



Mayors for Peace News Flash

November 2020 / No.131

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

7,968 cities

in 165 countries and regions

(as of November 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.

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Member city recruitment model cases

Mayors for Peace aims to achieve 10,000 member cities to foster international public support for the realization of a world without nuclear weapons. To encourage recruitment of new members, we showcase model cases that have led to gaining new members.

● Model case in Germany by the City of Hannover

As of November 1, 2020, the number of German member cities reached 700. This record was achieved thanks to the continued efforts of Hannover, one of our Vice President Cities and Lead City of the German Chapter of Mayors for Peace.

Hannover has carried out variety of events involving many German member cities, such as Flag Day and regional conferences, and provided up-to-date information introducing activities on the [German Chapter's website](#). In addition, the Chapter Secretariat's staff has been consistently communicating with non-member cities in Germany and asking them to join our organization, and the number of member cities in Germany continues to grow.

(New member cities in Germany: | 2017: 68 | 2018: 71 | 2019: 69 |)



Annual “Flag Day” initiative

Germany is now home to the third largest number of member cities of Mayors for Peace in the world after Japan and Iran.

Please take inspiration from the model cases that we introduce here to invite other cities in your country, as well as your sister cities and any other cities with which you have relations to join Mayors for Peace. You can download a letter of request and document pack (ten languages) below.

▼ Letters of request to join Mayors for Peace and documents packs

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/outlines/join.html#section01>

<<Please send a report on your city's successful recruiting activity>>

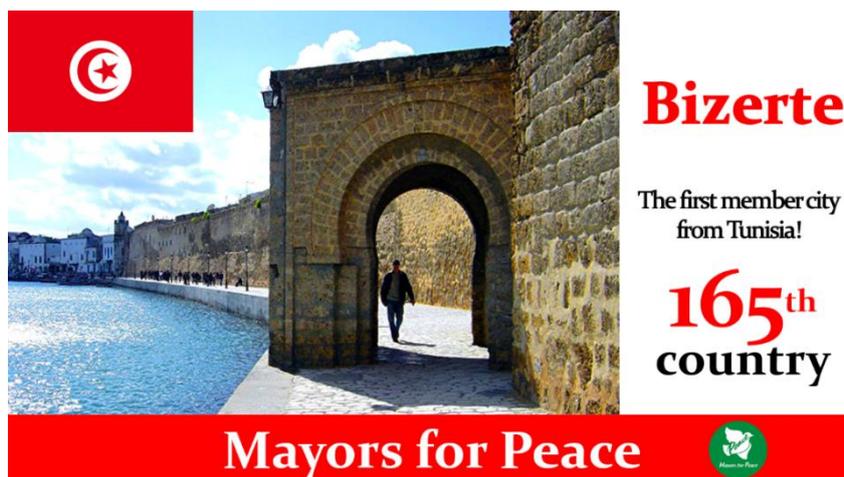
The Secretariat is looking for model cases of recruiting new members. We would like to share cases which will encourage other member cities in the News Flash. Please contact us if your city has any model cases.

Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■ Mayors for Peace member cities - 7,968 cities in 165 countries/regions

On November 1, we gained 7 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 7,968. We thank all involved in promoting expanded membership for their invaluable support. Below is the breakdown of the new members.

Country	New Members	Total	Remarks
South Korea	1	15	Thanks to efforts by No Gun Ri International Peace Foundation.
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1	2	This was the first member registration from Democratic Republic of the Congo in 10 years.
Tunisia	1	1	Thanks to efforts by the Minister Plenipotentiary of Tunisia to Japan and in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Affairs and Environment in Tunisia. It is the country's first member.
Germany	3	700	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
UK	1	83	Thanks to efforts by Manchester, a Vice President and Lead City.



▼ List of new members (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/03_newmembers/2020/newmembers2011_en.pdf

▼ Membership by country

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/01_monthly_updating/07_membership_by_country_en.pdf

■ Member city activities

● Yeongdong, South Korea No Gun Ri Global Peace Forum

On November 1, Mayors for Peace welcomed Yeongdong as the 15th member city from South Korea.

