Mayors for Peace News Flash

May 2021 / No.137

Mayors for Peace Member Cities <u>8,027</u> cities in 165 countries and regions

(as of May 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
Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace
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https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace "Like" and share our Facebook and Twitter posts to help spread awareness of our mission.

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Mayors for Peace shares seeds from atomic bomb survivor trees!



Mayors for Peace distributes seeds and seedlings of atomic bomb survivor trees to member cities on request, free of charge (the Secretariat bears the shipping cost). This project is designed to raise public peace consciousness through citizens' nurturing of trees in their cities as symbols of peace. To date, we have sent seeds and seedlings to 196 cities and 4 organizations in 19 countries. Some cities have effectively involved children and students in their initiatives, using descendant trees as teaching aids for peace education.

Let us introduce the initiative by the UK and Ireland Chapter below as a great example of utilizing this project:

More UK Councils seek to grow Hiroshima gingko seeds for peace (Report by Mr. Sean Morris, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary)

One worthwhile international peace education project promoted by Mayors for Peace is 'growing' within the UK and Ireland Chapter in several members taking up the offer of receiving gingko tree seeds from Hiroshima. There are now 9 Councils who have received and are nurturing gingko and other Hiroshima tree seeds - Manchester, Edinburgh, Shetland Islands, Hull, Oldham, South Ayrshire, Hebden Royd, Rochdale, and most recently, Cornwall. Norwich and Hastings are also in the process of applying for seeds, which originate from mother trees that were damaged in the Hiroshima bomb attack in 1945 but regrew the following spring, giving encouragement to the hibakusha to rebuild the shattered city.

The Chapter Secretary recently accompanied the Mayor of Hebden Royd Council, Councillor Val Stevens, to visit the Council's gingko seeds. These are being nurtured at Manor Park Garden Nurseries in Halifax. The Council is considering where the trees will be planted around the towns and villages that make up Hebden Royd and how they can be used as part of a peace education programme. Cornwall is also hoping to talk about their seeds project during the upcoming G7 Summit, which takes place in the county in June, and will see political leaders from the UK, US, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan.



We look forward to having more and more member cities joining this project!

Details of this project:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/vision/initiatives.html#section04

G Booklet:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/vision/data/leaflet_A4_en.pdf

Regional chapter activities

German Chapter

German Mayors for Peace Conference

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

The German Chapter held it's Mayors for Peace Conference for the first time online. Nearly 100 participants from member cities of 15 states attended the conference.

A welcome speech was given by Dr. Alexander Badrow, Mayor of the City of Stralsund, where the conference originally was intended to be held in 2020.

Robert Siegfried, Head of Unit for Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation in the Foreign Office held the keynote speech.

Deputy Mayor Thomas Hermann of Hannover moderated the meeting. Besides the report on activities of the Mayors for Peace Office in Hannover, four selected member cities presented their peace work as best practice examples (Mutlangen, Augsburg, Potsdam and Hannover). The participants were very interested and commented lively in the chat.



On the evening before Hannover offered a public lecture entitled "In dialogue with Russia - In search of trust!" also as Zoom meeting with 70 participants. The lecture was held by Hermann Krause, ARD correspondent in Moscow for many years.

Related story on the German Mayors for Peace website in German: <u>www.mayorsforpeace.de</u>

• French Chapter

French Chapter holds its General Assembly online

Report by Ms. Loréna Schlicht, AFCDRP-Mayors for Peace France

On April 28, the Mayors for Peace French Chapter held its General Assembly in a virtual format with the attendance of more than 40 mayors, advisors and technicians. To date, the French Chapter has over 150 municipality members. At the Assembly, new board members were elected, and the Chapter made a decision to further expand Mayors for Peace membership nationwide and to develop and promote "Local Action Programs for a Culture of Peace" at the Chapter.

During the Assembly, Mayor Philippe Rio of Grigny, Executive Member of Mayors for Peace and the Chair of the Chapter, revisited the organization's history and principles—its foundation at the call of the Cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; the establishment of the European Chapter; activities based in its principles; and remarkable commitment for disarmament such as the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and its entry into force. His explanation gave the attendees inspiration for their future peace initiatives and projects.



A newly created video (a capture screen shown right) by the French Chapter titled "Building a World of Peace" was also played. It is a compilation of past activities of French member cities, with a moving overview of the history of Mayors for Peace by Ms. Miho Cibot Shimma, Ambassador for Peace of the City of Hiroshima, along with other contributors.

