



Mayors for Peace News Flash

July 2020 / No.127

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

7,909 cities

in 164 countries and regions

(as of July 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

- Release of the Message Video "No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki!"
- Mayors for Peace will host a webinar on peace
- US Conference of Mayors Calls for Human-Centered Security in a Time of Global Pandemic
- ACA's interview with Mayors for Peace President has been published
- Member City activities
- Regional chapter activities
- Report by Executive Advisor
- 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 - 7,909 cities in 164 countries/regions
- Request for payment of the 2020 Mayors for Peace membership fee
- 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

Release of the Message Video "No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki!"



This year marks 75 years since the atomic bombings. In order for many people to reflect on and share in the will of the *hibakusha* for nuclear weapons abolition, Mayors for Peace has created "No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki!", a compilation of video messages.

Share this video on your city's social media account to help raise and spread public awareness throughout the world toward abolition of nuclear weapons!

[Speakers (23 people)]

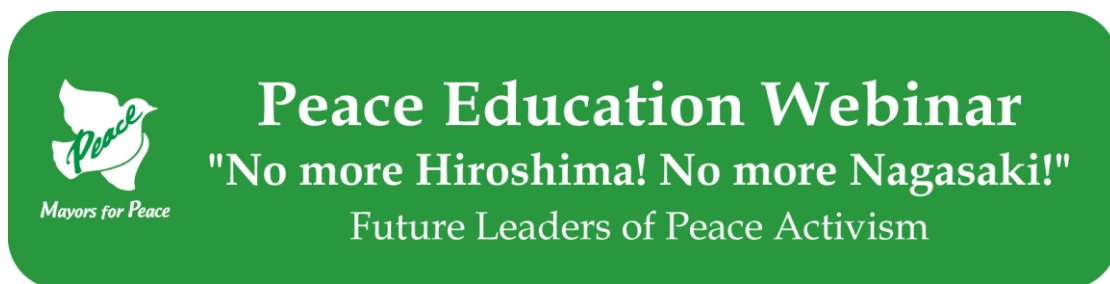
- (1) Ms. Yoshiko Kajimoto, survivor of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima
- (2) Mr. Yoshiro Yamawaki, survivor of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki
- (3) Mr. Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima, Japan
- (4) Mr. Tomihisa Taue, Mayor of Nagasaki, Japan
- (5) Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs
- (6) His Excellency Mr. Gustavo Zlauvinen, President-Designate of the NPT Review Conference
- (7) His Excellency Mr. Syed Mohamad Hasrin Aidid, Chair of the Third Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference
- (8) Mr. Gilles Carbonnier, Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- (9) Ms. Beatrice Fihn, Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)
- (10) 14 representatives from Executive Cities of Mayors for Peace:
Biograd na Moru (Croatia), Des Moines (U.S.A.), Granollers (Spain), Hannover (Germany),
Malakoff (France), Manchester (U.K.), Muntinlupa (Philippines), Volgograd (Russia),
Ypres (Belgium), Bangkok (Thailand), Fremantle (Australia), Santos (Brazil),
Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Geneva (Switzerland, a Member City in which the UNOG is located)

▼ To watch and share the video (YouTube):

<https://youtu.be/DOO4IIrZ7Ow>



■ Mayors for Peace will host a webinar on peace



To mark 75 years since the atomic bombings, Mayors for Peace will host a peace education webinar with a core concept of “No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki!” on August 4. Participants will be young people in member cities both in and outside Japan, as well as their counterparts engaged in peace activities in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They will study the current international situation surrounding nuclear weapons, give presentations on their activities, and have discussions with others. The webinar aims to stimulate youth-led peace activities in their cities in support of nuclear weapons abolition.

This webinar, titled “No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki! Future Leaders of Peace Activism”, will be livestreamed on YouTube on the day. Some time after the webinar, the video footage from the livestream will be available to watch from the link below.

