

Mayors for Peace News Flash

February 2021 / No.134

Mayors for Peace Member Cities 8,013 cities

in 165 countries and regions

(as of February 1, 2021)

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Events around the world celebrating TPNW entry into force

On January 22, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force. To celebrate this occasion, many commemorative events, including ones reported on below, have been held in member cities all around the world.

- Event in Japan (Tokyo, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki):

Mayors for Peace held a commemorative livestream event connecting Tokyo, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki on January 23, the day following the treaty's entry into force, in collaboration with *hibakusha* (atomic bomb survivors) and peace organizations.

Tokyo

Video messages from people who greatly contributed in bringing the treaty to this point were streamed from Tokyo. These included Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu (UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs), Ambassador Elayne Whyte Gómez (the Chair of the UN negotiations on the treaty), and 3 other representatives of organizations. The final report on the Hibakusha Appeal Signature Campaign, which Mayors for Peace has been collaborating with, was given afterwards.

Hiroshima

To begin the program in Hiroshima, President Matsui (Mayor of Hiroshima City), the Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture, and two representatives of *hibakusha* associations gave opening remarks. President Matsui stated: "This treaty is based on a perspective of citizens: that nuclear weapons, which deprive us of peaceful day-to-day lives, must be abolished. It will surely accelerate the movement for abolition. Let us all continue to spread the message to the world that nuclear weapons are unwanted, and together create a peaceful, inclusive society."



Participants in the Hiroshima program

Presentations by 5 young people engaged in peace activities followed. After presenting their own activities based on *hibakusha*'s messages for peace, they shared their thoughts on each other's activities and their aspirations for future activities. They expressed their determination: "We, the young generation, must take the lead to pass on the *hibakusha*'s experiences and desire for peace. We must take further action."

After their presentations, a video message from a representative of a peace organization in Hiroshima was played. It was followed by readings of atomic bomb memoirs by two volunteers, accompanied by a classical guitar performance. Lastly, a video of a choral performance by local elementary school children singing an original song for peace concluded the Hiroshima program.

Nagasaki

In Nagasaki, there were live interviews with young people and representatives of *hibakusha* associations. In the second half of the program, the Mayor of Nagasaki City and others discussed ways to secure the TPNW greater recognition in international society.

At the end of this event, participants at all 3 venues, as well as those joining from other places, got together online and pledged to continue making efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

- Events in Fremantle, Australia:

Report by Ms Elizabeth PO', Mayors for Peace Fremantle, Australia



More than 100 people celebrated the sun setting together on this great day with speeches, food, drink, and music by local musicians. A crescendo of Taiko drumming was followed by a minute's silence at the very moment the sunset. The cheers and joy after that silence were from the relief and hope that this Treaty will work to end nuclear weapons.

Earlier that afternoon, the City of Fremantle hosted a *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. Mr Ito also spoke of the TPNW coming into force and answered questions on it, including Japan's position.



Elizabeth PO' from Mayors for Peace Fremantle introduced the session, and Fremantle's Mayor Brad Pettitt (pictured right) gave the closing: "Today marks a significant moment in history for 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."



- Joint Statement drafted by the European Chapter:

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

Leading global cities, with the Mayors for Peace European Chapter and International Secretariat, the UK & Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) issue a joint statement as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) enters into force at the United Nations on the 22nd January 2021 and call on their own governments to engage with this positive disarmament process.

The statement was supported by the President, Vice Presidents and Executive Members of Mayors for Peace including the Chair of the European Chapter, as well as other European Mayors who have passed a resolution to support the TPNW. By supporting the TPNW, Mayors from all over the world advocate to move away from dangerous, unilateral actions and embrace a multilateral approach.

Commenting on the statement, Mayor Mayoral, the Chair of the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace, said: "The entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is a historic milestone. Citizenship has the right to live in a world free from the threat of nuclear weapons. Ban them is the only possible way."

European Chapter statement welcoming entry into force of the TPNW and calling cities for their engagement http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/jp/whatsnew/news/data/2021/EC_TPNW_EIF_statement.pdf

- Event in Vienna, Austria:

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

Due to the pandemic a planned large event by the Austrian Foreign Ministry to celebrate the entry into force of the TPNW had to be downsized to journalists only. Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg explained the importance of this landmark treaty. A prohibition of nuclear weapons has been overdue 75 years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Finally, in cooperation between civil society and states the legal norm has been established that nuclear weapons are illegal. Nuclear weapons cannot protect, they can only destroy. Heightened tensions are no excuse for the present modernization of nuclear weapons, but make nuclear disarmament measures even more urgent.



A video on the TPNW and a second one with a simulation of the effects of a nuclear bomb dropped over Vienna were shown. The latter was criticized by opposition parties as untimely, while people feel already threatened by the pandemic. Media reports resulted in about 200,000 viewings of this video. Minister Schallenberg underlined in parliament that the threat of nuclear weapons is very real and has to be brought to public knowledge. The closest nuclear weapons are stationed 60 km from Austria.

