



Mayors for Peace News Flash

November 2022 / No.155

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

8,222 cities

in **166** countries and regions

(as of November 1, 2022)

[Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!](#)

Check our website and follow us on social media:

Website 

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/>

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<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.

Table of Contents

- Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2022: Applications now closed —Many thanks for a lot of applications!—
- Member city activities
- Regional chapter activities
- Mayors for Peace member cities - 8,222 cities in 166 countries/regions
- Reports by Executive Advisors
- Request to implement initiatives outlined in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan
- Call for input: examples of peace education initiatives
- Request for payment of the 2022 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee
- Peace-related news from Hiroshima (provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

**Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" 2022: Applications now closed
—Many thanks for a lot of applications!—**



**Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" 2022
Applications are now closed. Thank you for applying!**



In order to expand peace education efforts in its member cities, Mayors for Peace holds an annual children's art competition with the theme of "Peaceful Towns," for children from 6 to 15 years old in all these cities.

This year, applications were open from April 20 to October 31, and children in 86 cities across 15 countries around the world participated in the competition. We would like to thank you for calling for applications in your cities!

The Secretariat will start judging from now, and selection results will be announced on the Mayors for Peace website in December 2022.

The First Prize artwork that wins the Mayors for Peace President Award will be printed on plastic folders, and will be used as publication tools for member city recruitment and Mayors for Peace events.

If your city holds an exhibition of submitted artworks or an award ceremony for this competition, please kindly let the Secretariat know. We will be pleased to share the news in our newsletter and on our website.

Contact: Mayors for Peace Secretariat (Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

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 based on the Action Plan so that we can share it on our [website](#) or the News Flash. Reports on your city's activity or initiative that stimulate youth to be engaged in peace activities or promote 'a 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.

Member city activities

- **Lasséran, France**

November 11 of Peace in Lasséran

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

Lasséran is a village where peace is cultivated. The linchpin of this struggle is Michel Soriano, the mayor, who organised an event in the morning of the Armistice Day, 11 November. As the elected council members of the city and peace movement members from Europe were reading poetry, a ginkgo biloba tree was planted in a new landscaped area of the village. The tree is a child of one of the trees that survived the Hiroshima atomic explosion. In 2019, Michel Soriano received from the Mayors for Peace Secretariat some fifteen seeds, all of which grew into trees under the care of the municipal services of Auch. As was the case for Lanne-Soubiran and Sansan, the trees will be planted in communes that request one.

In his speech, Mayor Soriano commemorated the deceased family members of the soldiers of the commune who died in the First World War and called for facing the challenges confronting the humanity with concrete actions: *“We must turn away from religious and political figures who exacerbate differences. Peace is not a status quo, it is a concrete act”*.



Photos: courtesy of AFCDRP–Mayors for Peace France

Regional chapter activities

- **European Chapter**

European local governments take an active role in the Mayors for Peace General Conference held in Hiroshima

Report by Mr. Jaume Puigpinós, the City of Granollers, Spain

The main gathering of the Mayors for Peace network, the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in Hiroshima on October 19 and 20, revamped international cooperation initiatives between local governments on the peace agenda. The European local governments of Granollers, Malakoff, Biograd na Moru, Evora and Oslo took an active role during the conference, showcasing the outcomes of joint initiatives held within the Mayors for Peace European Chapter and national chapters. Leading cities from Hannover and Manchester also participated in the Conference online and contributed to the discussions.



Representatives of Member Cities in Europe at the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in Hiroshima

● UK & Ireland Chapter

Hiroshima tree planted in Oldham Peace Garden

Report by Mr. Richard Outram, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary

The UK and Ireland Chapter Secretary was delighted to meet with pupils and staff at Lyndhurst Primary School, Oldham to present them with a gingko tree grown from a seed that came from a tree that survived the Hiroshima bombing.

Lyndhurst Primary School is one of 28 schools and colleges in Oldham that have signed the Pledge to Peace and Oldham Council is a member of Mayors for Peace.