▼ Visit the link below for details of the webinar (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/200701_news.html

■ US Conference of Mayors Calls for Human-Centered Security in a Time of Global Pandemic

[June 30, 2020]

To build momentum for nuclear abolition, Mayors for Peace works with associations of local authorities around the world, including the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), to support and cooperate with our activities. The United States Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan association of more than 1,400 American cities with populations over 30,000. Resolutions adopted at annual meetings become USCM official policy.

At the close of its 88th Annual Meeting, held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on June 30, 2020, the USCM Executive Committee unanimously adopted a sweeping resolution “Calling for Human-Centered Security in a Time of Global Pandemic.” The new resolution calls on the President and Congress: to support United Nations Secretary-General Guterres’ call for an immediate global ceasefire and international cooperation to address the COVID-19 pandemic; to reconceptualize security in human-centered terms, and to redirect funds currently allocated to nuclear weapons and unwarranted military spending to support safe and resilient cities and meet human needs; and to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war and actively pursue a verifiable agreement among nuclear armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

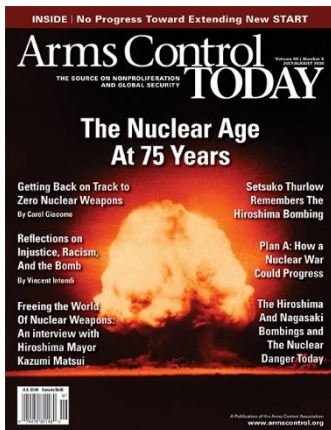
The resolution was submitted by Mayors for Peace Vice-President Mayor Frank Cownie of Des Moines, Iowa and four co-sponsors. The USCM has adopted Mayors for Peace resolutions for 15 consecutive years.

▼ Full text of resolution with list of sponsors (Mayors for Peace website):

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/resolution/20200630.html>

■ ACA’s interview with Mayors for Peace President has been published

Arms Control Association (based in Washington DC, US) had conducted an online interview with Mayors for Peace President and Mayor of Hiroshima Kazumi Matsui remarking 75 years since the atomic bombings. The article of the interview was included in July/August special issue of their monthly journal on non-proliferation and global security "Arms Control Today."



Cover of July/August issue of the “Arms Control Today”

In the interview, President Matsui stated: “The current global coronavirus pandemic is a transboundary crisis that touches us all. We are experiencing firsthand that we can confront and defeat common threats through solidarity and cooperation. Based on what we have learned from this experience, we must build a robust global coalition of citizens everywhere to address and solve global security challenges, especially nuclear weapons. We must not take action based on self-centered nationalism.”

He also reinforced: “Mayors for Peace conveys the realities of the atomic bombings and works to increase the number of people who share in the *hibakusha*’s message. In this way, we can build a consensus among global civil society that the elimination of nuclear weapons is key to the peaceful future we need. This consensus will serve as the foundation for a collaborative international environment in which policymakers around the world can take decisive steps forward toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons.”

Regarding younger generations, he expressed his expectation that: “they will start thinking about the preciousness of their daily lives, which are supported by rules based on mutual trust. Hopefully, they will then understand that this is exactly what peace is and think what they can do to preserve it and take action.”

▼ Visit the link below to read the full text of the article (ACA’s website):

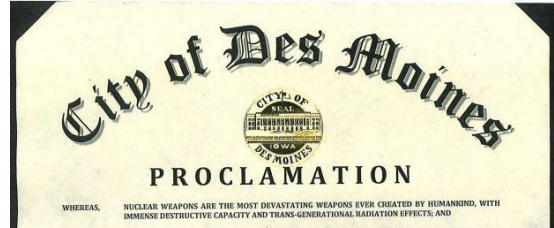
<https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2020-07/features/freeing-world-nuclear-weapons-arms-control-today-interviews-hiroshima-mayor>

■ Member City activities

<Des Moines, US>

Des Moines Iowa Mayor Frank Cownie Proclaims “Back from the Brink: The Call to Prevent Nuclear War Day”

(Report by Ms. Jacqueline Cabasso, the Executive
Advisor for Mayors for Peace)



On June 22, 2020 Mayors for Peace Vice-President Mayor Frank Cownie of Des Moines, Iowa signed a proclamation declaring the day, “Back from the Brink: The Call to Prevent Nuclear War Day”, in solidarity with the growing Back from the Brink campaign.

