



Mayors for Peace News Flash

April 2022 / No.148

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

8,134 cities

in 166 countries and regions

(as of April 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.

Table of Contents

- Further postponement of the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace
- Invitation for the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2022
- Request for Payment of the 2022 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee
- Member city activities
- Regional chapter activities
- Mayors for Peace member cities - 8,134 cities in 166 countries/regions
- Request to implement initiatives outlined in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan
- Call for input: examples of initiatives to foster peace-seeking spirit
- Peace-related news from Hiroshima (provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

Further postponement of the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

Mayors for Peace postponed its 10th General Conference, originally planned to be held in 2020, twice due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and was making arrangements to hold it on Thursday, 4th and Friday, 5th of August this year. Amid such circumstances, it was announced in March that the NPT Review Conference would also be held at UN Headquarters in New York in August this year. To date, the Mayors for Peace delegation has attended every NPT Review Conference—an indispensable conference for the NPT States Parties, including nuclear-weapons states and their allies, to address and advance nuclear disarmament.



After careful consideration on how we could enhance our outreach activities by the Mayors for Peace delegation at the Review Conference, we have come to the conclusion that it would be difficult for us to hold the 10th General Conference during the Review Conference. As it would also be meaningful to hold the General Conference after taking into account the results of the Review Conference, we have decided to postpone the General Conference and to hold it from the afternoon of Wednesday, 19th to Thursday, 20th of October this year in Hiroshima.

This General Conference will be the one to mark and commemorate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Mayors for Peace. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Invitation for the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2022

In order to expand peace education efforts in its over 8,100 member cities in 166 countries and regions around the world, Mayors for Peace holds a children’s art competition on the theme of “Peaceful Towns,” for children from 6 to 15 years old in all these cities.

Categories:

- [Category 1] 6–10 year olds
- [Category 2] 11–15 year olds

Number of applications allowed per city:

Up to 5 artworks for each category

Submission Deadline:

5:00 PM (Japan Standard Time), October 31, 2022

Submission:

Via Google Forms: <https://forms.gle/mr5Zw7LLnqVgUCuf6>

To ensure that submissions are only received from member cities, the form is password-protected.

Note: In the case that it is difficult to submit artworks via Google Forms, member cities are able to send submissions by email. Please send the scanned artwork and application form, along with a cover sheet to the Secretariat.

Inquiries:

Email the Secretariat: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2022



Call for Submissions

Details of the competition:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/vision/initiatives_art/2022.html

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.

 Request for the 2022 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website): <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/aboutus/fee.html>

Member city activities

- **Halabja, Iraq**
Commemorating the 34th anniversary of Halabja Genocide
Report by Mr. Zmnako Mohammed, the City of Halabja

For hours, the Iraqi air force bombed the city, and around noon, they rained down a cocktail of chemicals on the people. 5000 people died and 67 percent of the victims were women and children.

March 16, 2022 marked the 34th anniversary of Halabja chemical bombardment. Halabja is still suffering from the long-term consequences of the chemical attack in 1988. There are 490 people affected by the chemical and they have major problems with their eyes and respiratory system. Parents are still looking for their lost children; 140 children are missing. Survivors of the attack wish to eliminate weapons of mass destruction in the world by raising awareness about the consequences of such weapons. The attack, recognized as act of genocide by Iraq's High Court in 2010, has left a permanent scar in the memory of the Kurdish people.

Yearly, survivors gather to commemorate this event. The Municipality of Halabja organized the following activities this year:

- A commemoration ceremony and offering a wreath of flowers at the Halabja Martyrs Monument;
- A photography exhibition by photographer, Taher Gholami; and
- Opening of Jalal Azabani photo gallery exhibiting around 2000 photos, including those of the city before and after the attack.



Photos: courtesy of the City of Halabja

● **Montréal, Canada**

Montréal and partner cities at the core of the celebrations of the International Day on Living Together in Peace

Report by Ms. Lucie Lavoie, the City of Montréal

Since its adoption by the United Nations, the [International Observatory of Mayors on Living Together](#)—an international platform to exchange experiences on social cohesion, coordinated by the City of Montréal—is a key partner of the celebrations of the [International Day on Living Together in Peace](#), which takes place on 16 May.

For this year's edition, an international campaign around the simultaneous dissemination of the documentary film “[All of Us](#)”—a film telling stories of peace, hope and reconciliation in different countries—is deployed worldwide. Following the mobilization of the Observatory, more than ten member cities will organize local screenings of the film. The Observatory, in cooperation with partner francophone cities from Europe, Africa and North America, will also organize a webinar on 16 May, with the filmmaker as special guest (more information to come [here](#)).



