Mayors for Peace News Flash
June 2023 / No.162

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

8,259 cities
in 166 countries and regions
(as of June 1, 2023)

Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!

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

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https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace

Twitter 🌐
https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace

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U.S. Conference of Mayors Adopts New Resolution “Calling for Urgent Action to Avoid Nuclear War, Resolve the Ukraine Conflict, Lower Tensions with China, and Redirect Military Spending to Meet Human Needs”
Report by Ms. Jacqueline Cabasso, Executive Advisor, Mayors for Peace (abridged version)

At the close of its 91st Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio, on June 5, 2023, the final business plenary of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) unanimously adopted a new resolution, titled, “Calling for Urgent Action to Avoid Nuclear War, Resolve the Ukraine Conflict, Lower Tensions with China, and Redirect Military Spending to Meet Human Needs.” This is the eighteenth consecutive year that the USCM has adopted a resolution submitted by U.S. members of Mayors for Peace.

The USCM “condemns Russia’s illegal war of aggression on Ukraine and its repeated nuclear threats and calls on the Russian government to withdraw all forces and equipment from Ukraine immediately and unconditionally.” At the same time, the USCM “calls on the U.S. government to work to re-establish high-level U.S.-Russian risk reduction and arms control talks to rebuild trust and work toward replacement of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, the only remaining bi-lateral nuclear arms control treaty, set to expire in 2026.”

The USCM also “calls on the government of the United States to make renewed efforts to reduce tensions with the government of the People’s Republic of China, seeking opportunities for cooperation on such global issues as the environment, public health, and equitable development, and take the initiative in new approaches for the control of armaments that might avoid a costly and dangerous new arms race.”

As recognized in the resolution, as of April 1, 2023, Mayors for Peace has grown to 8,247 cities in 166 countries and regions, with 223 U.S. members. The USCM is the official nonpartisan association of more than 1,400 American cities with populations over 30,000. Resolutions adopted at its annual meetings become USCM official policy that will guide the organization’s advocacy efforts for the coming year.

Visit the link below for the full text of this report:

Visit the link below for the full text of the resolution:
https://www.usmayors.org/the-conference/resolutions/?category=a0F4N00000S4uphUAB&meeting=91st%20Annual%20Meeting
100-day countdown message for the International Day of Peace

June 13, 2023

The United Nations has established September 21 as the International Day of Peace (IDP), which is dedicated to world peace, specifically 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. Mayors for Peace has been a long-time supporter of the IDP through holding commemorative events and also encouraged all member cities to hold their own events on the International Day of Peace.

On June 13, the President of Mayors for Peace issued a message for the 100-day countdown to the IDP, inviting all members to commemorate the 2023 International Day of Peace in their city.

Message for the International Day of Peace, 100-day countdown by the President of Mayors for Peace (Mayors for Peace website): https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/file-2306-230613_IDP100days_message_E.pdf


Please share information on your city's 2023 IDP events!

The Secretariat welcomes reports on your city’s events commemorating the IDP. After you host commemorative events, please share event reports with the Secretariat, so that we could share the information with other member cities on our website, News Flash, and/or other forms of media.

Informing the Secretariat of any plans for commemorative events in advance would also be greatly appreciated.

Please share the information with the Secretariat via email at: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

Request for payment of the 2023 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 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.

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

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](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)


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**Member city activities**

- **Granollers, Spain**

  Students participate in the peace and commemorative program, **“Granollers, Vila Oberta per la Pau (Granollers, Open City for Peace)”**

  Report by Ms. Montserrat Catà, the City of Granollers, Spain

On the morning of 31 May 1938, during the Spanish Civil War, the City of Granollers was fiercely bombed. With the aim of raising awareness about these bombings as well as promoting dialogue on peace-related issues and advocating for conflict resolution, the City of Granollers organized a program of commemorative activities titled **“Granollers, Vila Oberta per la Pau (Granollers, City Open to Peace)”** from 12 May to 4 June.

The program included a wide range of activities: a school activity in which about 600 students from 9 to 10 years old learned about climate displacement; publication of a book presenting testimonies of the bombings; and a memorial event for the victims in which a survivor explained what had happened on this tragic day. These activities were complemented with an art exhibition, a conference about the culture of peace, film screening, guided visits to the city’s Civil War refugee sites as well as musical and theatrical performances.

The “Granollers, City Open to Peace” program served as a testament to Granollers’ commitment to promoting the culture of peace.
Ypres, Belgium

Ypres youth select Princess Okokon for International Peace Prize
Report by Mr. Filip Deheegher, the City of Ypres, Belgium

During the May 2023 City Council, Ypres Mayor Emmily Talpe announced that the International Peace Prize of the City of Ypres 2023 goes to Princess Inyang Okokon, based on the decision by the school youth in the city. As a survivor of human trafficking and forced street prostitution, Ms. Okokon has dedicated herself to counseling victims of human trafficking and supporting girls in leaving prostitution in Italy, as well as empowering women in Nigeria through microfinancing to protect their children from traffickers.

Since the very first edition of the award in 2002, the city of Ypres has entrusted the final selection of the laureate to the city’s school youth. The youngsters study the nominees at school and vote for their favourite, choosing from a list of five to six nominees. The final result is presented to the mayor, who then announces the laureate during a session of the municipal council.

When the laureate comes to Ypres to receive the prize of €25,000, she will visit the participating schools and direct dialogue will be established between the laureate and the youngsters. In this way, young people get acquainted with themes, regions, topics that are relevant to peace but otherwise not covered during regular lessons at school, and are introduced to how democratic elections are set up and run.

Hannover, Germany

International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future (IYCPF 2023) in Hannover
Report by Ms. Evelyn Kamissek, the City of Hannover, Germany

From May 22 to 26, 2023, the City of Hannover, Lead City of Mayors for Peace in Germany, hosted the “International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future” on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of our sister city relationship with the City of Hiroshima. The conference invited participants not only from Hannover and Hiroshima, but also from Bangkok (Thailand), Blantyre (Malawi), Bristol (England), Leipzig (Germany), Rouen (France), and Poznań (Poland).

The conference featured diverse programs that included lectures on peace and conflict research, interactive workshops, simulation games and a roundtable discussion at the City Hall. During the discussion, the 30 participants had the opportunity to ask Mayor Belit Onay and council members about the city’s peace initiatives.

With insights and knowledge accumulated through this conference, the youth delegates collaborated on an appeal for peace. At the end of the conference, they publicly presented the appeal titled “Hear our voices for peace” at the Aegidien Church and then handed it over to Deputy Mayor Thomas Hermann. Several notable individuals delivered speeches at the event, including City Superintendent Mr. Rainer Müller-Brandes, Mr. Wolfram Springer from YMCA Hannover and Mr. Kenji Yamamoto from Hiroshima, the author of an atomic bomb survivor’s biography.

The conference was organized by the YMCA Hannover in cooperation with the Cultural Office, the Office for International Affairs/Mayors for Peace German Chapter, and the Youth and Family Department of the City of Hannover, and the German-Japanese partnership associations in Hannover.

IYCPF 2023 (Website of Mayors for Peace German Chapter) (in German):
https://www.hannover.de/Leben-in-der-Region-Hannover/Politik/Politische-Gremien/Mayors-for-Peace/Aktivit%C3%A4ten/Internationale-Jugendkonferenz-in-Hannover

Website of Mayors for Peace German Chapter (in German):
www.mayorsforpeace.de
Regional chapter activities

- **Catalan Chapter**
  **Launch of the Alliance for Nuclear Disarmament**
  Report by Ms. Montserrat Catà, the City of Granollers, Spain

On May 23, within the event titled “Education for peace and nuclear disarmament”, the new Alliance for Nuclear Disarmament (*Alianza por el Desarme Nuclear*) made its official introduction. The Alliance comprises 45 organisations in Spain that have come together with the aim of urging local municipalities and regional parliaments to appeal to the Spanish government to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace is a member of the Alliance.

During the event, representatives from the participating organizations addressed the current risk of a nuclear war and emphasized the importance of supporting the Treaty. Mr. Federico Mayor Zaragoza, former Director-General of UNESCO, stated that the results of the G7 meeting are an issue of concern. Mr. Carlos Umaña, Co-President of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and a member of ICAN, highlighted the catastrophic consequences of nuclear war.

The Alliance for Nuclear Disarmament supports the campaign “Cities of Peace (*Ciutats de Pau*),” organized by the Mayors for Peace network and FundiPau (*Fundació per la Pau*), a Catalonia-based peace organization. The campaign urges municipalities to demand responsible and secure steps from the Spanish government toward the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

For more information, please refer to: https://desarmenuclear.org/la-alianza/ and http://ciutatsdepau.org/.

- **French Chapter**
  **Seminar at French Senate explores key roles of local authorities in realizing peace**
  Report by Ms. Loréna Schlicht, AFCDRP–Mayors for Peace France

City diplomacy is a valuable tool for promoting peace, and local and regional authorities play a crucial role in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Recognizing this, an increasing number of local authorities in France called for a forum to discuss ways in which they could contribute to realizing peace, specifically in relation to SDG 16, “Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development.” In response to this growing demand, AFCDRP–Mayors for Peace France and Cités Unies France collaborated to organize a seminar at the French Senate in Paris on May 26.

During the seminar, participants including senators, elected representatives from local authorities, academics, and members of civil society discussed local authorities’ actions toward peace at the local and international levels. The discussion highlighted the importance of collaboration to implement peace projects that transcend national borders and address global challenges.

The seminar commenced with the opening remarks by Rocher Karoutchi, Vice President of the Senate, François Rebsamen, Mayor of Dijon and President of Cités Unies France, and Philippe Rio, Mayor of Grigny and President of AFCDRP–Mayors for Peace France. In his remark, President Rio stated:

“In their local public policies, cities are working to anchor the values of peace, solidarity and mutual understanding. [...] Thanks to the global network of Mayors for Peace, this form of city diplomacy thrives and remains effective today. With commitment and determination, the network alerts national political decision-makers to the nuclear risk. The nuclear threat, which continues to escalate, is often invoked in the context of the conflict in Ukraine.”

Link to the seminar video (Website of the French Senate):
Mayors for Peace member cities: 8,259 cities in 166 countries/regions

On June 1, we gained 3 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,259. We thank all involved in promoting expanded membership for their invaluable support. Below is the breakdown of the new members.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Region</th>
<th>New Members</th>
<th>Total No.</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Charlemagne</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>Thanks to efforts by Terrebonne, a member city in Canada.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Berceto and Cecina</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>Cecina joined our network thanks to efforts by Unione degli Scienziati Per Il Disarmo (USPID), a non-profit association of scientists and researchers in Italy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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.


Your continued cooperation is highly appreciated!
Poetic Tribute to Sadako: Felipe Sérvulo’s “Plutonium Clusters” Unveiled in Castelldefels

The inauguration of the 2023 tour of the Ciutats Defensores dels Drets Humans (Cities Defending Human Rights) project took place on April 19th in Castelldefels, Spain. Organized by Lourdes Carrera of Pau i Solidaritat (Peace and Solidarity) and sponsored by the City Council of Castelldefels, Mayors for Peace member city, the event marked the unveiling of a collection of poems dedicated to Sadako.

Felipe Sérvulo’s book, “Plutonium Clusters,” is a tribute to Sadako, a girl who survived the atomic bombing but died 10 years later from the effects of radiation. Her story popularized the legend of folding one thousand origami paper cranes worldwide. Sérvulo’s powerful poems dedicated to her invite readers to reflect on the fundamental right of every human being to live in peace.

According to the author, this project dates back to 2019 when he first visited Hiroshima. Overwhelmed by the profound impact of his experience, he initially struggled to put his feelings into words, leading him to set the project aside. In 2021, however, he was selected as a recipient of the “Extraordinary aid for the promotion of international mobility of literary authors” from the Spanish Ministry of Culture, which enabled his return to Hiroshima in September 2022. This visit helped Sérvulo discover renewed inspiration and stimulated poignant reflections, which he channeled into the verses presented in “Plutonium Clusters.”

On June 6th, the Espai Margarita Xirgu of the RFJ Library in Castelldefels will host a special presentation of “Plutonium Clusters,” complemented by a performance directed by Encarna Rodriguez of the Danzarte Company.

For more information on “Plutonium Clusters,” please visit: [https://www.entreletras.eu/libros-2023/cumulos-de-plutonio-de-felipe-servulo/](https://www.entreletras.eu/libros-2023/cumulos-de-plutonio-de-felipe-servulo/) (in Spanish)
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):

-Initiatives implemented under the Action Plan:

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/

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.
With the crisis in Ukraine showing no real signs of the way out of the conflict, concerns over the possible use of nuclear weapons are growing. In January 2023, the “Doomsday Clock” has reset to “90 seconds to midnight,” the closest to human extinction in history. In such uncertain times, it is increasingly important to have a correct understanding of the world situation regarding nuclear weapons.

Since its establishment in 2012, Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA) has provided a variety of information on the global situation surrounding nuclear weapons and their materials. With the cooperation of the Nagasaki Council for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (PCU-NC)*, RECNA has just released the June 2023 edition of the “World’s Nuclear Warheads Count” poster (in Japanese, English, and Korean), as well as a detailed database on the nuclear capability of each country that possesses nuclear weapons.

As of June 2023, the total number of nuclear warheads (the part of a nuclear weapon that causes a nuclear detonation) in the world is estimated at 12,520. Since the total number of warheads last year was 12,720, this is a decrease of 200 warheads. Unfortunately, however, we are not in a situation to simply rejoice. Please look forward to the next article for details.

*PCU-NC is a council for the abolition of nuclear weapons consisting of Nagasaki Prefecture, Nagasaki City and Nagasaki University.

“The World’s Nuclear Warheads Count in June 2023” Poster

 Courtesy of RECNA
 Created by RECNA Warheads Data Monitoring Team

“The World’s Nuclear Warheads Count in 2023” poster released: A yearly publication from Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA)
Peace-related news from Hiroshima
(provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

Leading up to and following the summit meeting of the G7 (Group of Seven industrialized nations), held in Hiroshima during the period May 19–21, tight security measures were in place in the city, and convoys of vehicles carrying world leaders to the G7 and extended sessions traveled up and down Hiroshima’s streets. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine, a nation beset by Russia’s invasion and that country’s threats to use nuclear weapons, made a surprise visit to Hiroshima.

Hiroshima is once again quiet. However, in the time up until the summit, citizens in Hiroshima City and prefecture, and naturally the news media, were busily engaged in a variety of preparations for the gathering. For our part, the Chugoku Shimbun published a 12-page Special Summit Edition both in Japanese and English on May 12. During May 19–21, we created a special-edition cover for the newspaper each day, comprising a two-page spread forming the front and back pages. In addition, we carried an interview, in Japanese, English, and Russian, with Thurlow Setsuko, 91, an A-bomb survivor living in Canada who took the stage at the Nobel Peace Prize awards ceremony in 2017 as a representative of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

We published the special reports in the hopes that world leaders and journalists from throughout the world that had gathered in the A-bombed city for the summit would learn about the horrific reality of the devastation caused by the atomic bombing and come together to hammer out a concrete path toward nuclear abolition based on their resolve to never allow a repeat of such a tragedy.

In this space, we wrote last month: 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.

The Hiroshima Summit produced the first-ever statement on the issue of nuclear disarmament. However, undeniably, the document also affirmed the role of nuclear deterrence for “defense purposes.” Now that the excitement has died down and Hiroshima is back to normal, we will start working on our long-term, follow-up review of the summit.

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

The webpage for exclusive content about the Hiroshima Summit 2023, including all the special-edition articles in PDF format, is here:
https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?post_type=summit2023_newspaper&lang=en

Following conclusion of Hiroshima Summit, Part 1: Meeting held in A-bombed city
Hope in leaders’ words
https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=133472

Find a great many other articles about the summit carried on our website at this link:
https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?lang=en&s=Hiroshima+Summit&s_type=and&start_date=2020-01-01&end_date=2023-12-30

A-bomb survivors’ testimony group “Hiroshima o Kataru Kai” resumed after 22-year hiatus, including bereaved families and second-generation A-bomb survivors
https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=133419
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:

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

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