



Mayors for Peace News Flash

March 2022 / No.147

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

8,065 cities

in 166 countries and regions

(as of March 1, 2022)

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>

Twitter 

<https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace>

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

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Member Cities' activities showing solidarity to the people of Ukraine

In response to the unfolding situation in Ukraine, many cities have been engaged in activities showing solidarity with the people of Ukraine and calling the world for peace. Followings are the ones reported to the Secretariat.

- President of Mayors for Peace

On February 24, the day the aggression started, President Matsui posted a [comment](#), urging diplomatic efforts for a peaceful solution as soon as possible.

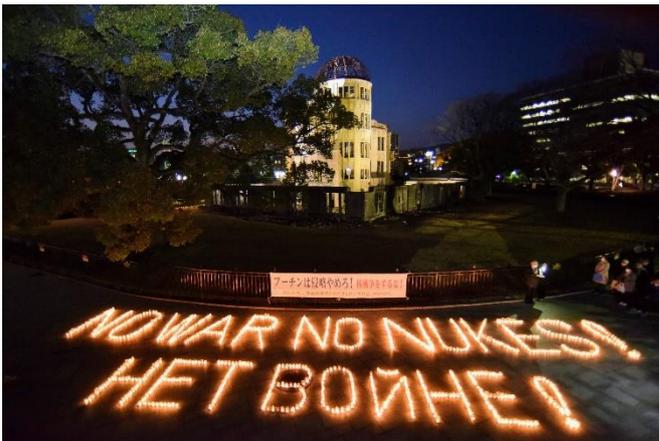
On March 16, President released an urgent [message](#), calling for solidarity in restoring peace and highlighting the urgency and importance of advancing nuclear disarmament now.



The military conflict in #Ukraine has claimed civilian lives. This must not lead to the use of nuclear weapons at any cost. I strongly urge for diplomatic efforts for a peaceful solution as soon as possible.
[#MayorsforPeace](#)



6:49 PM · Feb 24, 2022 · Twitter Web App



*Hibakusha groups' gathering in front the Atomic Bomb Dome
(Photo: courtesy of HANWA)*

- Hiroshima, Japan

On March 1, Hiroshima City Council adopted a resolution, urging for a peaceful solution and the immediate cessation of all attacks.

- Nagasaki, Japan

To show solidarity with the people of the world and a sincere desire for peace, the Fountain of Peace and Inasayama Radio Tower in Nagasaki are lit up in Ukrainian flag colors (blue and yellow).





ロシアのウクライナ侵攻に対する
山中 竹春 横浜市長コメントについて

ロシアによるウクライナ侵攻を受け、別紙のとおり、コメントを発出します。

- Yokohama, Japan

On February 25, Mayor Yamanaka of Yokohama released a comment, concerning the safety of the citizens of Odessa, Ukraine – Yokohama’s sister city and Mayors for Peace member city – and urging the immediate cessation of all attacks.



- European Chapter

On February 25, the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace released a [statement](#), advocating that dialogue, cooperation, and diplomacy are the only valid mechanisms to ensure a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Statement on the War in Ukraine

Representing European local and regional governments committed to defend peace in our cities and towns but also across the continent and the whole world, and following up on the call by the Mayor of Hiroshima and President of the Mayors for Peace network urging for a diplomatic solution to the conflict in Ukraine, we issue the following statement:

- We urge the Russian government and perpetrators of the current escalation and territorial aggression in Ukraine to put an end to hostilities, respect international law and commit to reinvigorated diplomatic efforts: **Dialogue, cooperation and diplomacy are the only valid mechanisms to ensure a peaceful resolution to conflict.**



- German Chapter

The City of Hannover, the Vice President City, called out German members to raise the Mayors for Peace flag demonstrating solidarity with people wishing for world peace. About 30 German members responded immediately, [raising flags](#) in front of their City/Town Halls. While this initiative became more and more widespread, so far 58 cities applied to join the Mayors for Peace network.

