



Mayors for Peace News Flash

January 2021 / No.133

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

8,002 cities

in 165 countries and regions

(as of January 1, 2021)

Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!

Check our website and follow us on SNS:

Website 

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

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

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Mayors for Peace membership passes 8,000!

On January 1, we welcomed 28 new member cities, leading us to surpass 8,000 member cities. We truly appreciate our Lead Cities and member cities for their long-term support. The following are our recent initiatives for expanding membership and messages from related organizations and bodies that work with us.

Recent initiatives for expanding membership

● Recruitment by the President

President Matsui (Mayor of Hiroshima) asks ambassadors and representatives attending the Peace Memorial Ceremony, held annually on August 6 in Hiroshima, to invite municipalities in their countries to join Mayors for Peace. This has resulted in many new member cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jordan, and other countries. He also takes opportunities presented by various occasions to talk to people about our initiatives and ask for support in membership expansion. These have included meetings with government officials and attending a meeting of the African Diplomatic Corps, a group of African ambassadors to Japan.



- **Recruitment by the Secretary General**

In 2020, Secretary General Koizumi visited eight embassies in Tokyo, where he requested ambassadors' support in expanding our network in person. All the ambassadors were enthusiastic about Mayors for Peace activities, and followed up with proactive information sharing with relevant bodies in their home countries. For example, the Mongolian embassy has encouraged all provinces in Mongolia to join Mayors for Peace.



- **Recruitment by Lead Cities**

Hannover, the Lead City of Germany, has carried out variety of events, such as Flag Day, regional conferences, and providing up-to-date information on their website. As a result of these continued activities, the number of member cities in Germany passed 700 in November 2020.



In Ypres, the Lead City of Belgium, Mayor Talpe sent out an invitation letter to all cities in Belgium that are not yet members, and more than 20 cities joined our network. This means that as of today, 395 of the 581 (more than 2/3) Belgian cities are members of Mayors for Peace.

Manchester, the Lead City of the UK and Ireland, has held regional conferences and regularly issued newsletters to inform members about Mayors for Peace activities. In 2020, the Lord Mayor of Dublin and the Lord Mayor of Manchester sent an invitation letter to all councils in Ireland, leading to an increase in new members.

Messages of congratulations

Message from Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

I am pleased to send my heartfelt congratulations to Mayors for Peace for reaching 8,000 member cities. This impressive milestone provides a fitting start to 2021, the "International Year of Peace and Trust".

I would also like to commend Mayors for Peace for its dedicated work under the leadership of Mr. Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima, paving the way to a world without nuclear weapons.

Most of the world's population today lives in cities. So, if the mayors of the world are uniting, the world is uniting. With your continued dedication, I am confident the goal of 10,000 cities united for peace is within reach.



Message from Mr. Peter Maurer, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

I warmly congratulate Mayors for Peace for reaching the important milestone of 8000 member cities. Your tireless efforts about four decades have united people from all over the world around a common goal: to ensure that no city ever experiences the unspeakable suffering caused by the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Nuclear weapons are a common threat to human security. They are inhumane, immoral and illegal under international law, as signaled by the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear weapons soon to enter into force. Cities and their people have played a crucial role in this historic development.



Message from Ms. Beatrice Fihn, the Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

On behalf of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) I would like to express our congratulations and also our excitement that Mayors for Peace has achieved the very impressive milestone of 8,000 cities in 165 countries and regions. This achievement reflects the breadth of support at the grassroots level for the enduring message of peace that you have been promoting successfully for so many years.



Mayors for Peace has been a leading light in our shared endeavour of achieving nuclear disarmament and making the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) a success. The leadership of Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima and Mayor Taue of Nagasaki has been inspirational to governments and civil society alike and we deeply appreciate the support that you have shown for the ICAN Cities Appeal, which was itself inspired by the mission of Mayors for Peace.

We look forward to many more years of fruitful partnership and collaboration!

Mayors for Peace will continue to work on expanding its membership to achieve 10,000 member cities to foster international public support for the realization of ‘a world without nuclear weapons.’ Please help us achieve this goal.