Noting that “the United States is obligated under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to take concrete steps to eliminate its nuclear arsenal” the Proclamation concludes:

“Des Moines, Iowa calls on the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

- renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- ending the sole, unchecked authority of any president to launch a nuclear attack;
- taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert;
- cancelling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons; and
- actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.”

The Proclamation also calls on the United States to welcome the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

▼ Read the full report (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/2020Jun_DesMoines.html

▼ Read the full text of the Proclamation (Des Moines City website):

https://cms2.revize.com/revize/desmoines/document_center/City%20Clerk/Proclamations/2020/Back%20from%20the%20Brink%20-%20The%20Call%20to%20Prevent%20Nuclear%20War%20Day.pdf?pdf=Proclamation&t=1594590543052&pdf=Proclamation&t=1594590543052

▼ Learn more about the Back from the Brink; the Call to Prevent Nuclear War Campaign:

<https://www.preventnuclearwar.org/>

<<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 July 14):

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

Regional chapter activities

<German Chapter>

Flag Day of German Members of Mayors for Peace

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



(Photos: courtesy of the City of Hannover)

On July 8, the Mayors for Peace flag was hoisted in front of many town halls in over 350 German cities. The Flag Day, an annual initiative by German members of Mayors for Peace since 2012, is a reminder of a legal opinion handed down by the International Court of Justice on July 8, 1996, concluding that even the threat of using nuclear weapons is an offence against international law. Flying the flag on this day signifies opposition to nuclear weapons and hope for a peaceful world.

Mayor Belit Onay of Hannover, a Vice-President City of Mayors for Peace and the Lead City of the German Chapter explains: "75 years after the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, some 13,400 nuclear weapons still threaten humankind. Nuclear arms control is in a deep crisis. We must therefore take the nuclear threat as seriously as climate change in the future. We, Mayors for Peace, are committed to

the worldwide abolition of nuclear weapons. We call for the accession of all states, including the nuclear powers, to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons adopted at the United Nations in 2017."

The celebration in the great hall of the New City Hall marked the beginning of the event series Peace 2020+ of the City of Hannover on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Flag Day also included an interactive presentation "On the way to Global Zero" on milestones in nuclear disarmament efforts. Representatives of the Council, the Hiroshima Alliance, the German-Japanese Society, the German-Japanese Friendship Circle, the Peace Bureau Hannover and other civil society actors took part in the event.

▼ Related story on the German Mayors for Peace website in German:

<https://www.hannover.de/Leben-in-der-Region-Hannover/Politik/Politische-Gremien/Mayors-for-Peace/Aktivitäten/Flaggentag-der-Bürgermeister-für-den-Frieden>

<UK and Ireland Chapter>

UK and Ireland Chapter webinar held to discuss progress, peace education developments and commemorating important anniversaries

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

The UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter held a webinar on the 3rd July to provide its member authorities and NGO groups with a progress report and to allow a discussion on how to commemorate important summer peace anniversaries. The meeting was the first opportunity, since the Covid-19 outbreak had created a lockdown of activity across the UK and Ireland, to discuss the development of Mayors for Peace.

The Chapter Secretary Sean Morris gave a detailed progress report on local, national, European and global Mayors for Peace activity. This included an appeal made to members to support local events commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre and the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks. Sean's colleague Elena Tompkins provided a presentation on her 10 days placement earlier in the year working within the Hiroshima Mayors for Peace Secretariat and understanding how it presents the message of the *hibakusha*. Chrissie Waite and Juli Hammersley of Peace Partners concluded the webinar by providing a case study of their peace education programme which they have delivered with councils, schools, public institutions and community groups.

There are plans to hold a follow-up Chapter webinar in the autumn and to cooperate within other lead cities as the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace develops later this year.