- French Chapter

On February 24, the French Chapter released a [communiqué](#) (in French), reaffirming their solidarity with the people of the world and commitment to peace.



ACCUEIL QUI SOMMES-NOUS? ADHÉRER À L'AFCDP OUTILS ACTIVITÉS RESSOURCES

Communiqué AFCDP-Maires pour la Paix Ukraine

Par admin 24 février 2022 0

Madame, Monsieur,

Nous vivons un jour sombre pour l'Europe. Après des mois de tensions, et suite à la reconnaissance unilatérale du gouvernement de Vladimir Poutine de l'indépendance des territoires de Donetsk et de Lougansk le 21 février, les troupes russes ont envahis les territoires ukrainiens de l'Est ce matin, violant l'intégrité territoriale et la souveraineté de l'Ukraine ; actions incompatibles avec les principes de la Charte des Nations unies.



- Malakoff, France

On February 24, the French Chapter released a [communiqué](#) (in French), reaffirming their solidarity with the people of the world and commitment to peace.

- Grigny, France

On March 5, Mayor Rio of Grigny participated in a peace march held in Paris and stated that “City diplomacy, strengthening the network of local municipalities, will help promote a culture of peace” in his speech.





Déclaration
Séance du Conseil municipal du 21 mars 2022

Déclaration de solidarité avec le peuple et la communauté ukrainienne

Attendu que l'invasion de la Russie en Ukraine constitue une atteinte grave à la paix et à la sécurité internationales, qui a entraîné une crise internationale majeure et des conséquences désastreuses pour la population ukrainienne;

Attendu que cette invasion comporte des atteintes inacceptables aux droits humains, à la souveraineté et à l'intégrité territoriale de l'Ukraine ainsi qu'à la Charte des Nations unies et aux conventions internationales;

- Montreal, Canada

On March 21, Montreal City Council released a [declaration](#) (in French), stating that Montreal has always been a welcoming place for the Ukrainian people and their community, and demonstrating solidarity with them.

- Christchurch, New Zealand

On March 10, Christchurch City Council adopted a [resolution](#), requesting the city staff to seek what practicable things can be done to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in the city and Ukraine.

Resolutions of the Christchurch City Council March 10, 2022

That the Council:

Note that in late February Russia invaded Ukraine in an unjustified international law. New Zealand, in line with countries around the world, has expressed its strong condemnation of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, a degree that illegal act.

Note that New Zealand's strong condemnation is of the Russian people.

Note Christchurch's history and connection to the peace movement, becoming New Zealand's first Peace City twenty years ago in 2002, and Mayor's for Peace network in 1988.

 In addition to the ones introduced above, many activities calling for peace have been conducted by member cities all around the world, especially in Europe. Please refer to the European Chapter's webpage below:

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.eu/3952-2/>

Online meeting with Religions for Peace



On February 18, the Mayors for Peace Secretariat had an online meeting with the “Stop! Nuclear Weapons Dependence Task Force” of Religions for Peace. Having the same goal of realizing the abolition of nuclear weapons as we do, and joining the world’s different religions together, Religions for Peace develops peacebuilding activities around the globe. They have been a long-term supporter of Mayors for Peace.

At the meeting, in addition to expressing sincere appreciation for their support, Secretary General Koizumi of Mayors for Peace described the Task Force members the outline of the Vision for Peaceful Transformation to a Sustainable World (PX Vision) that was adopted last July, and initiatives we implement under it.

In response, the participants expressed their support for the PX Vision and their wish to continue working with Mayors for Peace for our common goal of the abolition of nuclear weapons, through their network of religious groups in more than 90 countries around the world.

Member city activities

● Leeds, UK

Peace Tree in Leeds commemorates passing of Leeds Council resolution favouring Treaty Ban
Report by Mr. Richard Outram, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary

Mayors for Peace member authority, Leeds City Council, in the United Kingdom, passed a resolution last year in support of the UK Government signing the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons [TPNW]. To mark this achievement, a tree was planted in Park Square.