In 2014, Mayors for Peace was awarded the No Gun Ri Peace Prize by the No Gun Ri International Peace Foundation, based in Yeongdong. Since then, Mayors for Peace and the Foundation have continued exchange through the cultivation of a second-generation atomic bomb survivor tree in Yeongdong.

Between November 10 – 12, in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Korean War and the No Gun Ri Incident, the Foundation held the No Gun Ri Global Peace Forum in Yeongdong. At the Forum, a video message from President Matsui of Mayors for Peace was shown, calling the participants to strive together to realize lasting world peace. In addition, a ceremony celebrating Yeongdong joining Mayors for Peace was held, in which Secretary General Koizumi presented the Governor with Yeongdong's certification of membership online. A video of Mr. Koizumi giving a presentation on Mayors for Peace activities and initiatives was also played during the “Symposium with Previous No Gun Ri Peace Prize Winners.”



(Photos: Courtesy of the NOGUNRI 70th Anniversary Committee Secretariat)

■ Regional chapter activities

● Catalan Chapter 3rd World Forum on Cities and Territories of Peace starts with ‘Road to the Forum’ virtual programme

Report by Ms. Helena Aranda Mayor, the City of Granollers, Spain

The 3rd World Forum on Cities and Territories of Peace started in October with the virtual programme 'Road to the Forum.' It was a series of online meetings addressing the importance of building coexistence and peace in cities and territories, as well as the need to identify the causes of tension and violence, in order to implement public policies, programmes, and citizen initiatives that help to build culture and education for peace.

The Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace has been involved in the organization of the past two Forums, held in Madrid in 2017 and 2018. Both brought together mayors, international local leaders, personalities from civil society, and great thinkers for an exchange of experiences, strategies, campaigns, and policies focusing on exchanging views on the various forms of violence affecting cities and territories.

This year, between 5 – 7 October, 16 online sessions took place with the collaboration of 102 panellists and moderators from 18 different countries, attracting more than 10,000 viewers through Zoom, YouTube and social media. They provided input for the on-site meeting to be held in Mexico City (a Vice President City and Lead City of Mayors for Peace) in April 2021.

- **European Chapter**

Invitation to Joint Webinar “European Peace and Security through the 2020s”

The European Chapter of Mayors for Peace invites all Member Cities to attend a webinar that the Chapter is hosting jointly with NFLA and ICAN on European peace and security on December 4 from 10:15 am to 1 pm (CET) on Zoom and YouTube. The webinar will bring together mayors and experts on nuclear disarmament and concentrate on the important role of local towns and cities in creating safe, resilient, sustainable, and more peaceful communities.

▼ See the flyer for more details and registration:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/data/2020/M4P_European_Webinar.pdf

Audience with Pope Francis for Mayor Knez of Biograd na Moru, representing the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace

Report by Ms. Jasminka Bajlo, the City of Biograd na Moru, Croatia

A private audience with Pope Francis for Mayor Ivan Knez of Biograd na Moru, representing the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace, was held on October 21 in the Vatican. This audience was aimed to convey the message of nuclear disarmament and peace from the European Chapter directly to the Holy Father.

This audience was originally scheduled for April 19, but got postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mayor Mayoral of Granollers, the Chair of the Chapter, was also a member of this delegation, but had to cancel his travel due to the pandemic and indispensable obligations.

Mayor Knez and Jasminka Bajlo of the City of Biograd na Moru were present at the audience in Pope John II Audience Hall, and were honored by sitting in the first row (called *baciamano*, “kissing hand”). Upon entering the almost empty hall, which could accommodate 6,500 visitors, the Holy Father excused himself for not approaching and shaking hands, given the current circumstances.

Mayor Knez had prepared a gift for the Pope from the Chapter, a small-scale replica of the *origami* paper-crane monument on the waterfront in Biograd na Moru titled “The Bird of Peace.”



(Photos: Courtesy of the City of Biograd na Moru)

● German Chapter

Peace 2020+ event series implemented digitally

Report by Ms. Evelyn Kamissek, the City of Hannover, Germany

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, five lecture and discussion events in the "Peace 2020+" series planned as an on-site event in Hannover were instead held as a ZOOM conference in November.

In commemoration of 75 years since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the City of Hannover and many of its cooperation partners held an extensive series of events under this year's motto—"Peace 2020+: Responsibility – Preservation – Making." Topics of current peace and conflict research and disarmament policy were also on the programme.

