptable: Resumed Nuclear Explosive Testing](#)”.



Online video conference of Abolition 2000 Annual General Meeting

▼ Visit the link below for more background on Abolition 2000, reports from working groups and affiliated networks, video clips and more:

<http://www.abolition2000.org/en/resources/agm-minutes/agm-2020/>

<Article on UN Secretary-General Guterres’ disarmament agenda by Mr. Randy Rydell, the Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace>

The following is an executive summary of my article, “*The Guterres Disarmament Agenda and the Challenge of Constructing a Global Weapons Regime*”, which was published on the *Journal for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament*, Vol. 3, No. 1 (2020).

On 24 May 2018, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres launched his new “disarmament agenda” in an address at the University of Geneva. The UN’s Office for Disarmament Affairs simultaneously released a 73-page “non-paper” that elaborated this new agenda. And in October 2018, UNODA issued the agenda’s implementation plan.

The Guterres Agenda is the most detailed proposal offered by a UN Secretary-General: it addresses comprehensively both the elimination and control of weapons but also the wider security context in which these activities occur. Yet the proposal also raises many questions relating to its implementation and future evolution.

What exactly was the Secretary-General proposing? How was his proposal similar to, or different from, disarmament proposals by his predecessors? What are the key innovations in his proposal? How has it been received at the United Nations, the nuclear-weapon states, and by civil society? Is it having an impact in advancing disarmament goals? What are the key obstacles the plan is facing? What initiatives would serve to broaden support for this agenda?

This article seeks to answer these questions. It stresses the importance of the subject of “disarmament and cities” and offers suggestions on how the United Nations and city mayors can advance this complementary agenda. Given the consequences of the use of all types of weapons of mass destruction (especially nuclear weapons) in cities, and the devastating effects of the continued use of deadly conventional arms in densely populated areas worldwide, city mayors, their voters, and taxpayers represent a natural constituency for advancing disarmament goals. They have much to contribute in strengthening the chronically weakest foundation of disarmament: namely, political will. The article offers some practical suggestions on how this can occur and thereby strengthen the prospects for fulfilling the Agenda’s ambitious goals.

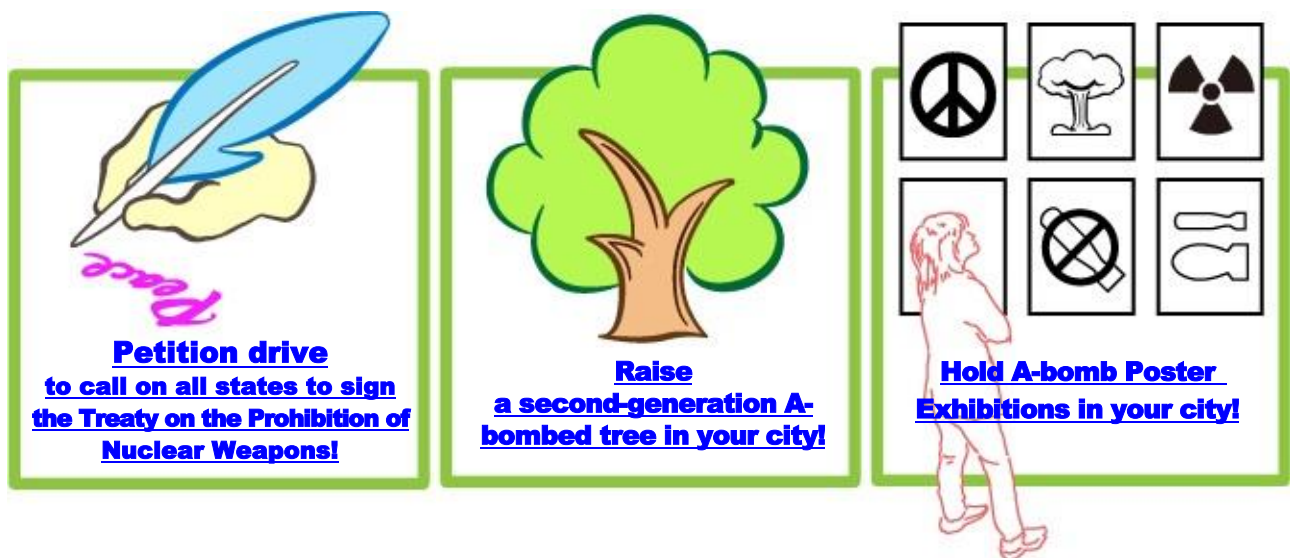
▼ Article “*The Guterres Disarmament Agenda and the Challenge of Constructing a Global Weapons Regime*”:
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/25751654.2020.1764259?scroll=top&needAccess=true>

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](#)”

■ 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.