▼ Link for presentations from the Chapter webinar (hosted on the NFLA website):

<https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/presentations/uk-ireland-mayors-provosts-and-leaders-for-peace-seminar-3-july-2020/>

▼ Remember Srebrenica website:

<https://www.srebrenica.org.uk/>

■ Report by Executive Advisor

<UN Hosts Disarmament Lecture for Northeast Asian Students by Mr. Randy Rydell, the Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace>

The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA) hosted a 90-minute virtual meeting on 11 June featuring a lecture by Mayors for Peace Executive Advisor Randy Rydell on the history, institutions, norms, processes, and challenges of disarmament.



(Photo: courtesy of UN Office for Disarmament Affairs)

This was the first of a series of training webinars for a Steering Committee of nine students from China, Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea, in preparation for a two-day UN workshop on disarmament and nonproliferation issues later this year. UN staff in Beijing, Kathmandu, and New York, as well as from ODA and the UN's Department of Peacebuilding and Political Affairs, assisted in organizing the meeting.

The purpose of this UN initiative is to construct a common forum for youths to discuss peace and security in the region as a possible foundation for a future intergovernmental forum on these issues, while also advancing the disarmament agenda of UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

Rydell noted that young people comprise the largest generation in history; they represent an enormously important constituency of disarmament both today and over the years to come. He encouraged youths everywhere, regardless of their special interests, to get involved in promoting disarmament goals. He presented disarmament as a field rich with opportunities across the full spectrum of academic and professional specialties. He urged youths to engage in the following activities: read; network; train; write; and organize. He concluded, "Disarmament is one of the greatest causes in world history, in terms of its implications for all countries, all peoples everywhere, and future generations. Be part of it!"

For further information on ODA's training courses, see the office's "Disarmament Education Dashboard" at: <https://www.disarmamenteducation.org/index.php?go=education>.

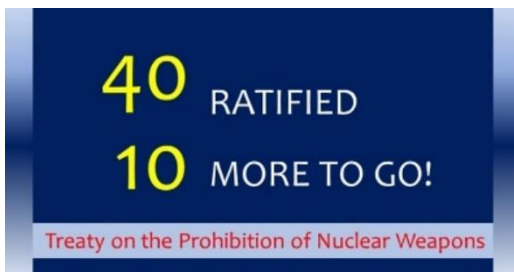
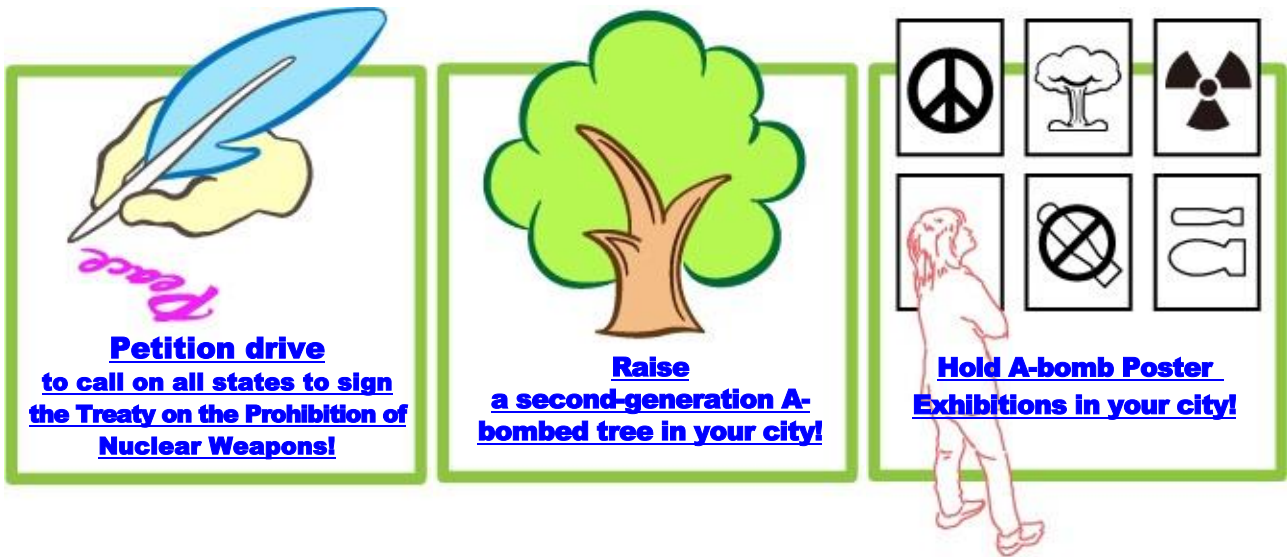
Request to promote various measures based on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020)