 Related page on Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/210125_news.html

Release of the 2020 Vision Executive Report

In October 2003, Mayors for Peace launched the 2020 Vision, a set of concrete action guidelines aiming for the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020. Based on this Vision, Mayors for Peace has promoted various initiatives in collaboration with the member cities and international NGOs. As the 2020 Vision reached its end at the end of the year 2020, we have put together the 2020 Vision Executive Report, summarizing our initiatives, activities, and achievements.

 The report is available on the Mayors for Peace website:
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/210128_news.html

A new Vision and a new Action Plan are to be developed and adopted at the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, which was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and is now planned to be held around August 2021. The current Action Plan will temporarily remain effective until then, and initiatives and activities based on it continue to be implemented.

Selection Results: Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2020


Since 2018, Mayors for Peace has held the annual Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns,” in order to further promote peace education in member cities around the world.

For the 2020 competition, its third iteration, a total of 3,122 artworks were submitted to 99 member cities in 19 countries. The number exceeded that of last year’s submissions thanks to our members’ efforts. The artworks went through a screening process handled by their respective member cities, after which a total of 466 works were sent to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat in Hiroshima. The final screening was conducted by the Secretariat, and 12 artworks were awarded prizes.

The prize-winning artworks are now displayed on the Mayors for Peace website (link below) with each artist’s message of peace that inspired their work. The winner of the Mayors for Peace President’s Award is now being printed on plastic folders, which we will use as a tool to conduct outreach regarding the importance of peace education. We distribute these plastic folders in a variety of settings, such as UN conferences or when asking ambassadors in Japan for their support in expanding our membership in their respective countries.



The submission won the Mayors for Peace President’s Award by Negar Gheibi (8 years old, Bandar Abbas, Iran)

 Selection results: Mayors for Peace Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2020:
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/vision/initiatives/2020_Art_Competition_result.html

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has entered into force

On October 24 last year, Honduras ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the treaty reached its 50th ratification. 90 days later, on January 22, the treaty entered into force. (See the report below by our new Executive Advisor Mr. Thomas Hajnoczi.)

In October last year, Mayors for Peace [issued an open letter to national governments](#), and [held a special ceremony to commemorate and celebrate the occasion](#). On January 23, the day after the treaty's entry into force, we held an online commemorative event with *hibakusha* (atomic bomb survivors) and peace organizations connecting Tokyo, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki. Events held around the world to celebrate the treaty's entry into force will be reported on in the February issue of News Flash.

Report by Executive Advisor

The political significance of the TPNW

Report by Mr. Thomas Hajnoczi, the Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace

The TPNW is demonstrating effects on all states, not only its States Parties.

The nuclear weapon states (NWS) themselves testify to the TPNW's effectiveness by their campaign against it—they could have ignored it.

The history of disarmament treaties shows that only after a prohibition the elimination is undertaken. The TPNW creates an indispensable basis on which further legal and practical steps can build leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The TPNW underscores that nuclear weapons are in fundamental contradiction to humanitarian values and international law. Since Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the use of nuclear weapons has been considered a violation of international humanitarian law. The required clarity of the illegality has finally been established by the TPNW.

The TPNW demands that states must not build their security on reliance on nuclear weapons. Counting on nuclear deterrence for future defense, means to perpetuate the existence of nuclear weapons and oppose their elimination. This fact reveals the self-contradiction of umbrella states who favour nuclear disarmament in speeches, but counteract it in reality. Given the broad public support for joining the TPNW, a serious debate is needed to cause a change of position.

The growing trend to disinvest from companies involved in the nuclear weapons industry is another effect of the TPNW.

The global impact of nuclear weapons implies that all states have a stake and a say in nuclear disarmament. Therefore, the TPNW treats all states at equal level without privileges for NWS.

Civil society has played a decisive role and could participate in the negotiations of the TPNW. This has set a new standard for future disarmament negotiations.

 Click the link below to see the full report:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/210128_news_2.html

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.


- **Recruitment by Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Japan**

H.E. Mr. Sinisa Berjan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Japan, attended the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony last August, and was impressed by the initiatives of Mayors for Peace. As a result, while back in Bosnia and Herzegovina, he visited municipalities and actively invited them to join Mayors for Peace. On December 18, he visited Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima (President of Mayors for Peace) and directly handed over registration forms submitted by 26 municipalities in response to the Ambassador's request.



