



Mayors for Peace News Flash

March 2023 / No.159

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

8,240 cities
in **166** countries and regions
(as of March 1, 2023)

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

Check our website and follow us on social media:

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

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<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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(provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

Member city activities showing solidarity to the people of Ukraine

As reported in the February Issue, on February 14, 2023, Mayors for Peace issued “Joint Appeal on the invasion of Ukraine as it approaches the one-year mark,” strongly raising its voice in protest to state that nuclear weapons must never be used and call for their total elimination, and declaring its determination to stand in solidarity to demand a swift end to this agonizing war through dialogue.

 Mayors for Peace Joint Appeal on the invasion of Ukraine as it approaches the one-year mark:

What must be done to prevent a third nuclear attack (Mayors for Peace website):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/file-2302-MfP_Joint_Appeal_1yr_Ukraine_war_E.pdf

This March Issue presents member cities’ activities showing solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

● Ypres, Belgium

Musical protest against the war in Ukraine at its one-year mark

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



Photo: courtesy of the City of Ypres

Immediately after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the City of Ypres together with the Platform “Westhoek Vredeshoek” organized silence circles in the Westhoek municipalities. This region suffered fiercely during WWI. People came together in 16 municipalities on a certain moment and stood in silent protest together for an hour.

Following these actions, from May 2022 the City of Ypres set up a weekly musical protest against the war on every Thursday at 6 PM. On the 24th of February, one year after the start of the war, Ypres organised a musical protest action together with refugees from Ukraine who live in Ypres now. After people from Ypres and the people from Ukraine played music one after the other, all the participants sang together and observed 10 minutes of silence to conclude the action.

What followed was an informal meeting between the participants. The people from Ypres and the new Ypres residents from Ukraine became acquainted with one another. Children made paintings, and mothers made friendship bracelets in the Ukrainian colours and baked traditional cake and pastries.

● German Chapter

German member cities take actions against the war in Ukraine on its one year mark

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

The City of Hannover, the Lead City in charge of the German Chapter, called out German members to raise the Mayors for Peace flag on the occasion of the one year mark of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Mayor Belit Onay held a speech at a rally in front of the Town Hall. Afterwards there was a concert for peace in the Market Church and another rally in front of the Opera House.

A special action was held in Muenster and Osnabrueck, the two peace cities where the Westphalia peace treaties were signed in 1648. Protesters formed a human chain spanning 51 kilometers between the two Mayors for Peace member cities.



Mayor Onay of Hannover holds a speech at a rally
Photos: courtesy of the City of Hannover

Herewith, the German members sent clear signals against the war in Ukraine.

● **French Chapter**

AFCD RP–Mayors for Peace France called on cease-fire and the development of a cities movement for peace 1 year after the invasion of Ukraine by Russia

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

February 24th, 2023, marked one year of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. AFCD RP–Mayors for Peace France issued an appeal, calling for their member cities to join a campaign to reaffirm their commitment to peace in France and around the world from February 24 to 26, 2023. Russia’s nuclear threats and growing fears of the conflict escalating to a nuclear war are further evidence that nuclear deterrence is a dead end; it does not guarantee global security. Instead of protecting global security or facilitating conflict resolution, the possession of nuclear weapons allows violation of territorial integrity.

In the Appeal, President Philippe Rio of AFCD RP–Mayors for Peace France (Mayor of Grigny) states,

“Words such as disarmament, diplomacy, cooperation and peace must find their full meaning and be at the heart of the discussions. [...] We, cities and local governments, are fully aware of the challenges faced by territories at war because we are in the front line for the security of our populations. Therefore, we call on French cities to create a real movement for peace.”



Image: courtesy of AFCD RP–Mayors for Peace France

AFCD RP–Mayors for Peace France Appeal One Year after the Invasion of Ukraine (French; AFCD RP website): <https://afcd rp.com/appeal-de-lafcd rp-maires-pour-la-paix-france-apres-une-annee-de-guerre-en-ukraine/>

Member city activities

● **Evora, Portugal**

Youths take the lead in promoting the culture of peace

Report by Ms. Paula Helena Santos, the Municipality of Évora, Portugal



Photos: courtesy of the City of Évora

At the beginning of this year, the Municipality of Évora undertook two important peace initiatives—the School Carnival and the Youth Month—to promote among young people and school communities the value of peace, coexistence of peoples, tolerance, sustainability and resilience, in compliance with the third objective of the Mayors for Peace Vision, Promote the Culture of Peace.