In 2018 and 2019 pupils at the school made paper peace cranes that were sent to Hiroshima for display in the Children’s Peace Monument in remembrance of those young people who had so tragically died in the atomic bombing.

So for Chapter Secretary Richard Outram the delivery of the tree was highly symbolic: *“To me this felt like bringing a gift back from Hiroshima for the children”*.



Pupils at Lyndhurst Primary School
with Chapter Secretary Richard Outram (center back)
Photo: courtesy of Mayors for Peace UK/Ireland Chapter

Richard was joined by pupils, Shakeya, Hetvi, Khadijah, Alfie, Brennan and Aydin, in the incredible Peace Garden that they have created, and on October 13 the tree was planted as the centre piece of the garden.

● French Chapter

Mayor of Grigny / President of the Mayors for Peace French Chapter participated in UCLG’s world congress in Daejeon, South Korea

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

Philippe Rio, Mayor of Grigny and President of AFCDRP–Mayors for Peace France, took part in the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, which was convened by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) on 10–14 October in Daejeon, South Korea. The Congress was an important moment to take stock of public service practices, reflect on many subjects from poverty to security, and share experiences with other local government representatives.



Photo: courtesy of AFCDRP–Mayors for Peace France

In the Conference, President Rio participated in the promotion of the campaign, “10, 100, 1000 Human Rights Cities and Territories by 2030”. The campaign was initiated a few months ago with the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights (CSIPDHR), which he has co-chaired for the past three years. Mayor Rio also exchanged with the other participants views on fight against poverty and the roles cities can play to defend water, a vital common good.

Inspired by the [Mayors for Peace PX Vision](#), the Mayors for Peace European Chapter, alongside the World Human Rights Cities Forum (Gwangju, South Korea) and the World Forum on Cities and Territories for Peace (Mexico City, Mexico), [produced a statement on the current state of the global peace agenda and local governments’ contribution to it](#). The document supports UCLG’s “Pact for the Future of Humanity”, the outcome document of the World Congress in Daejeon. Protecting human rights is a fundamental part of this effort, [as recalled by UCLG-CSIPDHR member local governments](#).

Mayors for Peace member cities - 8,222 cities in 166 countries/regions

On November 1, we gained 9 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,222. We thank all involved in promoting expanded membership for their invaluable support. Below is the breakdown of the new members.

Country/Region	New Members	Total No.	Remarks
Austria	Hausmannstätten	118	
Ecuador	Latacunga and Saraguro	21	Thanks to efforts by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador etc.
Germany	Murrhardt and Stendal	842	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
Mauritania	Ksar	14	
Netherlands	Beesel	171	Thanks to efforts by Brügger, a member city in Germany.
US	Evansville (IN)	223	Thanks to efforts by Veterans for Peace, a peace organization of military veterans.
Viet Nam	Da Lat	6	Thanks to efforts by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam.



List of new members (PDF):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/file-2210-newmembers2211_en.pdf

Membership by country (PDF):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/monthly/file-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 available in 10 different languages: Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

Letters of request to join Mayors for Peace and document pack

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/about-us/resources/#recruit>

Your continued cooperation is highly appreciated!

Reports by Executive Advisors

- **Hiroshima Art Exhibition in Washington, D.C.: The Phillips Collection, 23 August–27 November 2022**

Report by Dr. Randy Rydell, Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace

In 1947, children of the All Soul’s Church Unitarian in Washington D.C. sent some supplies to the children of Hiroshima’s Honkawa Elementary School, who in turn sent back student paintings and drawings made with these supplies.

Thirty-five years later, an American silkscreen artist, Jacob Lawrence, was invited to contribute illustrations for a special edition of John Hersey’s famous book, *Hiroshima*, which documented the tragic humanitarian effects of the bombing.

From 23 August to 27 November this year, one of Washington’s premier art galleries, The Phillips Collection, hosted a unique exhibition combining the work of both groups of artists.