After the media event civil society representatives were invited to watch the videos and celebrate with the Austrian disarmament diplomats.

Link to the TPNW video:

https://youtu.be/Ad43FC-J55M

Link to the video "Effects of a nuclear bomb dropped over Vienna": https://youtu.be/fleThMH bVs

- Event by the Catalan Chapter:

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

On January 22 took place the General Assembly of the Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace, which was held in virtual format and brought together more than 70 Mayors, councilors, and technicians. In Catalonia, there are more than 200 member municipalities of the network, a clear example of the strength and dynamism of Catalan local governments in the field of the culture of peace, solidarity and the defense of human rights.



The meeting took place on the day of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), after more than 50 states signed and ratified it. Mayor Josep Mayoral of Granollers, a Vice President of Mayors for Peace and the Lead City of the Catalan Chapter, referred to this date as "a very important historic day on the road to disarmament and peace." Mayor Mayoral drew a parallel between the nuclear weapons and the ban of cluster bombs, which was also achieved thanks to the struggle and persistence of civil society.

- Initiatives by the French Chapter:

Report by the AFCDRP- Mayors for Peace France

In France, the entry into force of the TPNW stimulated many initiatives at the end of January.

Many mayors of French municipalities, including Mayor Belhomme of Malakoff (Vice President City and Lead City of France), have written to request the President of the French Republic to support the TPNW.

Parliamentarians, local councilors and 150 organizations (associations, unions, and political parties) called for rallies and actions in all regions—in front of the National Assembly, the embassies of nuclear-armed states and city halls.



March in front of Paris City Hall 💽

At the march held in front of the National Assembly in Paris, Michel Cibot (pictured right), representing the French Chapter of Mayors for Peace, read out a message from Nihon Hidankyo, an organization of atomic bomb survivors in Japan. Deputy Jean-Paul Lecoq, co-author of a National Assembly Information Report "Nuclear Weapons in the World: 50 Years after the adoption of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty," also gave a speech during the peace march. He formulated an oral question to the French government during the January 26 session of the National Assembly, too.

The French Chapter also appealed to its member cities to give information on this treaty to their citizens by city-newsletters, as well as to the local press, and also to set up 'Local Action Programs for a Culture of Peace' in their city administration.





- Initiatives by the German Chapter:

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

To mark the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 22 January, more than 50 German member cities raised the Mayors for Peace flag as a sign of their support and informed the public with press releases.

The City of Trier drew attention to the nuclear weapons ban with a particularly creative action: the dance video "Hope is a Decision" celebrated the day of entry into force as a day of joy. You can watch the video here: https://youtu.be/HFirO_r1ku0



Photo: Choreography by the dance ensemble at the Trier Theatre on the ban on nuclear weapons. Copyright: the City of Trier

Already on the day before the treaty came into force, the IPPNW (International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War) student group Hannover and ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) in cooperation with the state capital Hannover offered a digital event on the topic of "the explosive for the bomb-nuclear power as a precursor technology for nuclear weapons."

Here you will find an overview of the activities of the member cities united by the wish that the TPNW will achieve visible nuclear disarmament progress this year.

Website of Mayors for Peace Germany (in German):

https://www.hannover.de/Leben-in-der-Region-Hannover/Politik/Politische-Gremien/Mayors-for-Peace/Aktivitäten/Aktionstag-Mayors-for-Peace-begrüßen-Atomwaffenverbot

- Initiatives by the Italian Chapter:

Report by Ms. Lisa Clark, the Co-President of International Peace Bureau and long-time supporter of Mayors for Peace based in Italy

In Italy, we launched a campaign to convince the Italian government to change its mind and join the TPNW in 2016. The Italian members of Mayors for Peace are among the most influential element of this campaign called "*Italia, ripensaci*." The month of January was full of activities, announcing and leading up to the entry into force of the TPNW on 22 January.

On 15 January, "Italia, ripensaci" organized a webinar with the participation of several Mayors for Peace members: two large cities (Padova and Brescia), two regional associations in the Veneto and in Tuscany, Arco in the province of Trento, Paciano in the province of Perugia, and the Lead City of Italy, Cervia. Each of these cities had produced the TPNW poster welcoming the entry into force and posted it in City Hall and elsewhere. Many of 516 Italian members have also approved a resolution proposed by "Italia, ripensaci" committing themselves to ask the Italian government to join the TPNW process.





On 22 January, we organized another webinar, with live reporting from many of our cities (Padova, Torino, Cervia, Brescia) where town hall and church bells rang at midday, as a symbolic celebration of the entry into force. The Catholic church also supported these actions. In Brescia, the Mayor and the Bishop issued a joint statement in support of "*Italia, ripensaci*", asking the national government to change its mind! We are currently requesting that Italy be present as an observer at the first meeting of TPNW States Parties in Austria. All these events were well reported in national media and given prominent coverage in the local press.