We offered online lectures to the members of the German Chapter as well as peace organizations and the interested public.

▼ See the link below for details:

<https://www.hannover.de/Service/Presse-Medien/Landeshauptstadt-Hannover/Aktuelle-Meldungen-und-Veranstaltungen/%22Frieden-2020-%22-Veranstaltungsreihe-wird-digital-umgesetzt>



Mayors for Peace flag in front of Hannover Town Hall
(Photo: Courtesy of and the copyrighted material of the City of Hannover)

<<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.

Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

▼ List of peace events as based on those in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (in October):

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

<<Please update your city's information on our information system>>

We are now updating the member cities' information registered on our database. Please log-in to the Mayors for Peace Information System (link below), and update your city's information.

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

If your city has trouble logging-in, please contact the Mayors for Peace Secretariat at:

mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■ Report by Executive Advisor

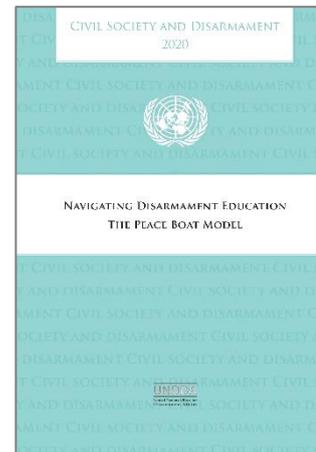
UNODA and Peace Boat Launch New Disarmament Book

Report by Mr. Randy Rydell, the Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace

On 3 November, the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and Peace Boat held a webinar to launch their new book, [Navigating Disarmament Education: The Peace Boat Model](#). The webinar featured statements by UN High Representative Izumi Nakamitsu, Peace Boat co-authors Sumiko Hatakeyama and Akira Kawasaki, and two guest speakers, Dr. Kathleen Sullivan (of the NGO *Hibakusha Stories*) and Dr. Randy Rydell (Mayors for Peace).

The book discusses that it calls the three “pillars” of disarmament education, which it defines as empathy, knowledge, and skills. Empathy serves to show how disarmament is fundamental to the human spirit, by highlighting the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons in particular, as poignantly described by the *hibakusha*. Knowledge refers to the need to learn the basic substantive details of the disarmament on all its dimensions—political, economic, social, and technological. And Skills address the question of “how” to advance disarmament through specific types of actions by citizens everywhere.

The book, which is in English but may later be available in various translations, is available online (free of charge) at: <https://front.un-arm.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/civil-society-2020-web.pdf>.



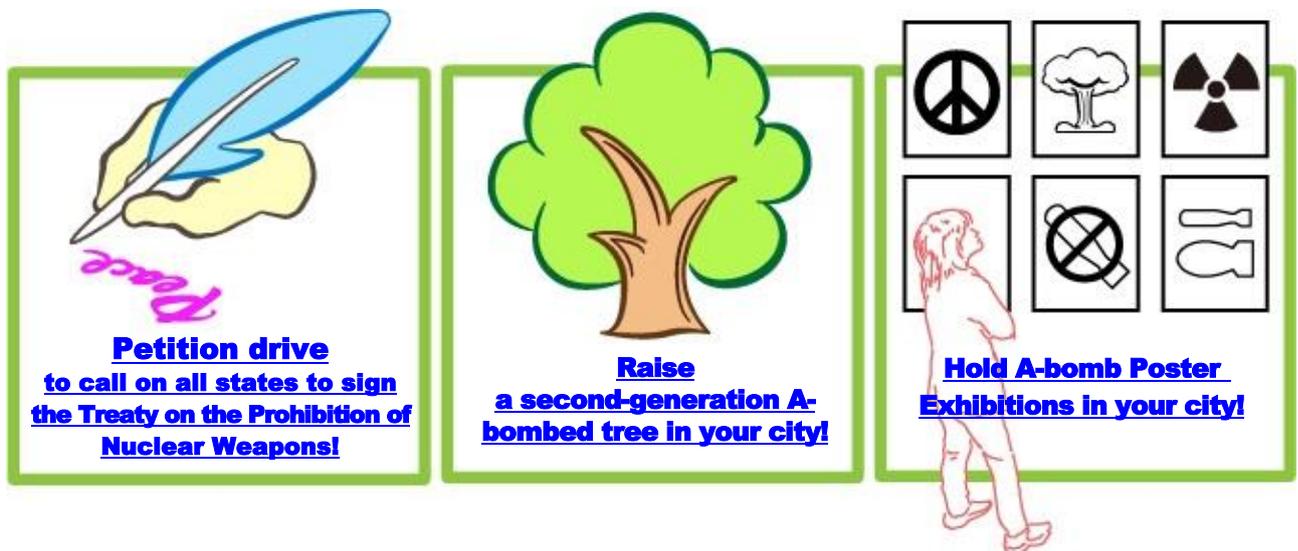
■ Request to promote various measures based on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020)