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:



On July 7, the 3rd anniversary of the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Fiji ratified the treaty. Botswana also ratified on July 15, bringing a total of 40 nations as the States Parties of the TPNW. 10 more to go to make the treaty enter into force! In order for the Treaty to become a fully effective legal instrument for nuclear abolition, we believe it essential for all states, including the nuclear-armed states and their allies, to join this Treaty. Through the above mentioned petition drive, let us spread our appeal for peace, which is the path toward a world free of nuclear weapons, and create a powerful movement to urge all states to participate in the Treaty as soon as possible!

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.

▼ Call for Input on the Mayors for Peace website:

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

■ Mayors for Peace member cities - 7,909 cities in 164 countries/regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on July 1, we gained 3 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 7,909.



(Photo: courtesy of the City of Warsaw)

We welcomed the City of Warsaw, the capital of Poland as a member. Last August, President Matsui visited Warsaw and invited the city to join Mayors for Peace. Now we have 119 capital cities as our members.

From Germany, the Cities of Neumünster and Teupitz joined thanks to the continued efforts of Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.

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/newmembers2007_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

■Peace news from Hiroshima

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

August 6, 2020, the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, fast approaches. The city finds itself in circumstances nobody could have imagined around this time last year. Still, things have gradually begun moving ahead.

Among the buildings that survived the atomic bombing, the A-bomb Dome is the closest to the hypocenter. The second closest is the Rest House, which stands in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park on the west side of the Motoyasu River. After undergoing renovations, the building reopened on July 1 after a two-and-a-half-year hiatus.

The Rest House was originally built as the Taishoya Kimono Shop in 1929. At the time of the bombing, the building was named the Fuel Hall. Among the 37 people who were working in this building 170 meters from the hypocenter, only Eizo Nomura, who was in the basement, survived. In 1982, the Hiroshima City government opened the Rest House as a tourist information office and a souvenir shop.

With the renovation work, the color of the building's exterior walls and the shape of its roof were made to more closely resemble the original appearance. The Rest House includes a tourist information office, a souvenir shop, and a rest-and-relaxation spot with a café. On the second floor, a piano that was exposed to the atomic bombing is on permanent display. The piano belonged to Akiko Kawamoto, who died in the atomic bombing at the age of 19. In the exhibit room on the third floor, visitors can get a sense of the Nakajima district, which later became Peace Memorial Park, and how shops and homes lined its streets. In the basement, Mr. Nomura's experience of miraculously surviving the bombing can be learned through his notes, paintings, and photographs taken after World War II.

According to Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the number of Atomic Bomb Survivor's Certificate holders was 136,682 as of the end of March 2020. That number has fallen annually from its peak of more than 370,000 at the end of March 1981. While the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to impact many aspects of our lives, the new site for conveying memories of the atomic bombing to future generations will certainly play an ever more significant role.

Please see the following for more peace-related news.

Children's Peace Monument paper-crane donations decline sharply, affecting projects that use the recycled paper
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=98615>

Fukuyama Technical High School students develop tablet app for virtual exploration of pre-bombing Hiroshima
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=98886>

On August 6, seven Hiroshima A-bomb survivors' groups to urge Japanese government to sign and ratify nuclear weapons ban treaty
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=98878>

Peace Memorial Museum once again begins to accept group visitors, resumes sessions for sharing A-bomb survivors' experiences
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=98943>

Peace Memorial Park's Rest House reopens after two-and-a-half-year renovation, displays Hiroshima cityscape prior to atomic bombing
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=98882>

In FY2020 action plan, Nihon Hidankyo urges Japanese government to strive for abolition of nuclear weapons
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=98941>

As survivors continue to age 75 years after war's end, number of A-bomb Survivor's Certificate holders dips below 140,000
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=98959>

■ 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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