Member city recruitment model cases

have led to gaining new members.

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

Report by Ms. Paula Helena Santos, Técnica Superior, the City of Évora

The City Council of Évora, recognizing that the growing number of member municipalities increasingly makes Mayors for Peace an influential force in the international context in favor of peace and against wars and the use of nuclear power for war-related purposes, wishes to contribute to reach the goal 10,000 member cities by responding positively to the request launched at the end of 2020.

To this intent, at the end of January, the City sent a letter to the 30 cities that are members of the Portuguese Movement of Cities for Peace, and also disseminated this request through a news article published on the website, social media and also in regional newspapers, reaching a total of 58 municipalities of the Alentejo region to which Évora belongs.

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

Member city activities

Patchwork 'Children on Peace' promoting 'culture of peace'

Report by Mr. Filip Deheegher, the City of Ypres, Belgium

Last year, the City of Ypres Peace Service invited nursery and primary schools to take part in the 'Patchwork on Peace' initiative. Children of 19 schools took part in the initiative. The concept is to have a class at school in which children think about and discuss peace. They were asked a question, "what is peace?," then visualised and expressed their answer on a large sheet of paper as drawings.



Image: Courtesy of the City of Ypres

The end result of the project is a very colourful, digitally printed 'patchwork', measuring 6.5 by 2 metres. It clearly shows that peace cannot be defined unambiguously. The work makes many associations with peace-related themes, places peace at various levels and draws attention to a number of peace symbols. By working on the patchwork, the children realized that 'peace' is more than the absence of war—but the word also describes a very positive state that everyone is all equal, and everyone pays attention to the climate and the earth.

The patchwork will be exhibited as banners at the Ypres library and the entrance hall of the Ypres City Hall, so that the visitors can discover for themselves what children think of 'peace.'

Mayor Talpe of Ypres commented: "Children approached peace in a colourful and above all positive way. This is a clear message that we, as a city council, together with the children, would like to share with citizens and visitors. We will distribute bookmarks with the patchwork printed on to the visitors of the library and museums in Ypres."

Please send us a report on your city's peace activities

Help us tell other members what you are doing! Please send the Secretariat a short report on a peace activity or initiative by your city so that we can share it on our <u>website</u> or the News Flash. We look forward to receiving it.

Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

*Please write a short (up to 200 words long) report in English, and send it to the above email address with photos (if any). Please include key information such as the date, venue, description, and result.

Mayors for Peace member cities - 8,013 cities in 165 countries/regions

On February 1, we gained 11 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,013. 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
Argentina	1	100	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	39	Thanks to efforts by the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Japan.
Germany	1	705	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
Ireland	1	13	Thanks to efforts by Manchester, a Vice President and Lead City.
Italy	1	516	
Luxembourg	1	57	This was the first member registration from Luxembourg in 5 years.
Nepal	1	11	
New Zealand	3	33	Thanks to efforts by Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) in response to a request from the Deputy Head of Mission at the New Zealand Embassy, Tokyo who met the Secretary General of Mayors for Peace last November.
Spain	1	395	Continuing from December, a new city joined.



Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!



List of new members (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/03 newmembers/2021/newmembers2102 en.pdf

Membership by country (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/01 monthly updating/07 membership by country en.pdf

Announcement: No plans for invitations to this year's HIROSHIMA and PEACE course

Mayors for Peace annually hosts selected youth from member cities in Hiroshima and provides them with financial support to participate in the summer course HIROSHIMA and PEACE offered by Hiroshima City University. In addition, we ask the young participants to give presentations on their cities' peace activities and to share their views on peace.

However, due to the continuing uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, Hiroshima City University has informed the Secretariat that HIROSHIMA and PEACE 2021 will be provided as a series of online lectures. Given their decision, we have decided not to invite young people to Hiroshima this year.

As an alternative program, we plan to host an online webinar, similar to the one we conducted last August, in which young participants from member cities will discuss their peace activities.

Report by Executive Advisor

Webinar on the United Nations and Nuclear Disarmament: Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of UN Resolution 1(I)

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

On 25 January, the World Future Council, Basel Peace Office, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament, UNFOLD Zero, Right Livelihood Foundation, and Youth Fusion, hosted a webinar (195 participants) to commemorate the first UN resolution, for a prohibition of nuclear weapons and other weapons "adaptable to mass destruction."

Amb. Tatiana Valovaya, the director of the UN Office in Geneva and Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament stressed the need for "political will," the role of youth, and the need for greater dialog between the nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon states.