Image: courtesy of the City of Montréal

● **Montréal, Canada**

Montréal stands with Ukraine

Report by Ms. Lucie Lavoie, the City of Montréal

Since the invasion of Ukraine by Russia on February 24, the City of Montréal has expressed its solidarity with the Ukrainian people through a series of symbolic and concrete actions. At its last session, the Montréal City Council unanimously adopted a declaration of solidarity in which the City condemned the Russian invasion in Ukraine and affirmed the right of the Ukrainian people to live in peace and security (see [here](#) for the English version). Furthermore, the City also made a donation to the Canadian Red Cross and its Newcomers' Integration Bureau (BINAM) is already preparing the hosting and integration of Ukrainian migrants to Montréal.

On April 8, at the occasion of a [conference](#) organized by the Council of Europe, the Mayor of Montréal, Ms. Valérie Plante, had the opportunity to address the mayors of several Ukrainian cities to directly express her [support](#), on behalf of Montrealers. Mayor Plante also had a [meeting](#) with the Ukrainian Ambassador in Canada to explore ways in which the City could contribute to peace efforts.



(above) H.E. Ambassador of Ukraine to Canada, Mrs. Yulia Kovaliv (left), with Mayor Valérie Plante.

(Photos: courtesy of the City of Montréal)

● **Gernika-Lumo, Spain**

“Hiroshima—The Atomic Bomb Inferno,” exhibition of Shigeyoshi Kawakatsu at the 85th anniversary of the Bombing of Gernika

Report by Ms. Cristina Arana Bareño, the City of Gernika-Lumo

This year marks the 85th anniversary of the Bombing of Gernika in 1937. On this occasion, from April 4 to May 2, Gernika-Lumo is holding at the House of Culture a special exhibition on Shigeyoshi Kawakatsu. The exhibition consists of Kawakatsu’s six artworks, which show what the survivors of the Hiroshima atomic bombing saw after the attack.

Shigeyoshi Kawakatsu (1929–) witnessed the Bombing of Tokyo by the United States Army Air Forces in the Pacific campaign of World War II during his childhood and youth. After obtaining a doctoral degree in political science from the Christian-Albrecht University of Kiel, he served as a member of the Governing Council of the State of Saxony after the unification of Germany and headed different companies in the energy sector in Germany.

Since 2005, he has been publishing books, creating artworks, and giving lectures on the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, especially focusing on the horror of war and the suffering that the survivors and their descendants have been experiencing.

The works on display are inspired by the photographs of survivors, who witnessed hell in Hiroshima after the atomic bombing.



Photos: courtesy of the City of Gernika-Lumo

Regional chapter activities

● French Chapter

Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP) discusses the role of sport in peace efforts with students and experts at conference, “Sport, an Answer for Peace”

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

Philippe Rio, Mayor of Grigny and President of AFCDRP–Mayors for Peace France, discussed the role of sport in efforts for peace with students and other experts at a conference, “Sport, an Answer for Peace,” in University of Paris–Nanterre on April 6, 2022. The conference was organized by students of the Master 1 Sport and Social Sciences program of the University of Paris–Nanterre and Peace and Sport to celebrate the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace. It was followed by a meeting with Jean-Jérôme Perrin-Mortier, CEO of Peace and Sport.

Young students were joined by experts from the worlds of sport and politics, including: Philippe Rio, Mayor of Grigny and President of Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP); Laurence Fischer, Champion of Peace and Ambassador for Sport at the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs; Diana Gadega, Champion of Peace and African Champion; and Vincent Pasquini, Head of International Cooperation at Paris 2024.



In the context of high tensions in Ukraine, the conference addressed the role of sport in conflict prevention, reconciliation and coexistence, as well as crisis management, particularly with refugee populations.




Philippe Rio (second from right) with other elected officials and representatives of AFCDRP–Mayors for Peace France member cities including Dugny, Villejuif, Nanterre, and Vitry-sur-Seine.



The event ended with a collective photograph #WhiteCard, symbol of peace through sport in the world.

(Photos: courtesy of AFCDRP–Mayors for Peace)

 Article in French (AFCDRP–Mayors for Peace France website):

<https://afcdrp.com/conference-organisee-par-peace-and-sport-a-loccasion-de-la-journee-internationale-du-sport-au-service-du-developpement-et-de-la-paix-le-6-avril-2022/>

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 - 8,134 cities in 166 countries/regions

On April 1, we gained 70 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,134. 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
Argentina	Godoy Cruz	101	
Colombia	Neiva	17	
Germany	Altenberge and 57 other cities	788	In addition to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City, German member cities' solidarity initiative of raising Mayors for Peace flag in front of their city halls in response to the ongoing situation in Ukraine inspired non-member cities to join the Mayors for Peace network.
Netherlands	Bergen L and 7 other cities	168	Thanks to efforts by some member cities in the Netherlands.
Spain	Eibar	398	
Switzerland	Biel/Bienne	24	Thanks to efforts by Bern, a member city in Switzerland.