Under the theme, “Évora for Peace,” the School Carnival 2023 brought together children and adults from about two dozen schools and kindergartens in a peace parade to celebrate friendship, joy, and conviviality.

One of the many activities of the Youth Month, month-long initiative in March, is an exhibition of voices of the youth. From the youth associations integrating the Municipal Youth Council of Évora, 34 youngsters completed the sentence, “Em Evora lanço sementes pela paz quando... [In Évora I sow seeds for Peace when...],” and the exhibition displays banners with each of the participants’ answers with their photos. Launched on March 2, the exhibition is available to the public in Praça do Sertório until the end of the month.

● **Marcos Paz, Argentina**

Primary school students write stories about peace in “Stories for Peace” Contest on the International Day of Peace

Report by Mr. Federico Casaletti, Municipality of Marcos Paz

On the occasion of the International Day of Peace in 2022, with the aim of continuing to promote activities in our community as a member city of Mayors for Peace since 2021, we held the “Stories for Peace” Contest on November 23, 2022.



Photos: courtesy of the Municipality of Marcos Paz

For this contest we invited three primary schools from Marcos Paz, and the students wrote stories about peace and the danger of the use of nuclear weapons.

The municipality selected three winning stories and the prizes consisted of several boxes of books for the libraries of the participating schools.

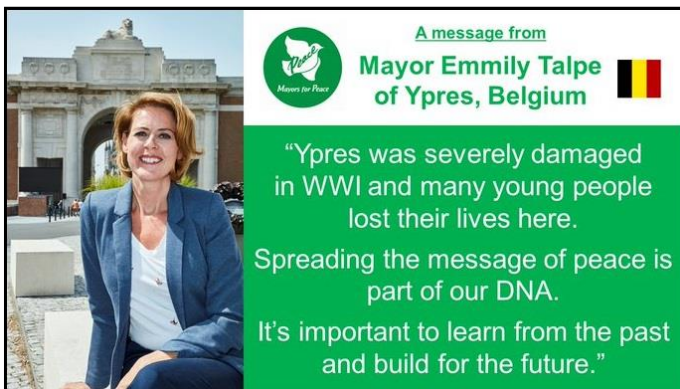
Introducing Executive Cities on Mayors for Peace social media accounts

At Mayors for Peace, whose member cities have reached a total of 8,240 in 166 countries and regions (as of March 1, 2023), [21 cities](#) from different parts of the world serve as Executive Cities.

To let more people know about the Executive Cities, [the Mayors for Peace official Twitter account \(@Mayors4Peace\)](#) and [Facebook account \(@mayorsforpeace\)](#) present the following three kinds of information from eight Executive Cities: (1) messages from the Mayors, (2) what the Cities are famous for, and (3) peace events.

The Mayors for Peace News Flash also introduces these Executive Cities in series. This March Issue introduces Ypres, Granollers, and Bangkok.

● **Ypres, Belgium**



(1) Message from Mayor Emmily Talpe

“Ypres was severely damaged in WWI and many young people lost their lives here.

Spreading the message of peace is part of our DNA.

It’s important to learn from the past and build for the future.”



(2) What Is the City Famous for?

Ypres is well known for:

- its Menin Gate (a WWI memorial),
- its Cloth Hall (a trading center for cloth in medieval times), and
- its Cat Parade (an event enjoyed by cat lovers around the world).



(3) Peace Events

In 2017, volunteers from Ypres came together to sew the largest flag for peace on earth! Since then, the flag has been unfurled annually on the UN International Day of Peace.

● Granollers, Catalonia



(1) Message from Mayor Alba Barnusell

“Our local history is behind our commitment towards peace municipalism.

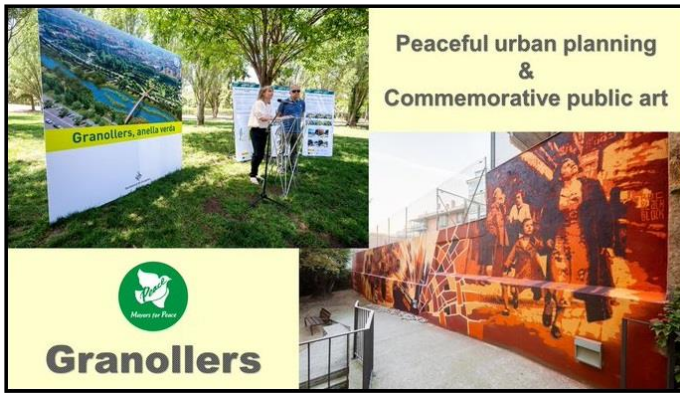
Pursuing local government mobilization in favor of peace is critical at a regional and international level.”



