

The Sun Setting on Nuclear Weapons

as the treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
came into force on January 21, 2021
and Fremantle celebrates with two events.



More than 100 people celebrated the sun setting together on this great day with speeches, food, drink, and music. Along with master of ceremonies Adrian Glamorgan (Mayors for Peace), speakers included Dr Tarun Weeramanthri (for Red Cross IHL and Public Health Association of Australia), Hon Melissa Parke (ICAN Ambassador and UN Human Rights Commission), and Sanchita Gera (local medical student from Medical Association for the Prevention of War), along with former senator Jo Vallentine (who made history in 1984 when she was elected to the Australian Senate as the world's first single-issue peace politician).



Entertainment was provided by local musicians, including singer songwriter Ali Tapper and drummers from Taiko On Perth. A crescendo of drumming was followed by a minute's silence at the very moment the sun set. The cheers and joy after that silence were from the relief and hope that this Treaty will work to end nuclear weapons.

Federal Member for Fremantle, Josh Wilson, was amongst the many who made this photo statement to the Australian government, requesting it plays its part in supporting the TPNW.





Earlier that afternoon, the City of Fremantle hosted an *hibakusha* testimony online from Hiroshima thanks to Peace Boat Hibakusha Project Online. About 30 people met Ito Masao sharing memories and images from Hiroshima's ordeal in August 1945. Ito san also spoke of the Treaty (the TPNW) coming into force, and answered questions about Japan's position in not supporting the Treaty being unacceptable to *hibakusha*. Elizabeth PO' from Mayors for Peace Fremantle introduced the session, and Fremantle's Mayor Brad Pettitt gave the closing

Mayor Pettitt (pictured here) spoke of the role Fremantle has in Mayors for Peace, and the importance of sharing stories, as Mr Ito's account "reminds us of the necessity to rid the world of these terrible weapons," he said. "Today marks a significant moment in history for nuclear weapons. Today there is a new Treaty arriving in international law, named the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This is a treaty that will not just ban nuclear weapons, also the threat of their use, and their financing. And even though our respective countries of Australia and Japan have not yet signed onto this Treaty, we are sure all countries will benefit from it. In this time of global pandemic, with so much anxiety and discord around the world, perhaps this Treaty is a sign that there is still hope for humanity. "



Attendees at the City of Fremantle link up with Peace Boat Hibakusha Project Online.