Ambassador Berjan stated that he had told municipalities about Mayors for Peace's aim of achieving 10,000 member cities to expand its network of municipalities seeking lasting world peace. He offered his continued support in achieving the registration of all municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina as Mayors for Peace members.

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 document pack
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/aboutus/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

- **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 December):
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/04_list_of_activities/monthly/2020_December_List_of_Activities_en.pdf

Regional chapter activities

● European Chapter


European Chapter holds influential webinar on nuclear disarmament and peaceful cities

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

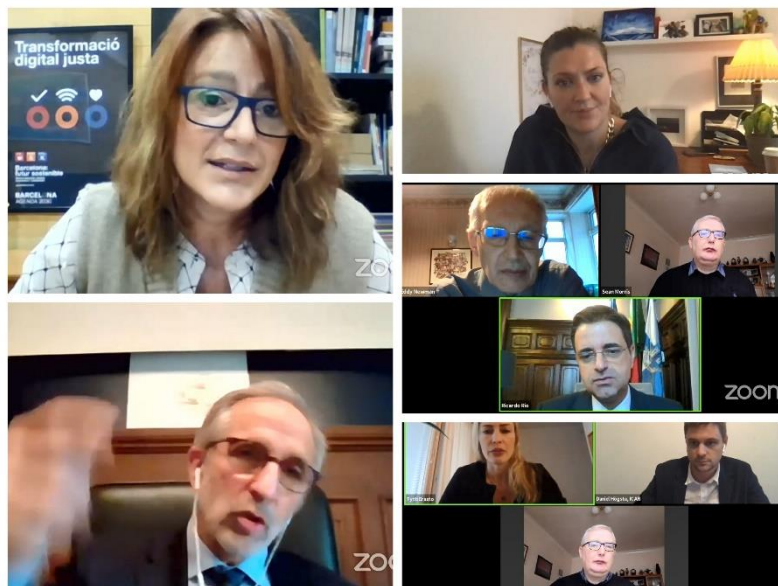
The newly established European Mayors for Peace Chapter held its inaugural webinar in December. It discussed the nuclear weapons issue, as well as focusing on ways municipalities can promote safe, resilient and more peaceful towns and cities around Europe. The webinar was organised in conjunction with ICAN and the UK & Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA), with support from the Provincial Council of Barcelona.

The webinar looked at the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and its interaction with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It included presentations from Dr Tytti Erasto from SIPRI and case studies from the Mayor of Oslo, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona, the Mayor of Grigny and Daniel Hogsta from ICAN.

The webinar also included case studies from the former Lord Mayor of Manchester Cllr Eddy Newman and the Mayor of Braga, representing the Global Parliament of Mayors, on initiatives to promote peaceful cities around Europe. Over 200 attended the webinar, and it has helped focus the Chapter's work into 2021.

 Weblink (with link to the YouTube recording of the webinar):


http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activities/2020Dec_EC_webinar.html



Mayors for Peace member cities - 8,002 cities in 165 countries/regions

On January 1, we gained 28 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,002. 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
Japan	1	1734	Yasu (Shiga prefecture) joined. 7 more cities until all Japanese municipalities join.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	24	38	Thanks to efforts by the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Japan.
Germany	1	704	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
Ireland	1	12	Thanks to efforts by Manchester, a Vice President and Lead City.
Spain	1	394	Continuing from December, a new city joined.

 List of new members (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/03_newmembers/2021/newmembers2101_en.pdf

 Membership by country

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

Request to promote various measures based on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan

At the 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace held in Nagasaki in August 2017, we developed our Action Plan (2017-2020*), 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.