“Nuclear Disarmament Day” in Santos
Children singing songs about peace
(Photo courtesy of Santos)

▼ Call for Input on the Mayors for Peace website:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects.html#section10>

■ Mayors for Peace member cities - 7,907 cities in 164 countries/regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on June 1, we gained 3 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 7,907.

From Zimbabwe, the City of Chinhoyi joined as the country's first member of Mayors for Peace thanks to an invitation from a peace organization in Japan. This makes our membership network expand to 164 countries and regions.

We also welcomed the City of Podgorica, the capital of Montenegro as a member. Now we have 118 capital cities as our members.

Mayors for Peace aims to expand its membership to foster international public support for the realization of a world without nuclear weapons. Please help us reach the goal of 10,000 member cities by inviting your city's sister cities or neighboring cities which are not members yet to join. We encourage further initiatives to promote membership and can provide support from Hiroshima as needed. You can download recruitment kits (available in 10 languages) from our website (link below).

▼ Mayors for Peace Website:

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

▼ List of New Members (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/03_newmembers/2020/newmembers2006_en.pdf

▼ Map of Member Cities:

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

■ Request for payment of the 2020 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/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

■IPB's petition calling for "Healthcare Not Warfare"

<Call by Lisa Clark, the Co-President of International Peace Bureau and long-time supporter of Mayors for Peace>

Members of Mayors for Peace know this better than anyone else. Weapons and armies cannot solve the serious problems threatening our communities. Especially in these strange times of the Covid-19 pandemic. We have seen the dramatic consequences of national governments allocating huge amounts on the military and cutting public spending on healthcare. Mayors and their administrations have a responsibility towards the health and wellbeing of their citizens.

Healthcare is a human right for all and must never be sacrificed for militarization and nuclear weapons. The world spent US\$ 1.9 trillion on military expenditure in 2019 and is scheduled to spend US\$ 1 trillion on new nuclear weapons over the next 20 years.

The International Peace Bureau (IPB) has always supported the work of Mayors for Peace and indeed awarded its yearly Sean MacBride Prize to Mayors for Peace, and Mayors Akiba and Itoh in 2006. I personally have long been involved in supporting the Italian membership, and now in running the Italian Chapter of Mayors for Peace with its lead city, Cervia.

IPB has created a petition, "Healthcare Not Warfare", addressed to the UN General Assembly, for it is the responsibility of world leaders to put disarmament and peace at the centre of policy making, including the ban on nuclear weapons. Civil society organizations, in partnership with local governments, need to make their voice heard: that is the mission of both IPB and Mayors for Peace. And that is the purpose of this Petition. The European Chapter has welcomed it and I would like to call on all members of Mayors for Peace, from all regions, to join forces, signing the Petition on <https://www.change.org/HealthcareNotWarfare>, and to share it further.

■Peace news from Hiroshima

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

In response to the government's lifting of its call for people to stay home as a measure to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims reopened on June 1. Peace Memorial Park remains quieter than usual, but gradually the number of people in the park seems to be on the increase.

Nevertheless, optimism about the situation might be premature, as second and third waves of the coronavirus are anticipated in the future. The Peace Memorial Museum has limited the number of visitors it accepts per a day to a maximum of 1,800, with the intent of preventing overcrowding inside the facility. A-bomb survivors are still unable to share their experiences of the bombing by speaking directly to audiences. The manner in which the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony will be held on August 6 has also been significantly altered. The Hiroshima City government has announced a policy for the ceremony that will reduce the number of attendee seats by 90 percent compared to the number used in typical years, with a maximum of 880 arranged and a priority placed on seating for A-bomb survivors and victims' bereaved families. This marks a huge reduction, considering that 11,500 seats are usually arranged for the ceremony on the grass field in the park.

Many of the memorial services for A-bombing victims and peace-related events or gatherings scheduled in accordance with the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing on August 6 are likely to be held online, cancelled, or conducted with a limited number of participants. However, precisely because the current situation is unprecedented, our hope is that we can continue to express in various ways our unwavering desire to pay tribute to those killed in the atomic bombing and the many survivors who have experienced tremendous hardship in their lives ever since the bombing.

Please see the following for more peace-related news.

U.N. Secretary General reasserts intent to attend August 6 Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony: Would send a video message if visit impossible

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=98346>

Hiroshima Prefecture revises plans for two international conferences, decides on online format in year marking 75th A-bombing anniversary

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=98354>

World Conferences against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs to be held in August online, amid uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 pandemic

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=98344>

Hiroshima City postpones summer Pearl Harbor A-bomb exhibit until later in 2020

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=98311>

Participant seating for August 6 Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony to be reduced by 90 percent

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=98313>

■ 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 Official Social Media Accounts

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



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



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

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