Amb. Maria Fernanda Espinosa (former Ecuador Defense Minister and former President of the UN General Assembly) stressed that nuclear weapons were militarily useless and illegal because of their humanitarian effects, as witnessed in Japan. She praised the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, emphasized gender equality, called for nuclear disarmament by 2045, and urged funding for disarmament, climate change, and fighting COVID.

Dr. Randy Rydell (Mayors for Peace) placed Resolution 1 in the context of over 2,000 years of disarmament efforts. He noted the presence of the "nuclear football" in the inauguration of a new US President and called for the creation of "disarmament footballs" with treaties, laws, statements, studies, research and development and budgets for achieving nuclear disarmament.

Ms. Kehkashan Basu (World Future Council and Green Hope Foundation) drew attention to large military expenditures at a time of unmet human needs for food, health, and poverty reduction; she emphasized the role of youth and disarmament education.

Ms. Vanda Proskova (co-convenor of Youth Fusion) called for groups to join three recent civil society appeals on nuclear weapons from Abolition 2000; (2) Right Livelihood and World Future Council; and (3) We the Peoples 2020. Host Alyn Ware (PNND) also praised "Move the Nuclear Weapons Money" campaign (www.nuclearweaponsmoney.org).

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.

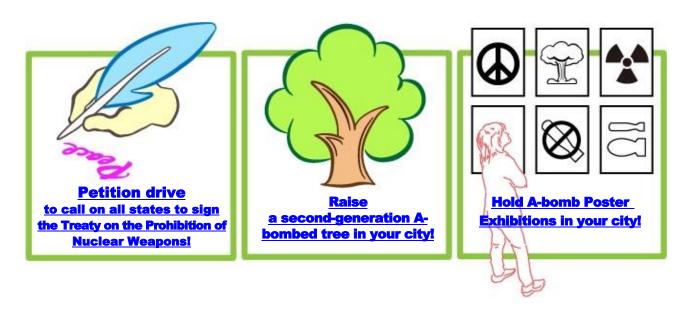
*A new Action Plan is to be developed and adopted at the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, which was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and is now planned to be held around August 2021. The current Action Plan will temporarily remain effective until then, and initiatives and activities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

Mayors for Peace Action Plan (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/conferences/general/data/9th_gc/9th_gc_Action_Plan_en.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)

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Right around January 22, the date on which the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force, joyous celebrations—from the A-bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Tokyo, as well as other parts of Japan and overseas—were extensively reported by local media. Going forward, the TPNW's effectiveness must be enhanced by heightened awareness among the international community of the inhumane devastation caused by nuclear weapons, as well as by increased numbers of treaty signatory nations.

On February 8, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, a facility at which the public can learn in real terms about the tragedy caused by nuclear weapons, initiated sales in its Museum Shop of a new publication titled *Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Collection Catalogue—Carrying the Legacy of Hiroshima*. The new museum pictorial was the first updated version to be released in about 22 years. The Chugoku Shimbun provided support for the book's production by the filming of items displayed at the museum and penning of the publication's articles.

The publication clearly serves as an aid to readers for understanding details of the museum's exhibits. Its rich content includes not only exhibit descriptions, but also information involving Hiroshima's pre-World War II history and a map of memorial cenotaphs located in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. In the words of the museum's curator, "We incorporated information into the catalog that would be useful for people who felt spurred to take action by their viewing of the exhibits."

TPNW's road ahead will certainly not be smooth. The key factor in determining the treaty's success will be expansion of the circle of people determined to take action when considering what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Please see the following for more peace-related news.

Hibakusha Appeal network collects final tally of 13.7 million signatures calling on countries to join nuclear ban treaty

http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=103119

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum creates new catalog with many photos of victims' artifacts http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=103466

My perspectives regarding TPNW, Part 1—Setsuko Thurlow, A-bomb survivor living in Canada http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=103302

My perspectives regarding TPNW, Part 2—Thomas Hajnoczi, 65, former Disarmament Department director, Austrian Foreign Affairs Ministry

http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=103407

My perspectives regarding TPNW, Part 3—Nobumasa Akiyama, 53, Hitotsubashi University professor http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=103490

My perspectives regarding TPNW, Part 4—Yasuyoshi Komizo, 72, former chair of Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation

http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=103588

My perspectives regarding TPNW, Part 5—Noriyuki Kawano, 54, director of The Center for Peace, Hiroshima University

http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=103590

My perspectives regarding TPNW, Part 6—Miho Tanaka, 26, member of "GO! Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons project," corporate employee

http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=103592

My perspectives regarding TPNW, Part 7—Haruko Moritaki, 82, co-director of Hiroshima Alliance for Nuclear Weapons Abolition

http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=103195

Mayor of Hiroshima intends to attend meeting of State Parties of TPNW, hoping for opportunity to speak out for nuclear abolition

http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=103449

Mayors for Peace Official Social Media Accounts

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https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace



〈Facebook〉 **(f**https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace



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

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