In recent months, fundraising has paid for a plaque explaining the significance of the tree and the decision by Leeds City Council to endorse the TPNW.

On the 22nd January 2022, the first anniversary of the TPNW, the plaque was erected in front of the tree. In early February, Leeds City Councillor David Blackburn, Chair of UK/Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities [NFLA], joined members of Leeds Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament [CND] to commemorate the plaque's installation. The [NFLA](#) is like Mayors for Peace a member organisation of ICAN, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.



Photo: courtesy of the UK and Ireland Chapter

● Allonnes, France

Allonnes supports Open Letter of Mayors for Peace addressed to NPT States Parties and commissions fresco for peace

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

On February 9, Allonnes City Council released a message of support to Mayors for Peace's Open Letter addressed to NPT States Parties ([French](#) / [English](#)), which states "The elected officials of Allonnes join the open letter to fight for the abolition of nuclear weapons in order to avoid exposing the population and the environment to the risks of nuclear weapons."

In addition, following this unanimous support, Allonnes held an opening event / vernissage of the art work titled "War and Peace," which is exhibited at the City Hall as a representation of the city's commitment to peace. The city commissioned this monumental fresco to a Congolese artist, Dady Nkanga, with the theme of Peace. His work was done at the site during the event. The whole city council was present there, including Mayor Gilles Leproust of Allonnes, and Mrs. Audrey Joannic, who is a city councilor in charge of human rights and peace as well as a Vice President of AFCD RP.



(Photo on right) From the left: Councilor Audrey Joannic, Artist Dady Nkanga, and Mayor Gilles Leproust
Photos: courtesy of AFCD RP-Mayors for Peace France

Regional chapter activities

● European Chapter

Fostering new alliances on nuclear disarmament and peace agendas: Mayors for Peace participation at the UCLG Retreat

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

The European Chapter of Mayors for Peace took an active role during the main coordination meeting of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) held from 21 to 25 February. This was a good opportunity to explore new alliances around nuclear disarmament along with participating local governments and partners of UCLG, which showed a great interest for the role of peace municipalism and Mayors for Peace in promoting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).



Photo: courtesy of the City of Granollers

The Mayors for Peace delegation was composed by the Chair of its European Chapter and Granollers Mayor Josep Mayoral and the Executive Advisor to its Secretariat Mr. Thomas Hajnoczi. These two representatives participated in the open workshop “Peace Agenda of UCLG: Milestones and Key Steps” (Wednesday 23) where they encouraged more local governments to join the ongoing advocacy initiatives promoted by the Mayors for Peace network and other peace advocates.

This workshop also helped to connect TPNW initiatives to the wider peace agenda promoted by UCLG, which mainly comprises the “Cities and Territories for Peace Forum” (to take place in Bogotá next 2023) and the “UCLG Peace Prize”. The role of human rights cities’ municipalism (#Cities4Rights) was also addressed in connection to this issue and the role of local governments in promoting a culture of peace.

● French Chapter

AFCDRP-Mayors for Peace France participated in conference on 1MSP of the TPNW

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

AFCDRP-Mayors for Peace France participated in the conference “The first meeting of the States Parties to the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW): issues and objectives.” It was organized by ICAN France and Senator Guillaume Gontard, who is the Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Armed Forces. The event was held on 4 March at the Palais du Luxembourg (Sénat).

The aim of holding this conference was to reflect the voices of different organizations (ICRC, IPPNW, ICAN, etc.), researchers, and parliamentarians to the current French nuclear deterrence policy, highlighting the importance of abolishing nuclear weapons and given the current situation in Ukraine. There were several round tables with representatives from France, Norway, Germany, and Austria, including Ambassador Alexander Kmentt, President-designate of the first meeting of States Parties to the TPNW (1MSP).

I was the moderator of the first session “The humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons: a review of the fundamentals.” At the session, I presented about the Mayors for Peace network and underscored that security, conflict prevention, and peacekeeping are at the heart of the local missions of cities and elected officials.