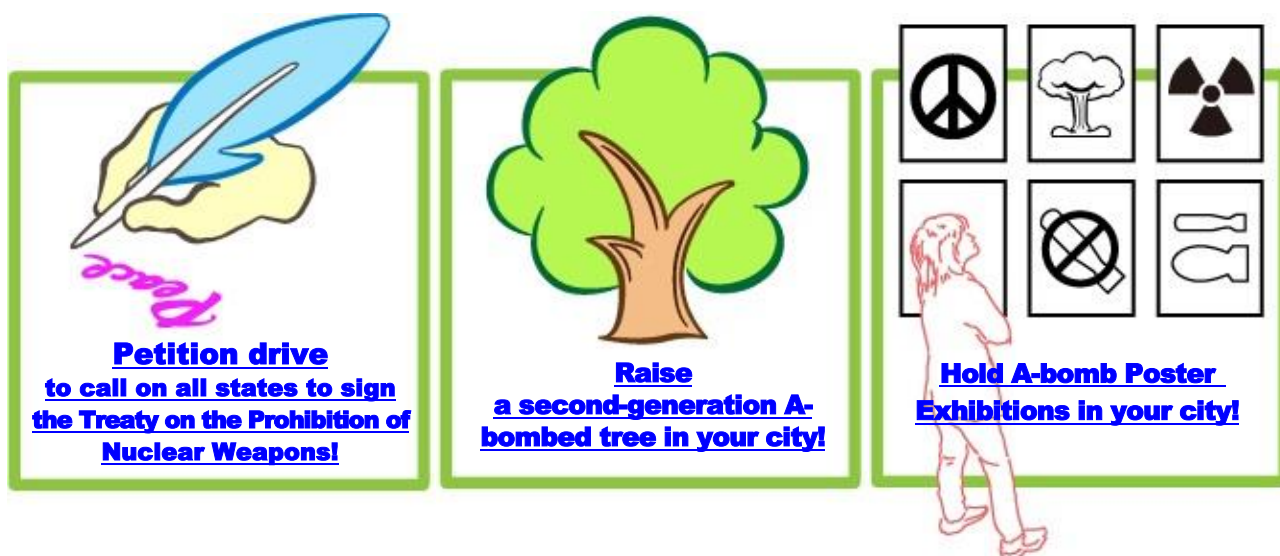
*A new Action Plan is to be developed and adopted at the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, which was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and is now planned to be held around August 2021. The current Action Plan will temporarily remain effective until then, and initiatives and activities based on it continue to be implemented.

 Mayors for Peace Action Plan:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/conferences/general/data/9th_gc/Action_Plan_2017-2020_E.pdf


 Initiatives implemented under the Action Plan:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/vision/initiatives.html>



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/vision/initiatives.html#section10>

Peace news from Hiroshima

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

The year 2021 has started just as Japan, along with the rest of the world, faces a third wave of the coronavirus pandemic. The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims have once again temporarily closed their doors, and consequently, only a few visitors can be seen in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. Even as the Hiroshima city center is quiet, however, the citizens of Hiroshima and A-bomb survivors are in a celebratory mood with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons set to enter into force on January 22.

Everyone has now come to realize the significance of the nuclear ban treaty. The Chugoku Shimbun recently received from readers numerous important photographs showing street corners of the former Sarugaku-cho area, located directly underneath the spot where the A-bomb detonated, as well as children with broad smiles on their faces. Only a few such photos and images remain to convey a semblance of what the city and people's daily lives were before the atomic bombing. Nuclear weapons are so inhumane they completely incinerate people and their lives, not to mention documents, photos, and other records. After the end of World War II, Hiroshima was successfully reborn from amid the burned ruins. The city areas and lives of people lost during the war, however, are never to return.

With the firm determination in mind to never allow the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to be repeated, the major tenet underlying the treaty, all the world's citizens are urged to persistently call on their governments to join the treaty. This is also a great challenge for the people of Japan, a country that continues to turn its back on the treaty despite its history as an A-bombed nation.

Please see the following for more peace-related news.

Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima 75 years after the atomic bombing—Recreating cityscapes: 14 photos discovered that show bustle of former Sarugaku-cho
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=102957>

Second memoir collection written by 42 prenatally exposed survivors in Japan is published
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=102734>

Survivors’ Stories: Michiko Osawa, 91, Hiroshima — “German priest saved my life”
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=102689>

Chugoku Shimbun and Nishinippon Shimbun partner on project detailing hopes imbued in A-bomb survivor testimonies
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=102969>

Junior Writers Reporting: Depiction of work at facilities in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?junior=2021>

Mayors for Peace Official Social Media Accounts

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



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



 The latest and archived issues of Mayors for Peace News Flash are available at:
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/statements/newsflash.html>

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

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