The themes of these paintings combine a depiction of the human tragedy of the bombing with hope for a future of peace and reconciliation. They embodied well two of the primary goals of Mayors for Peace: respect for the memory of the tragedy suffered by the hibakusha and the resilience of a city that was able to recover from this humanitarian catastrophe.

The exhibition was organized by Melvin Hardy, a Washington-based peace activist, who also hosted a well-attended panel discussion on 27 October on “Art, Nuclear War, Peace, and Reconciliation.” For a video of this event, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJya5lCxUOo> (starting after a 20-minute silent introduction). The Phillips gallery has also posted a 360-degree tour of this exhibition at <https://www.phillipscollection.org/event/2022-08-23-hiroshima>. The images of the exhibition are also available at the above website.

- **Signing of the Political Declaration on the Protection of Civilians from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas in Dublin on 18 November 2022**

Report by Amb. Thomas Hajnoczi, Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace

Fighting in armed conflicts is increasingly undertaken in cities. When explosive weapons are used in populated areas, about 90 per cent of the victims are civilians. During this year already more than 18.000 civilians are recorded to have fallen victim to such attacks in violation of international humanitarian law in more than 50 countries.

Bombing and shelling cities also results in the destruction of crucial infrastructure like hospitals, schools, houses, work places, electricity and water supply making the life of civilians almost unbearable as we see today e.g. in Ukraine.

The objective of the Political Declaration is to strengthen the protection of civilians and take concrete action. Since the Vienna Conference on Protecting Civilians in Urban Warfare in 2019 the text of the Political Declaration has been elaborated and 83 countries have signed up to it at a conference in Dublin on 18 November 2022. You can find the text of the Political Declaration and list of countries on [the website of the NGO coalition on this subject \(INEW ~ Dublin Conference to Adopt the Political Declaration on Explosive Weapons\)](#).

Request to implement initiatives outlined in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan

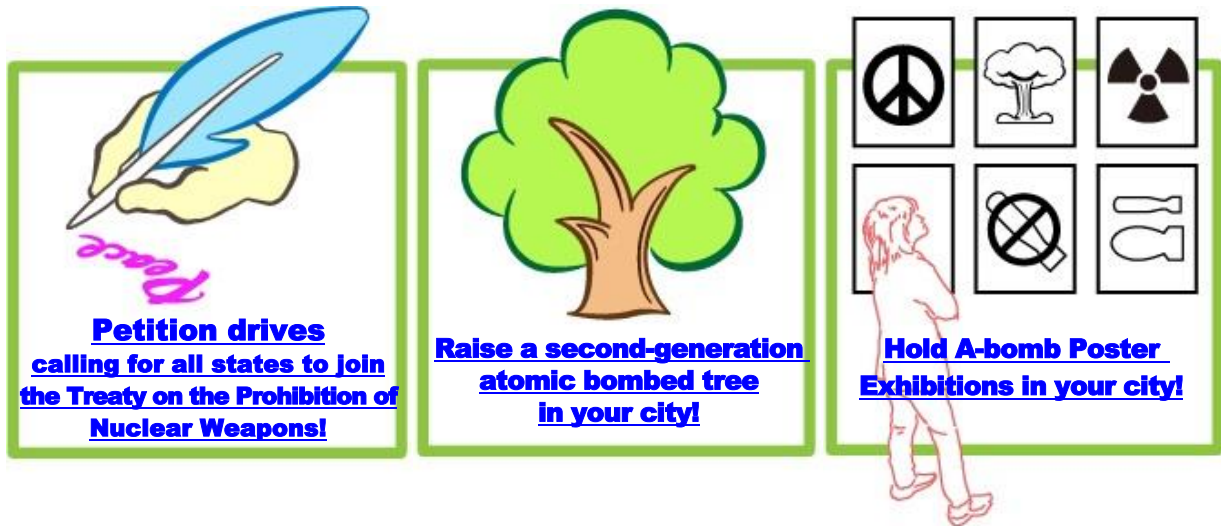
At the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held online in July last year, we adopted our new Action Plan (2021–2025). Together, let us continue our utmost efforts toward our ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace. Please implement initiatives outlined in the Action Plan within your own municipality or regional group.