Mayor Jacqueline Belhomme of Malakoff, who is a Vice President of Mayors for Peace and AFCDRP-Mayors for Peace France as well as a signatory of the ICAN Cities Appeal reminded the audience of the importance of the TPNW regarding the disastrous situation in Ukraine and the threats to the population, cities, and territories.

[Link \(Program of the conference \(in French\)\)](#)



Photos: courtesy of AFCDRP-Mayors for Peace France

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.

Mayors for Peace member cities - 8,065 cities in 166 countries/regions

On March 1, we gained 1 new member city (Zettlitz) from Germany, bringing our total membership to 8,065. We thank all involved in promoting expanded membership for their invaluable support.



Help us achieve **10,000** member cities!



 List of new member (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/03_newmembers/2022/newmembers2203_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 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

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/aboutus/join.html#section01>

Your continued cooperation is highly appreciated!

Report by Executive Advisor

● **Schedule of the First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW and Tenth NPT Review Conference** Report by Mr. Thomas Hajnoczi, the Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace

The States Parties of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) decide to hold the First Meeting of States Parties (1MSP) from 21 to 23 June 2022 in Vienna. This meeting will be of particular importance for the treaty, since it is the first one and will develop a model of better inclusion of civil society in similar nuclear disarmament fora. A number of decisions of topical nature, e.g. regarding victim assistance and environmental remediation will be taken there.

Austria is inviting to a one-day conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons on 20 June 2022 on the conference site. After the three conferences on this topic in 2013 and 2014, it is time for an update on recent scientific findings and a refocusing on this top priority issue for nuclear disarmament.

The pandemic did not permit to hold the 1MSP, originally foreseen for January 2021, earlier. Likewise, the NPT Review Conference planned for spring 2020 could not take place hitherto. The NPT States Parties decided now on the dates 1 to 26 August in New York. Against the background of the war in Ukraine resulting in a hardening of the positions of nuclear weapon states unfortunately it seems unlikely that concrete progress towards nuclear disarmament will be within reach there.

As we see these days, nuclear weapons embolden their possessors to wage war and cannot provide security. The current sad events showcase how important and urgent a prohibition of nuclear weapons leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons is.

Schedule

-Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)
First Meeting of States Parties (1MSP):
21 – 23 June, 2022 in Vienna, Austria

-Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)
10th Review Conference (RevCon):
1 – 26 August, 2022 in New York, U.S.

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

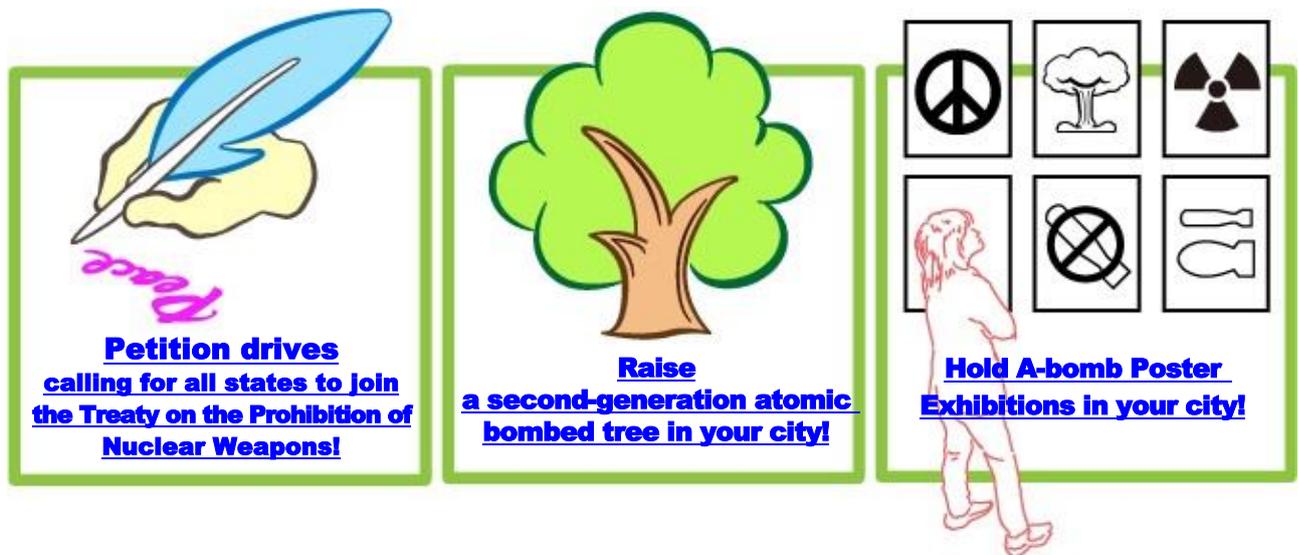
At the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held online in July last year, we adopted our new Action Plan (2021-2025). Together, let us continue our utmost efforts toward our ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace. Please implement initiatives outlined in the Action Plan within your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