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.

▼ Call for Input on the Mayors for Peace website:

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

■ 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.

We ask each member city to pay a fee of 2,000 Japanese yen (about 19 USD/18 EUR 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

Note: Avoiding excess payments of the membership fee

If an error message is displayed while making a payment with a credit card, **please do not attempt to pay again** but instead inform the Secretariat.

The payment system occasionally displays an error message even when the transaction is complete.

■ Peace news from Hiroshima

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

A special exhibit titled “A Tale of Two Brothers Across Time – Hiroshima Artist Gorō SHIKOKU and the Diary of Naoto on His Deathbed” has opened at the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, located in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. With its timeframe being extended by two months, the exhibit is scheduled to conclude at the end of February 2021.

The painter Goro Shikoku (1924-2014) was drafted into the Japanese military and found himself in the former Manchuria (northeast region of China) at the end of World War II, after which he was detained in harsh conditions in a Siberian labor camp. In the interim, he lost his beloved younger brother, Naoto, in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Starting at the time when Japan was still occupied by U.S.-led forces, Mr. Shikoku consistently conveyed anti-war and anti-nuclear messages through his paintings and poems. He was engaged in peace activities designed to evade the constraints of government control over freedom of speech. For example, Mr. Shikoku illustrated the book cover of the poet Sankichi Toge’s book Atom Bomb Poetry. He also illustrated posters with combinations of paintings and antiwar poems used in the resistance movement by activists who pasted them, guerrilla-like, on walls in the streets. Mr. Shikoku drew illustrations for the children’s picture-book The Angry Jizo, which was published in 1979. The book, considered a masterpiece, has been read by successive generations since that time.

Although the exhibit has been extended, the coronavirus pandemic continues to present a huge obstacle preventing people around the world from visiting Hiroshima in person. Amid such a situation, Ann Sherif, a professor at Oberlin College in the U.S. state of Ohio, created an English website to communicate to the public information about Mr. Shikoku’s artwork and life. About 50 pieces are introduced on the website with detailed explanations. The site’s URL is as follows: <http://scalar.oberlincollegelibrary.org/shikoku/index>.

In October, the number of nations ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at last reached 50, which led to the treaty being scheduled to enter into force on January 22, next year. The A-bomb survivors as well as the citizens in the A-bombed cities who have determined to carry on the legacy of the A-bombing experiences from the survivors appear to be truly thrilled at the ban-treaty news. The starting point of the treaty was the international community’s resolution never to repeat the suffering experienced by the A-bomb victims who were forced to die in the war, the survivors who have lived through hardship following the atomic bombings, and the bereaved families of the victims. Mr. Shikoku’s artwork has stirred the imagination of viewers and forced them to consider what happened the day of the atomic bombing and how the survivors have suffered since then, regardless of the elapsed time since the bombing and the geographical distance from Hiroshima.

Please see the following for more peace-related news.

After campaign is extended, over 12 million signatures calling for nuclear abolition to be submitted to UN in January next year

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=101458>

Precise geographic coordinates of hypocenter confirmed by former assistant at Hiroshima University

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=101616>

TPNW’s entry into force provides ray of hope to Hiroshima’s earnest desire for nuclear abolition: A-bomb survivors vow to continue speaking out

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=101907>

Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato says government position remains unchanged and is cautious about participation as observer

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=101923>

US professor starts English website to introduce artwork and activities of Goro Shikoku, anti-war and anti-nuclear artist

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=102035>

■ 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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