🔗 Mayors for Peace Action Plan (PDF):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/file-PX_Vision_Action_Plan_en.pdf

🔗 Initiatives implemented under the Action Plan:

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/>



Call for input: examples of peace education initiatives

The Mayors for Peace Secretariat has been seeking examples of peace education initiatives conducted by any organization (city government/school/NGO, etc.) in Mayors for Peace member cities. 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:

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/edu-examples/>

Request for payment of the 2022 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 17 USD/15 Euro as of March 2022) 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 2022 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.

Contact: Mayors for Peace Secretariat (Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

🔗 Request for the 2022 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website):

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/about-us/joins/fees/>

Peace-related news from Hiroshima

(Provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

Less than six months remain before the summit meeting of the G7 (attended by the Group of Seven industrialized nations), scheduled to be held in Hiroshima City in May of next year. The G7 Hiroshima Summit is anticipated to provide an opportunity for leaders from countries around the world, members of the media, and visitors to the city to learn about the immense destruction of Hiroshima caused by the atomic bombing, as well as about how its citizens struggled to restore the city into the modern version of the Hiroshima cityscape we see today. Communicating to the present era the memories of the inhumane devastation from the atomic bombing is not limited to the hypocenter area and Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. In many places across the city, A-bombed buildings and trees remain to this day. Moreover, photographs taken shortly after the bombing also serve as “witnesses” to the tragic event.

Motoujina-machi, in Hiroshima’s Minami Ward, is the location of the Grand Prince Hotel Hiroshima, a candidate site for the summit’s main venue. The area is located about five kilometers southeast of the A-bombing hypocenter. During the war, the Ujina shipbuilding yard, located in the same area, was engaged in the production of military ships. About four hours after the atomic bomb was dropped, from high in the sky above Motoujina-machi, an American photoreconnaissance aircraft took a photo of the city covered in clouds from the atomic bombing and smoke from the fires that arose thereafter. The plane seemed to have taken the aerial photo in an attempt to ascertain the “power” and “effectiveness” of the atomic bomb. In 2003, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum was able to obtain that photo’s electronic data.

The reason we pay attention in this way to photos taken soon after the atomic bombing is not to measure the bomb’s “power” or “effectiveness” by looking down on the city from above the mushroom cloud. Rather, it is to grasp, at ground level, how widely that single nuclear weapon engulfed the city in flames and indiscriminately incinerated the human beings there, as well as to imagine the lives of each of the citizens forced to endure the “hell on earth” that was the city following the bombing. Such stories are taken up in our feature series “Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima.”

Please access the following websites and read our peace-related news.

Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima, evidence of victims remains—City’s downtown shrouded in clouds, smoke: Photo taken from US aircraft 4 hours post-bombing in sky above Motoujina-machi, G7 summit candidate site
<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=125577>

Online exhibition of photos taken in Hiroshima before bombing, works by late Wakaji Matsumoto on display free of charge
<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=125597>

Documents left by German interpreter vividly show the life of prisoners of war at internment camp on Ninoshima Island
<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=125593>

Visitors to Fukuromachi Elementary School Peace Museum reach 500,000
<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=125575>

Hiroshima Summit 2023: Students at Motomachi High School design logo for prefectural civic group to convey hopes for peace to world
<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=125573>

Mayors for Peace Official Social Media Accounts

<Twitter>  **@Mayors4Peace**
<https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace>



<Facebook>  **@mayorsforpeace**
<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace>



 The latest and archived issues of Mayors for Peace News Flash are available at:
<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/news/newsflashes/>

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

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