The video (in French) is available at the link below: <u>https://youtu.be/XL7VobaU13w</u>



• UK and Ireland Chapter

New report highlights peace education in the UK & Ireland

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

A new report has been developed by the Secretary of the UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter, Manchester City Council officer Sean Morris, which focuses on peace education and other ways to promote safer and more peaceful cities. The UK & Ireland Chapter meets two or three times a year and at each meeting attempts are made to provide a presentation from a group that promotes peace education amongst schoolchildren and in other communities. This report focuses on all the groups that have spoken at recent meetings, including the Foundation for Peace, Peace Jam, Peace Education Scotland, CRESST, Peace Partners, Pledge to Peace and Peaceful Schools. The report goes on to highlight other groups that work in this area across each part of the UK and Ireland. The aim is to profile more of them at future meetings, and to encourage member Councils to actively engage with them as they develop their own peace education programmes.

The report also outlines the content of its most recent Chapter meeting, talks about upcoming international meetings, profiles the recent UK Defence Review and highlights an interesting international grouping called 'Peace in our Cities' which seeks to reduce violence in urban areas.

UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Briefing Paper 33

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activities/data/2021/UK_Briefing_No_33.pdf

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. Reports on your city's activity or initiative that stimulate youth to be engaged in peace activities or promote 'culture of peace' are especially welcome!

We look forward to receiving ones.

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.

Request for Payment of the 2021 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/16 Euro as of March 2021) 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.

A request for payment of the 2021 membership fee was sent to each city by email on April 1. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

* If you want to know your city's payment status or if you have not received the email of request for payment, please contact the Secretariat.

Request for the 2021 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website): <u>http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/aboutus/fee.html</u>

Contact: Mayors for Peace Secretariat (email: <u>mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp</u>)



On May 1, we gained 4 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,027. We thank all involved in promoting expanded membership for their invaluable support. Below is the breakdown of the new members.

Country	New Members	Total No.	Remarks
Australia	Mackay	91	
Germany	Vörstetten	712	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
Luxembourg	Nommern	60	Continuing from February, new cities joined.
Turkey	Kuşadası	17	

List of new members (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/03_newmembers/2021/newmembers2105_en.pdf

Membership by country (PDF):

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

Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!

Mayors for Peace aims to achieve 10,000 member cities to foster international public support for the realization of a world without nuclear weapons. 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 below.

The document pack is <u>available in 10 different languages</u>: Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

Letters of request to join Mayors for Peace and document pack <u>http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/aboutus/join.html#section01</u>

Reports by Executive Advisors

• Webinar: "Follow-on to New START: Problems and Dilemmas"

Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs John F. Kennedy School, Harvard University Report by Mr. Randy Rydell, the Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace

On 8 April, Harvard's Kennedy School hosted a seminar on nuclear arms control after New START, featuring Dr. Alexei Arbatov, head of the Center for International Security at the Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations.

Arbatov said US/Russian relations were at a low point. He regretted that the US President has called President Putin a "killer" and thought an apology was in order. Russian officials are frustrated with the delays in organizing the new US administration's arms control team. Past discussions have been abstract ("scholastic") and not focused on concrete, practical steps.

One key difference is that the US wants to discuss "nuclear weapons" while Russia wants to discuss "strategic weapons" of all types, including long-range, hypersonic, high-precision conventional arms, which Russia views as jeopardizing "strategic stability". Future arms control will involve new caps including both strategic and tactical nuclear weapons, though such controls will be difficult to verify (e.g., some weapons are dual-use). He feared that some in the US favor resuming nuclear testing.

He thought both countries should end forward deployments of tactical nuclear weapons and return them to central storage. New controls should extend to air-launched cruise missiles and gravity bombs on heavy bombers. Also possible are new controls over non-deployed bombs and warheads. Both should also avoid dangerous military exercises in the Black and Baltic Seas.

Regarding China, he said that its position on joint talks is that either the US and Russia must first come down to China's level, or China should build up to their level; the problem, however, is that China has failed to report the size of its arsenal. China may join if it calculates it would serve its interests to do so; for example, if controls could be negotiated over medium or intermediate-range missiles.

Webinar: "Seminar on Nuclear Disarmament" Pugwash Brazil

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

On 15 April, Pugwash Brazil hosted a 4-hour webinar on nuclear disarmament. The event, hosted by Sergio Duarte (former UN High Representative for Disarmament) and Monica Herz (President of Pugwash Brazil), featured statements by Brazilian NGOs and officials, academics, other NGOs, and a regional organization. There were 52 participants and a video recording is available <u>here</u>.

<u>The NPT</u>: Foreign Ministry official Marcelo Camara described challenges facing the NPT especially in disarmament. He commended the TPNW (ban treaty) as reinforcing the NPT. Marco Marzo (Secretary General of ABACC, the Argentine-Brazilian nuclear inspection agency) praised regional efforts to reinforce IAEA safeguards. Mathias Spektor (Associate Professor) discussed Brazilian public opinion on nuclear weapons; he noted strong opposition, yet also a belief among "conservatives" that acquisition should be an option should Brazil face a major foreign threat; and he cautioned that one should "not take Brazilian public opinion for granted". Belgian academic Tom Sauer argued that it was time to "ditch the NPT" mainly due to its failures in achieving the disarmament goals of Article VI. Duarte referred to the 2005 NPT Review Conference (which he chaired) as a "complete flop".

