



# Mayors for Peace News Flash

May 2023 / No.161

## Mayors for Peace Member Cities

**8,256** cities

in **166** countries and regions

(as of May 1, 2023)

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

Check our website and follow us on social media:

**Website** 

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

**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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## Mayors for Peace initiatives on the occasion of G7 Hiroshima Summit

From May 19 to 21, 2023, leaders from France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Italy, Canada, and the EU met in Hiroshima City, Japan, for the G7 Hiroshima Summit. This May Issue of the Mayors for Peace News Flash presents initiatives Mayors for Peace implemented on this occasion.




Flowers laid by the G7 leaders at the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims


### Mayors for Peace Releases Open Letter on G7 Hiroshima Summit

On May 11, shortly before the Summit commenced, Mayors for Peace released an Open Letter: *Reaching the G7 Hiroshima Summit*. In the letter, we urged the leaders of G7 countries to convey their unshakeable resolve toward the realization of a world without nuclear weapons from the atomic-bombed city of Hiroshima, and build constructive discussion toward their abolition.

The Open Letter was sent to all UN Member States (193 states) and UN Secretary-General, in addition to national representatives of the G7 countries, the EU, and the countries invited to the Outreach Meeting of the Summit, to Japan.

 Mayors for Peace Open Letter: *Reaching the G7 Hiroshima Summit* (Mayors for Peace website):

[https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/file-2305-G7\\_Summit MfP Open Letter E.pdf](https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/file-2305-G7_Summit_MfP_Open_Letter_E.pdf)



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#### Mayors for Peace Open Letter Reaching the G7 Hiroshima Summit

On 19-21 May, leaders from France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Italy, Canada, and the EU will meet for the G7 Summit. This year is a special one, because it is being held in Hiroshima, the city that suffered the first atomic bombing in human history.

The atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in August 1945 took the lives of 146,000 innocent people by the end of that year. The hibakusha, those who barely managed to survive, were left with deep psychological and physical wounds. Despite their unbearable sufferings, especially from the harmful aftereffects of radiation, and transcending rage and hatred for the atomic bombing, their fervent plea has persisted for decades that "no one else should suffer as we have."

While the grave humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons are well acknowledged internationally, nuclear disarmament is now stagnant and the nuclear-weapon states are not fulfilling their obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to negotiate in good faith for the early cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament. That Hiroshima—such a symbolic place—has been chosen as the host city of the highest-level Summit of the G7 under such circumstances proves the necessity for humanity to urgently address the global challenges posed by nuclear weapons and break the status quo.

In nuclear weapon attacks, cities and their citizens are the targets. Profound consequences on a global scale are to be inflicted by their use, well beyond the direct and immediate casualties, including devastating environmental and economic effects and grave risk for much of humanity to face starvation by the resultant "nuclear winter." Nuclear weapons are thus the greatest threat to the safety and security of citizens' lives. For Mayors for Peace, a global network of mayors, who stand closest to their citizens, transcending national borders to work together for their elimination is our mission.

On behalf of over 8,200 Mayors for Peace member cities around the world, we hereby make the following appeal:

If a nuclear war is to begin today, it will disrupt virtually every activity that routinely supports on G7 Summit agendas, including economy, climate change, and the promotion of sustainable development. The G7 leaders must therefore address the issue of nuclear weapons as a significant and pressing issue on our table. If not surprising, global warming and climate change in terms of the threat it poses to the survival of the planet and humanity.

### UK/Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities Issues Letter to UK Prime Minister

In UK/Ireland, on May 15, the UK/Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities, whose secretariat is hosted by Manchester, Mayors for Peace Vice President City, issued a letter to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak of the United Kingdom. Below is an article by Mr. Richard Outram, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary.

#### ● Manchester, UK

#### UK/Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities Issues Letter to UK Prime Minister

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

In addition to being a Vice President in Mayors for Peace, Manchester City Council has the distinction of hosting the secretariat of the UK/Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities or NFLA. The NFLA was founded in 1981 by local authorities opposed to nuclear weapons and nuclear power. As Manchester was in November 1980 the world's first city to declare itself nuclear free, the NFLA office was naturally located within the city council. Over 40 years on, the NFLA continues to campaign for a future based on peace and renewable energy.

Now, on the eve of the historic G7 Summit in Hiroshima, the Chair of the NFLAs Councillor Lawrence O'Neill has written to British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to urge him to visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and the Peace Memorial Park, and also meet with the *hibakusha*, atomic bomb survivors, when he visits the city. Cllr O'Neill has also asked Prime Minister Sunak to recommit the UK at the Summit to the obligations that it made as an early signatory to the UN Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to work 'in good faith' for nuclear disarmament, and to 'then return home to earnestly begin work to achieve them'.

The full story can be found at <https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/news/no-more-hibakusha-nflas-urge-pm-to-make-peace-pledge-at-hiroshima-summit/>

## Mayors for Peace Atomic Bomb Exhibition Banners at International Media Center

From May 18 to 22, at the International Media Center located at the Hiroshima Prefectural Sports Center, Mayors for Peace displayed banners that visually portrayed the realities of the atomic bombings and highlighted the initiatives of Mayors for Peace. They garnered attention from the international press covering the G7 Summit.



Banners at the International Media Center

## Co-sponsoring Hiroshima G7 Youth Summit

Prior to the G7 Hiroshima Summit, the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, which administrates the Mayors for Peace Secretariat, co-sponsored the “Hiroshima G7 Youth Summit” from April 25 to 27. The program was sponsored and organized by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and hosted and co-organized by the Center for Peace, Hiroshima University.

The Hiroshima G7 Youth Summit invited 50 young people and students from 19 countries, including the G7 countries, to Hiroshima. The participants took lectures by experts on international law and international relations and learned about the realities of the atomic bombing. Deepening their understanding of the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons, the delegates discussed actions to realize a world without nuclear weapons and adopted and presented an outcome document.

This May Issue of the Mayors for Peace News Flash features an article by Mr. Marc Grau, who participated in the Hiroshima G7 Youth Summit from the City of Granollers, Vice President City of Mayors for Peace.



Photo courtesy of: Mr. Marc Grau

Four years ago, I had the chance to join the Hiroshima and Peace Summer Program through a scholarship from Mayors for Peace. Then, I learned about international relations, the culture of peace and the role of global cities in promoting nuclear disarmament. This year, I was selected to participate in the Hiroshima G7 Youth Summit organized by ICAN and hosted by Hiroshima University with the support of Mayors for Peace. The Summit was a unique experience to connect with global youth representatives who were also interested in global affairs and nuclear disarmament.

During the sessions, I had the chance to meet with hibakusha and learn about their commitment to peace as well as visit the Peace Memorial Park. Those were unique experiences that enriched the learnings from the Summit. Finally, I also met with Ms. Yoko Miyamoto and other members of the Mayors for Peace Secretariat to discuss my experience in the Summit and learned about the global work of the organization. I look forward now to bringing those experiences back to my city, Granollers, to share with the local community the role of youth in international affairs and peace.

(Marc Grau, Participant, Hiroshima G7 Youth Summit)



Peace Memorial Park, the park where the G7 leaders paid a visit

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## Introducing a new booklet by the City of Hiroshima: *Promoting the Culture of Peace*

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Mayors for Peace has introduced “Promote the culture of peace” as one of the three objectives of its Vision for Peaceful Transformation to a Sustainable World (PX Vision).

The City of Hiroshima, serving as its President City, recently released a booklet titled *Promoting the Culture of Peace*, which introduces the concept of the culture of peace as well as the City’s initiatives to promote the culture of peace.

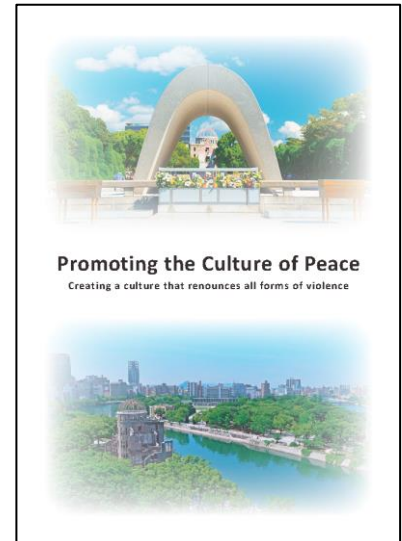
The booklet also details the significance of promoting the culture of peace, the role that cities play in promoting the culture of peace, and more. We hope you’ll take the time to read through and make use of this important piece of reading material to gain a better understanding of the City’s philosophy and initiatives and work with us to allow the culture of peace to take root across civil society.

Available online: [Promoting the Culture of Peace](#)

Inquiries regarding the booklet:

Peace Promotion Division, Citizens Affairs Bureau, The City of Hiroshima

Email: [peace@city.hiroshima.lg.jp](mailto:peace@city.hiroshima.lg.jp)



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## Request for payment of the 2023 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee

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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 16 USD/15 Euro as of March 27, 2023) 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 2023 membership fee was sent to each city by email on April 4. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

 Request for the 2023 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website):

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

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## Invitation for the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2023

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In order to expand peace education efforts in its over 8,200 member cities in 166 countries and regions around the world, Mayors for Peace holds a children’s art competition on the theme of peace, 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

**Theme:** What Peace Means to Me

**Number of applications allowed per city:** Up to 5 artworks for each category


**Submission Deadline:** 5:00 PM (Japan Standard Time), October 31, 2023

**Submission:** Via Google Forms: <https://forms.gle/X4FMTDq7VXk9YDss7>

To ensure that submissions are only received from member cities, the form is password protected. The password was emailed to respective member cities. Please contact the Secretariat for any inquiries.

Note: If it is difficult to submit artworks via the form, member cities can submit them 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](mailto:mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

 Details of the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2023 (Mayors for Peace website):

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

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## Member city activities

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### ● Varennes-Vauzelles, France

#### The City of Varennes-Vauzelles organizes Peace Week

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

During April school holidays, children of Varennes-Vauzelles spent a memorable Peace Week of sports and culture in the Henri Choquet District. The municipal services of Varennes-Vauzelles organized a varied program to entertain them: team building games, soccer, coloring, board games, reading reflections around the theme of peace in our famous *Biblioroulotte* (mobile library). Also, the Jean Moulin Social Center provided a puzzle creation workshop with the objective of promoting peace, thanks to which two real masterpieces were made as you can see on the pictures. Children were able to take advantage of sunny weather to have fun and reflect on peace.



Photos: courtesy of AFCD RP–Mayors for Peace France

### ● Montpellier, France and the French Chapter

#### The City of Montpellier reiterates its commitment to the abolition of nuclear weapons

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



Photos: courtesy of AFCD RP–Mayors for Peace France

On Monday, April 17, 2023, at the *Maison des Relations Internationales* in Montpellier, France, Mr. Michaël Delafosse, Mayor of the city and President of *Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole* (intercommunal organization of the metropolitan area around Montpellier), reiterated his commitment to the abolition of nuclear weapons. Following the *hibakusha*'s wish and the cause of Mayors for Peace, he signed the Cities Appeal launched by ICAN in support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The City of Montpellier has become the 70th French city to sign it.

*“In the current context of the War in Ukraine and the threat to use nuclear weapons, the commitment of democratic states which are territories of peace is crucial. Indeed, we have the responsibility to act collectively towards peaceful solutions to conflicts by addressing current issues such as the plight of refugees or human rights abuse,”* said Michaël Delafosse.

Besides the signing, in favor of the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace (24th April), the City of Montpellier held exhibitions including the Mayors for Peace Atomic Bomb Poster Exhibition at the *Maison des Relations Internationales*, and a group of local associations for peace and nuclear disarmament, *Collectif Stop Armes nucléaires 34*, organized a musical event, *hibakusha*'s poem readings by high school students, and a conference on the issue of nuclear weapons. Following these events, a letter of invitation will be sent to Montpellier's twin cities and the other cities in *Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole* that are not yet members of Mayors for Peace and signatories of the ICAN Cities Appeal.

## Mayors for Peace member cities: 8,256 cities in 166 countries/regions

On May 1, we gained 9 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,256. 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
Australia	Blue Mountains	92	Thanks to efforts by Ms. Templeman, Member of the Australian Parliament, who met with President (Mayor of Hiroshima) and Vice President (Mayor of Nagasaki) of Mayors for Peace in Vienna in June 2022.
Germany	Belm and 5 other cities	854	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
Portugal	Albergaria-a-Velha and Arraiolos	46	Thanks to efforts by Évora, an Executive and Lead City.



List of new members (PDF):

[https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/file-2304-newmembers2305\\_en.pdf](https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/file-2304-newmembers2305_en.pdf)

Membership by country (PDF):

[https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/monthly/file-07\\_membership\\_by\\_country\\_en.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 11 different languages: Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese (BZ), Portuguese (EU), 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!

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

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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](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/>



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## Call for input: examples of peace education initiatives

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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/>

### 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](mailto: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.

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## Peace-related news from Hiroshima

(provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

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In May last year, Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced that the summit meeting of the G7 (Group of Seven industrialized nations) would be held in Hiroshima. Over the nearly one year since that time, the Chugoku Shimbun has busily reported on the story from a variety of perspectives—the voices of A-bomb survivors, the demands made by citizens to abolish nuclear weapons, Hiroshima's peace efforts, the horror of the atomic bombing, and the A-bombed city's path to recovery.

As a news organization based in Hiroshima, the Chugoku Shimbun has formulated and reported our own proposals for genuine, concrete steps toward the abolition of nuclear weapons that we believe should be taken up by the G7 leaders at the Hiroshima Summit.

By the time this peace-related news reaches our audience, the G7 Hiroshima Summit meeting will have already concluded. What kind of consensus will the leaders have reached and what message will they communicate to the world in the face of an unprecedented crisis in which the use of nuclear weapons has truly become a possibility? To what extent will the summit's results line up with the wishes of Hiroshima's people? Will A-bomb survivors feel satisfied about the fact that the G7 Summit was held in Hiroshima? The Chugoku Shimbun plans to keep a close watch on events during the three days that are certain to live on in history for future generations and introduce related articles in this space starting next month.

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

First South Korean, black-rain victim granted recognition as A-bomb survivor under new criteria

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=131935>

Hiroshima Summit, May 19-21: Hiroshima and Osaka printers reprint "Obama's paper crane" origami

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=131092>

Hiroshima Summit, May 19-21: Takaoki Kado, chair of Motoujina-machi residents' association, calls on leaders to face up to reality of atomic bombing

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=131135>

A-bombed Hiroshima's perspective: Chugoku Shimbun proposes that G7 Hiroshima Summit work to make nuclear-free world a reality

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=131725>

A-bombed Hiroshima's perspective: Nuclear weapons can be eliminated—Chugoku Shimbun proposes G7 leaders face A-bombing horror, work to abolish nuclear weapons

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=131722>



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## Announcements from Hiroshima City University

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### ● HIROSHIMA and PEACE Online Lecture Series for Summer 2023

Hiroshima City University has organized the summer program HIROSHIMA and PEACE since 2003 for every summer. For summer 2023, we will organize an online lecture series. Registration is now open. Please see below for more details. Hope to see you this summer!

June 30 (Fri) 16:20 – 17:50 (Japan Standard Time)

Lecture Title: A Conceptual Approach to Realize the Non-use of Nuclear Weapons

Lecturer: Shiro SATO (Professor, Tokyo University of Agriculture)

July 7 (Fri) 16:20 – 17:50 (Japan Standard Time)

Lecture Title: Inheriting “Hiroshima Heart”

Lecturer: Masae YUASA (Professor, Faculty of International Studies, Hiroshima City University)

July 14 (Fri) 16:20 – 17:50 (Japan Standard Time)

Lecture Title: Hiroshima and the Environmental Age

Lecturer: Toshihiro HIGUCHI (Assistant Professor, Georgetown University [USA])

- Lectures will be conducted using Zoom webinar.
- Language: English
- Registration is required. Program is free of charge.
- Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/YUNkeM6GDevNCKKg8>
- E-mail: HIROSHIMA and PEACE Secretariat  
<[Hiroshima-and-Peace@m.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp](mailto:Hiroshima-and-Peace@m.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp)>
- Website: <https://intl.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp/en/hiroshima-and-peace/>
- Official Instagram: [@hiroshima\\_and\\_peace\\_official](https://www.instagram.com/hiroshima_and_peace_official/)

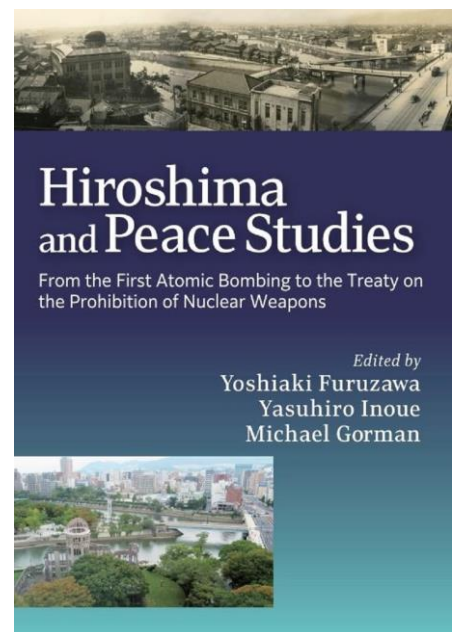



### ● New Book *Hiroshima and Peace Studies* Published

A new book titled *Hiroshima and Peace Studies: From the First Atomic Bombing to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons* was published in March 2023 from the publisher Keisuisha in Hiroshima. As part of the Faculty of International Studies Book Series, this book was published to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the summer program, HIROSHIMA and PEACE.

The book aims to examine the lessons that can be learned from the case of Hiroshima, as well as the ways in which the connection between peace studies and Hiroshima can be illustrated. The messages of peace from Hiroshima can vary depending on the angle from which Hiroshima is analyzed. To cover the various perspectives, this book is composed of chapters written by scholars of International Relations, International Law, History, Media Studies, Sociology, Literary Studies, Area Studies, and Anthropology. Additionally, the book includes short essays written by survivors of the Hiroshima atomic bombing and practitioners.

The book can be purchased from the publisher Keisuisha or in print-on-demand format from Amazon outside Japan (e.g., amazon.com, amazon.co.uk, amazon.de, amazon.es, amazon.fr, etc.).



 *Hiroshima and Peace Studies: From the First Atomic Bombing to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons* (Keisuisha website):

<http://www.keisui.co.jp/cgi/isbn.php?isbn=ISBN978-4-86327-619-2>

● **Admission information for HCU’s Graduate School of Peace Studies**

Hiroshima City University, a public university in Hiroshima, established the Graduate School of Peace Studies (Master's Program/Doctoral Program) for the purpose of serving as a world-class hub for education and academic research on peace and peacebuilding.

The Graduate School aims to contribute to the realization of world peace by providing a curriculum that fosters graduates who have acquired: i) analytical academic methodologies in specialized areas such as peace studies, international politics, international law and international relations, and ii) the specialized wide-ranging skills needed to analyze a diverse range of real problems.


We are pleased to announce that we will hold an Online Briefing Session on Admission on June 2 via ZOOM Cloud Meetings.

We would like to invite all local government officials who are interested in these issues to consider enrolling in the Graduate School of Peace Studies.

Tuition exemption is available (based on an application review) in order to support workers engaged in the work of making and spearheading peace.

Please share this information with officials in your municipal government as well as with any relevant educational institutions.

For more details on the GSPS and how to participate in the Online Briefing Session, please visit our website.

 Online briefing session on admission to the Graduate School of Peace Studies / June 2, 2023  
<https://www.peace.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp/events/gsp-s-online-briefing-session-20230602/>

**Mayors for Peace Official Social Media Accounts**

<Twitter>  @Mayors4Peace <a href="https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace">https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace</a>		<Facebook>  @mayorsforpeace <a href="https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace">https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace</a>	
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 The latest and archived issues of Mayors for Peace News Flash are available at:  
<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/news/newsflashes/>

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