(2) What Is the City Famous for?

Granollers has:

- BM Granollers handball club;
- La Porxada square (w/ a building dating back to the renaissance era); and
- Vallès Oriental (beautiful countryside).



(3) Peace Events

- The city promotes peaceful urban planning through renaturalization of public spaces.
- The memories of previous war victims are kept alive in the city through arts.

● Bangkok, Thailand



(1) Message from Governor Chadchart Sittipunt

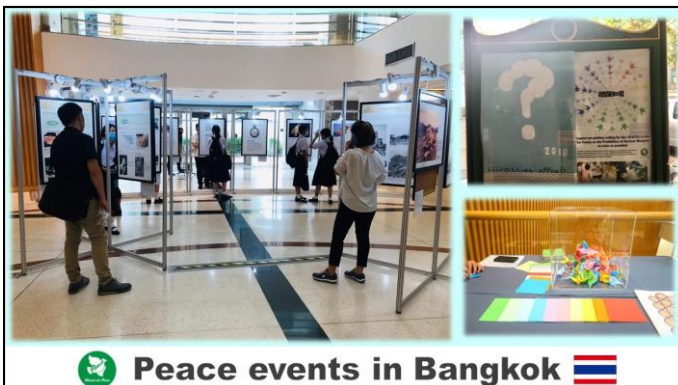
“A peaceful world starts with empathetic cities.”



(2) What Is the City Famous for?

Bangkok has:

- the Grand Palace
- Wat Arun (Temple Of Dawn), and
- Pad thai (Thai stir fried noodles).



(3) Peace Events

Bangkok organizes several peace events, such as exhibitions of the Mayors for Peace Atomic Bomb Posters and the Hiroshima Appeals Posters at the city hall and provides information about peace online.

The Mayors for Peace official social media accounts not only introduce Executive Cities but also present a variety of news stories with photos and images. Please follow us!

🐦 Mayors for Peace official Twitter account ([@Mayors4Peace](https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace))
<https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace>

📘 Mayors for Peace official Facebook account ([@mayorsforpeace](https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace))
<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace>

Regional chapter activities

● UK and Ireland Chapter

101 not out: UK and Ireland Chapter reaches over 100 members

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

Skipton and Salisbury have become the 100th and 101st members of the UK and Ireland Chapter of Mayors for Peace.

Skipton was recently visited by cyclists from Norway and Yorkshire when a delegation from the peace NGO Bike for Peace, led by its President Tore Nærland, met with the Council's Mayor, Councillor Rick Judge. The market town council was subsequently invited by the Chapter Secretary Richard Outram to join Mayors for Peace.

Salisbury has long-standing links with both Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Every year, the city hosts a candle float on the River Avon to remember the victims of nuclear weapons and nuclear testing. Annual letters of support for the float have been received from Mayor Matsui and lanterns have been sent from Hiroshima, most recently from the Danbara Junior High School in Hiroshima. At its November 2022 meeting, Councillors approved a motion to join Mayors for Peace.



Photo: courtesy of
Mayors for Peace UK and Ireland Chapter

Richard Outram said: *“We are proud to have both Skipton and Salisbury join us as Chapter members, and we look forward to working with them on future Mayors for Peace initiatives.”*

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 'the 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: 8,240 cities in 166 countries/regions

On March 1, we gained 3 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,240. 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
France	Mont-Saint-Martin	171	Thanks to efforts by Malakoff, a Vice President and Lead City.
Spain	Carboneros	402	
UK	Salisbury	88	Thanks to efforts by Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), an anti-nuclear peace organization.

3 new cities from 3 countries

- France 1 city**
- Spain 1 city**
- UK 1 city**

Member Cities
8,240 member cities

166 countries & regions

As of March 1, 2023

Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!

List of new members (PDF):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/file-2302-newmembers2303_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!