The TPNW: ICAN director Beatrice Fihn argued for the ban treaty, showing how its terms exceed NPT controls, and urged Brazil (an original sponsor) to ratify it. Professor Layla Dawood described the poor relations between Argentina and Brazil and the weakening of regional nuclear cooperation; she noted Brazil's work on a nuclear-powered submarine and its safeguards challenges; Brazil does not believe NPT is being implemented equitably. Professor Moniza Herz echoed Dawood's regional views, adding that the Brazilian administration was anti-multilateralist and appears in no hurry to ratify the TPNW. Former Canadian Ambassador Paul Meyer discussed the dilemmas facing "nuclear-dependent allies" as they try to reconcile their support for both nuclear deterrence and disarmament. He urged individual nations to adopt their own postures and support the TPNW. US scholar Jean Krasno (and author of "Banning the Bomb") regretted past US abandonment of key nuclear treaties and stressed the dangers from accidents with nuclear weapons. In discussions, some argued that the economic and health costs of the pandemic might encourage a reconsideration of nuclear weapons budgets and priorities.

• Webinar: "Building Political Support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons"

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

On April 24, NuclearBan.US, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and 70 other U.S. organizations, hosted a webinar, Building Political Support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). As stated by Asha Asoken, Executive Director of NuclearBan.US, the main purpose of the webinar was to encourage the participants to get their Congressional Representatives to sign the ICAN Parliamentary Pledge in support of the TPNW.

In countries where governments are not yet ready to sign the TPNW, parliamentarians are pressuring them to do so. Over 250 parliamentarians in Italy have signed the ICAN Pledge, nearly 200 in Germany, over 100 in Australia, and almost every member of the Scottish Parliament. So far, ten members of the U.S. Congress have signed the ICAN Pledge.



Speakers included ICAN Executive Director, Beatrice Fihn, and featured four members of the U.S. Congress who have publicly expressed support for the TPNW: Representative Rashida Tlaib, Michigan; Representative Barbara Lee, California; Representative Jamie Raskin, Maryland; and Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton, District of Colombia – all progressive Democrats.

State Representative Lindsay Sabadosa, Massachusetts, and Mayor Nicole LaChapelle, Easthampton, Massachusetts, a member of Mayors for Peace, talked about supporting the TPNW at State and local levels.

Mayors for Peace Executive Director Thomas Hajnoczi, Former Head of Disarmament at the Austrian Foreign Ministry, presented Austria's perspective on the TPNW. Other speakers, including Members of Parliament, experts and activists from Scotland, Belgium, Germany, Australia, and Canada provided additional international perspectives to inspire U.S. activists.

<u>Click here</u> to watch a short (22 minute) version of the webinar featuring presentations by the U.S. Members of Congress.

<u>Click here</u> to watch the complete webinar (1 hour 45 minutes).

<u>Click here</u> to read Amb. Thomas Hajnoczi's remarks.

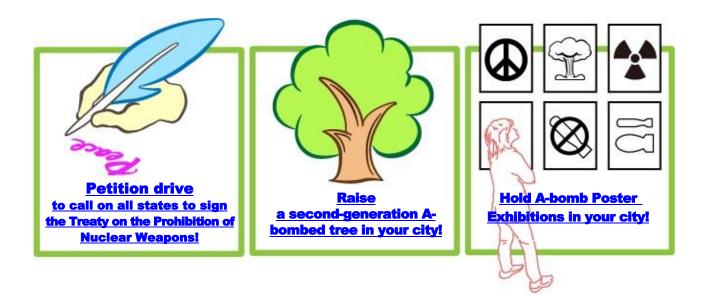
Request to promote various measures based on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan

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 Vision and a new Action Plan are to be developed and adopted at the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace, which is planned to be held online in July 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): <u>http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/conferences/general/data/9th_gc/9th_gc_Action_Plan_en.pdf</u>

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)

Starting April 16, a number of movie theaters in Japan began to show on their screens the documentary film titled "The Vow from Hiroshima," which depicts the life of Setsuko Thurlow, 89, an A-bomb survivor living in Canada who has continued her call for realization of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Michi Takeuchi, the film's producer who is originally from Hiroshima and now lives in New York, is a second-generation A-bomb survivor. In parallel with its portrayal of Ms. Thurlow's activities around the world, the film explains Ms. Takeuchi's path as she attempts to trace the A-bombing experiences her late mother and grandfather rarely shared and to understand the feelings they tended to keep to themselves.

Similarly, the late Emiko Okada, an A-bomb survivor from Hiroshima who died on April 10 this year, had committed herself to denouncing nuclear weapons as inhumane by making visits to the United States, India, and Pakistan, among other nations to share her A-bombing experience, as well as by participating in signature-collection campaigns for promotion of the TPNW's establishment. Ms. Okada also served as a Peace Volunteer for the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and contributed to the training and development of 'A-bomb memory keepers,' who play a key role in handing down A-bomb survivors' experiences to others.

The Peace Memorial Museum has added to its permanent exhibition the summer school uniform and lunchbox of a young A-bomb victim. The items had long been cared for by the A-bomb survivor Koji Hosokawa, 93, as keepsakes of his younger sister Yoko Moriwaki. Through the artifacts, which communicate the message "This is the reality of war," visitors can sense Mr. Hosokawa's anger about the tragic death of his sister.

At present, however, COVID-19 case numbers are again on the rise in Hiroshima. The situation presents an obstacle to people going out in public, and public facilities one after the other have now shut their doors. It has become difficult, if not impossible, to meet with A-bomb survivors in person. Amid such trying times, everyone should continue to try and take advantage of every possible opportunity, even if indirectly, to grasp and understand the messages communicated by those who experienced the atomic bombings.

Please see the following for more peace-related news.

Summer uniform and lunch box of girl whose future was cut short added to Peace Museum's new exhibition <u>http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=105054</u>

Documentary of Setsuko Thurlow to be shown once again in Hiroshima: Interview with Mitchie Takeuchi, film's producer

http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=105082

'Crime against humanity should never be repeated': Setsuko Thurlow speaks online at nationwide showing of film depicting her life of anti-nuclear activism http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=105087

Hiroshima Peace Park student volunteer guides produce and promote English video as overseas visitor numbers decline

http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=105188

Survivors' Stories: Ruriko Yoshida, 94, California—Decided to share her Hiroshima A-bomb experience with people in the U.S.

http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=105085

Announcement from Hiroshima City University: Release of Research Journal Vol. 7

The Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) of Hiroshima City University (HCU) issued the Hiroshima Peace Research Journal Vol. 8 in March 2021. The HPI Journal, an academic journal that conducts theoretical research on peace and case studies has been published annually since its launch in 2013.

The "Window into Peace Studies" section of the volume opens with a contribution from Professor Chaiwat Satha-Anand, a Thai scholar who is a founding member of the Asia Pacific Peace Research Association (APPRA) and a prominent figure in the field of peace studies. Professor Satha-Anand discusses peace and the various forms of violence, and offers some interesting suggestions on how to deal with victims of violence.

The special feature articles deal with the increasingly important theme of "Threats to Global Peace and Human Security. Dr. Yuta Yamakoshi of Kobe Gakuin University clarifies the role of the World Health Organization (WHO), its evolution, and new challenges. This is a timely paper as the world is suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic and expectations for the WHO are rising. Dr. Tamai Masataka of Tohoku University of Community Service and Science analyzes the factors behind the "East" and "West" division of Vienna that is gradually becoming apparent between the CIS countries and other European countries, focusing on the conflict between the freedom and democratic norms common to the OSCE, and discusses the crisis of democracy in the former Soviet Union countries.

Of the three English papers, the paper contributed by Dr. Satoh Haruko of Osaka School of International Public Policy (OSIPP) analyzes the evolution of international relations within the state-centered Westphalian system as an actor, and discusses how the Westphalian system, which prioritizes national security, is inadequate for achieving human security. Dr. Sorpong Peou's paper on human security is a wide-ranging study on how human security research has evolved in political science. Peou takes a pessimistic position on the impact of the human security concept, especially on global governance. A paper by Dr. Mely Caballero Anthony of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, examines non-traditional security concepts in comparison to traditional security concepts that prioritize states with territorial and sovereignty concerns, and then analyzes the current state of the field of environmental security with a focus on Southeast Asia.

Two papers were accepted as independent papers. The paper on the Fukuda Doctrine by Dr. Ihara Nobuhiro of Nagoya University Graduate School of Informatics is an analysis of the Fukuda Doctrine, a turning point in Japan's post-World War II diplomacy in Southeast Asia, and in particular, the process of the formation of the first principle of diplomacy, which states that Japan will not become a military power and will remain committed to peace. Finally, Mr. Raymond Andaya, a research student of the Graduate School of Arts and Science, the University of Tokyo, analyzes the Bangsamoro Peace Process in the Philippines and examines how the Duterte administration ended years of insurgency. His argument for the application of a transitional justice framework to conflict resolution is noteworthy.

(Kikkawa Gen, Professor, Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University) (Ganesan Narayanan, Professor, Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University)

Back issues of the Hiroshima Peace Research Journals are available on the HPI website: https://www.peace.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp/publications/journal/



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https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace



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