🔗 Mayors for Peace Action Plan (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/conferences/executive/data/12th_ec/PX_Vision_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_examples.html

Peace news from Hiroshima

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

Ukraine's people face a grave humanitarian crisis caused by the Russian military invasion of their country. Russia's attempt to control another country by force and reach that goal by threatening the use of nuclear weapons is not at all acceptable. Such actions only lead to the indiscriminate slaughter of civilians. Nuclear power plants in Ukraine are being targeted in the war in a terrifying act that should make everyone's hair stand on end. If the worst case scenario were ever to come about, would Russian President Vladimir Putin hold himself accountable for the loss of the precious lives of so many? That would seem unlikely.

A message calling out the war crimes being committed by Russia and demanding that no civilian be sacrificed in the conflict should be communicated to the Kremlin from Hiroshima. In fact, many groups in Hiroshima and elsewhere are now starting to raise their voices against the war. The situation must not end with the international community coming to the conclusion that Russia did whatever it wanted because it had nuclear weapons. Scheduled to be held this summer are the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference and the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The results from those gatherings will be severely put to the test.

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

Hiroshima Prefecture to establish 'Group of Friends' as early as fiscal 2023, calling on nuclear and non-nuclear weapon states to engage in discussions about nuclear abolition

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=117473>

Story of Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra's 50 years since turning pro, Chapter 1, Part 1: Starts in A-bombed city as volunteer orchestra of 85 people including students, priest

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=117475>

Life of A-bombed trees sprouts forth in American composer's symphony "Green Hope after Black Rain" inspired by Hiroshima citizens' activity

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=117478>

Photos of six people who took photos of Hiroshima in aftermath of A-bombing are registered at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Hall

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=117480>

Setsuko Thurlow sends letter to Prime Minister Kishida, urging leadership on issue of nuclear weapons abolition

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=117611>

Announcement from Hiroshima City University: publication of a new book

The Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University published a new book, **Governance and Peace in Asia** [Aija no Heiwa to Gabanansu] (Hiroshima Peace Institute ed., Yushindo Kobun Sha, 2022).

This book is based on academic research and written by Hiroshima Peace Institute faculty members, other researchers and mass media experts, and is a sequel to, **Peace, Nuclear Weapons and Governance Issues in Asia** [Aija no Heiwa to Kaku] (Kyodo News, 2019), which was published by the Hiroshima Peace Institute three years ago.

It aims to clarify the structure of international relations and the realities of governance in nuclear developing countries in Asia, to question the current state of institutionalization of regional governance in Asia, and the role of nuclear weapons in Japan's security.

(KIKKAWA, Gen, Specially Appointed Professor of the Hiroshima Peace Institute)

 More information can be found on the Hiroshima Peace Institute website:

<https://www.peace.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp/archive/a-comprehensive-study-of-peace-and-governance-in-asia/>

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:

Mayors for Peace Secretariat

1-5 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730-0811 Japan

Tel: +81-82-242-7821 Fax: +81-82-242-7452

Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp