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

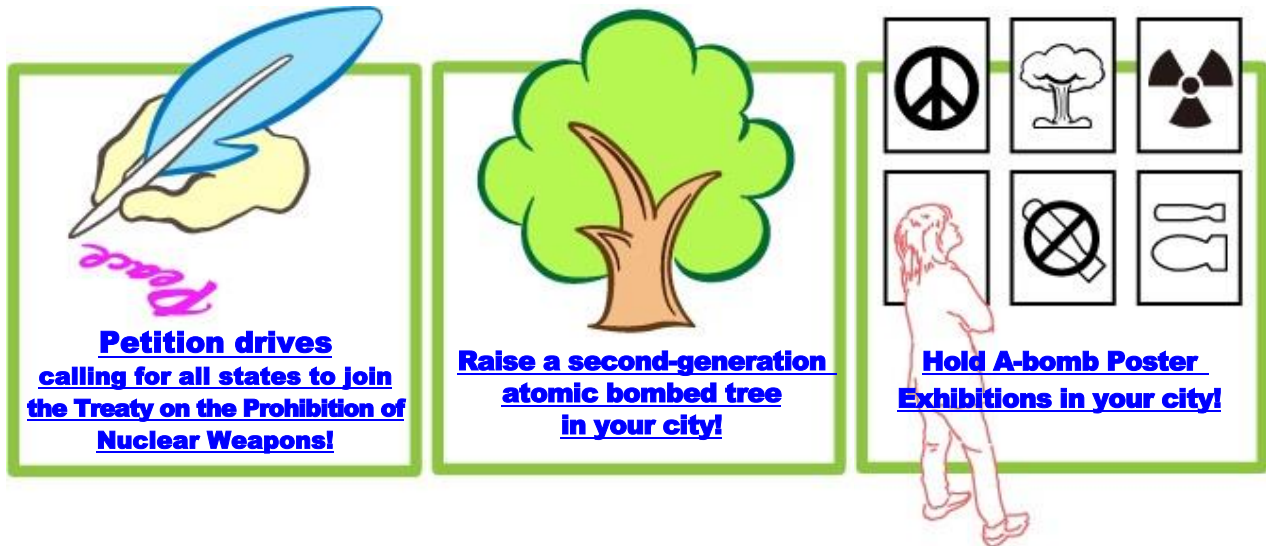
At the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held online in July 2021, we adopted the latest Action Plan (2021–2025). Together, let us continue our utmost efforts toward our ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace. Please implement initiatives outlined in the Action Plan within your own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

🔗 Call for Input on the Mayors for Peace website:

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

Peace-related news from Hiroshima

(Provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

Only --- days remain until the summit meeting of the G7 (Group of Seven industrialized nations) is held in Hiroshima. Since February 8, the point in time “100 days until the Hiroshima Summit,” the Chugoku Shimbun has been carrying each day on its society pages a series of short articles marking the countdown underneath a four-panel manga comic strip. Interwoven within the articles is a variety of trivia about Hiroshima that is, perhaps surprisingly, not widely known among the people of the city or the prefecture.

The area of Motoujina-machi in Hiroshima’s Minami Ward, the location of the hotel slated to serve as the main venue for the Hiroshima Summit, was at one time home to the Ujina Shipbuilding Yard, where military vessels were built. On August 6, 1945, about 160 employees from the shipyard had been mobilized to an area south of present-day Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park for the work of tearing down houses to create fire lanes for the war effort. History tells us that the group had been completely ‘wiped out’ in the bombing. For a time after the end of the war, resort facilities were situated in the area, along with such attractions as an elephant and a lion.

At what is now known as the Atomic Bomb Dome, a German man who had been taken prisoner during World War I and interned on Ninoshima Island (in Hiroshima’s Minami Ward) participated in an exhibition of specialty items in 1919, displaying baumkuchen (a German layered cake that has since grown popular here) for the first time in Japan. The late Kenzo Tange, the architect who designed Peace Memorial Park, laid out in his design concept the A-bomb Dome, the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims, and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum in a straight line along a north-south axis. That configuration is now sometimes referred to as the “axis of peace.”

All these locations are likely to be visited by the G7 leaders. Learning about such concealed histories and stories of the local area could pique, from a variety of perspectives, our own interest in the Hiroshima Summit.

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

@98 days until Hiroshima Summit: Aquarium with elephant

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=128484>

@96 days until Hiroshima Summit: Anti-aircraft battery ruins

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=128658>

Survivors’ Stories: Junko Kayashige, 83, Nishi Ward, Hiroshima

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=127843>

Hiroshima Voices; “No Nukes, No War” Toshiko Tanaka, 84, A-bomb survivor and enamel artist, Higashi Ward, Hiroshima

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=128705>

Hiroshima Summit—Starting point for abolition of nuclear weapons, Part 8: A-bomb orphans

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=129416>

Hiroshima Summit—Starting point for abolition of nuclear weapons, Part 6: A-bomb survivor with microcephaly

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=129414>

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:

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