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



List of new members (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/03_newmembers/2022/newmembers2204_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!

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

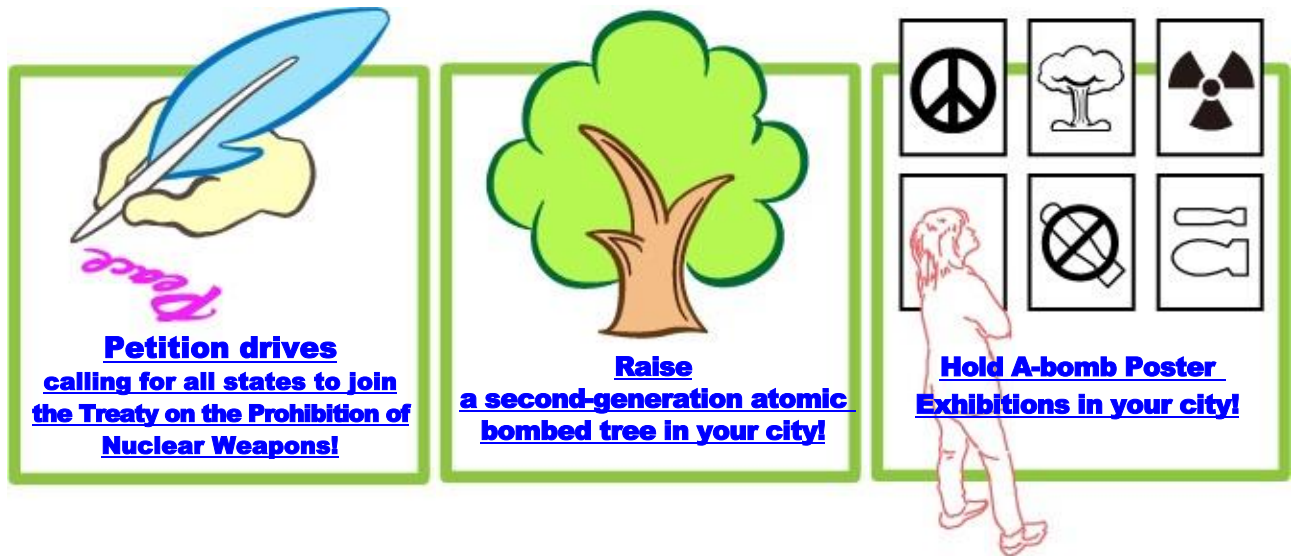
At the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held online in July last year, we adopted our new Action Plan (2021–2025). Together, let us continue our utmost efforts toward our ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace. Please implement initiatives outlined in the Action Plan within your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

(Provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

March 21 arrived with the announcement that the cherry blossoms in Hiroshima had begun to bloom. Until mid-April, amid a sea of cherry blossoms, people experienced the coming of spring in and around Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. Nevertheless, with the coronavirus pandemic appearing to have no end in sight, members of the public this year as well were unable to gather in large groups and enjoy being with each other while taking in the cherry blossoms. Even so, the spring season prompts the realization that appreciation of the beauty of flowers is possible only because our own world is at peace.

Since the launch of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, however, A-bomb survivors and others in Hiroshima have raised their voices in protest against the conflict. The more that is learned about the Ukrainian civilians victimized because of that outrageous aggression, the more the world feels shattered and furious. At the same time, extremely alarming debates have arisen about how Ukraine was attacked because that country gave up nuclear weapons when it gained independence from the former Soviet Union, or about how Japan should gain possession of nuclear weapons to protect itself. Such opinions can only be described as ignorant about the reality of the devastation caused by nuclear weapons. The world is at a crucial stage in efforts to call for peace, a message that both the public and the media have to take it upon themselves to persist in communicating.

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

A-bomb survivors and others stage protest against Russia's invasion of Ukraine in front of A-bomb Dome: "NO WAR"

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=118058>

Grandson of Southeast Asian student Yusof's younger brother visits grave at temple in Saeki Ward and expresses his intention to convey A-bomb survivor's testimony in his homeland

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=118570>

Song by Yasuhiko Shigemura, Hiroshima musician, tells of suffering, recovery after A-bombing with aim of sharing tragedy among people in U.S., Japan

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=118572>

U.S. Ambassador to Japan meets with Shigeaki Mori, man who researched American military POWs killed in A-bombing, thanks him for his courage

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=118575>

Facilities exhibiting A-bombed structural remains open to public, convey evidence of people's lives in former Nakajima district

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=118568>

Filming location Hiroshima shines as Drive My Car wins Oscar for best international movie, overturning the city's 'monochrome' image

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=118566>

Mayors for Peace Official Social Media Accounts

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



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



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

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

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