



Mayors for Peace News Flash

October 2023 / No.166

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

8,311 cities

in **166** countries and regions

(as of October 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>

X (Twitter) 

<https://x.com/Mayors4Peace>

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

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Mayors for Peace network reaches 8,300 member cities



Mayors for Peace
has reached

8,300
member cities!

With 24 new members joining on October 1, 2023, the Mayors for Peace network has reached 8,300 member cities. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all our member cities, including the Lead Cities, for their cooperation.

Mayors for Peace will continue actively implementing various initiatives in close cooperation with our member cities, with the goal of achieving 10,000 member cities to foster international public support for the realization of a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

For details about the new member cities, please refer to Page 10.

 List of Member Cities (Mayors for Peace website):
<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/members/list-members/>

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!

Member Cities commemorate the International Day of Peace on Sept. 21

The United Nations has declared September 21 as the International Day of Peace (IDP), an annual day of non-violence and cease-fire. In support of this declaration, Mayors for Peace encourages all the member cities to commemorate the IDP.

Upon our call, many member cities held events to commemorate the IDP across the world on September 21, 2023.

● Manchester, UK

Special tree planted in Manchester on Peace Day

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

The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Yasmine Dar, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, planted a tree in Heaton Park just outside the city centre to mark the UN International Day of Peace.

But this was no ordinary tree – it was a ginkgo sapling grown from a seed that had been sourced from a mother tree which had survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

The little sapling had a further special provenance – as a seed of the survivor tree, it had been planted by Japanese *hibakusha*, two ladies who had themselves survived the same atomic bomb blast, in a special ceremony held in Oldham in April 2017.

Assisting the Lord Mayor was Maria Ellis, Chair and Founder of Peace Talks Oldham, who has been looking after the sapling.



Photos: courtesy of the City of Manchester

We hope that the sapling will grow strong and tall, and become the focal point for the restoration of the annual event which has previously been held in the park to mark the commemoration of the Nagasaki atomic bombing.

UK/Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary Richard Outram led the event, which was accompanied by readings, including one from Hazel Roy in Edwardian period dress, poetry, and singing from the splendid Bolton Clarion Choir.

● Vitry-sur-Seine, France

Report by Ms. Lorena Schlicht, Mayors for Peace France (AFCD RP)

Every year, Vitry-sur-Seine celebrates the International Day of Peace, and this year marked a special occasion as it unveiled Vitry's official peace flag. The flag was selected in the competition launched in 2022, won by Aoua Kamara. It was presented to Vitry residents during the festive event "Festicapaix" on September 24, starting at 1:30 pm in the Market Square.

On the International Day of Peace on September 21, Vitry citizens joined Mayor Bell-Lloch, human rights advocates, and a foreign ambassador in discussing the importance of peace and human rights in commemoration of the day.



Photo: courtesy of Mayors for Peace France (AFCD RP)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWo3Oh4zZTg> Interview of Aoua Kamara (Vitry-sur-Seine official YouTube channel; in French):

● **Malakoff, France**

Report by Ms. Lorena Schlicht, Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

To promote peace, disarmament, and climate and social justice on the International Day of Peace, the City of Malakoff, local associations, and citizens gathered in front of Malakoff City Hall on September 21, 2023. Mayor Jacqueline Belhomme of Malakoff addressed the participants in the gathering, saying, “We, as locally elected officials, stand against the culture of war through our networks and our public policies. We stand for the culture of peace together with associations, trade unions, political organizations, and citizens, including youth.” The gathering also featured an exhibition of artworks by the *Artists for Peace*.



Photos: courtesy of Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

● **Grigny, France**

Report by Ms. Lorena Schlicht, Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

In commemoration of the International Day of Peace, the City of Grigny organized “Peace Week” in cooperation with local associations. The week, filled with peace events, offered a range of opportunities to celebrate our common humanity.

One of the highlights of Peace Week was a testimony of Ms. Ginette Kolinka, a 98-year-old Holocaust survivor who was at forced labor at Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp. After meeting with Mayor Philippe Rio of Grigny and local officials, Ms. Kolinka met with all the 9th-grade students of Grigny, who had watched a documentary dedicated to her.

Furthermore, during Peace Week, the City of Grigny organized the 8th edition of Young Writer and Young Illustrator Competition. This year’s competition received nearly 180 entries, which is 40 more than last year, centered around the theme, “At the School of Peace.”

Other events during Peace Week included conferences on peaceful conflict resolution and artistic events aiming to foster intercultural understanding, such as exhibitions and concerts. One of the concerts, organized by Live Peace, featured musicians from the Palestinian refugee camp of Aida, Grigny’s twin city in the West Bank.



Photos: courtesy of Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

🔗 Program of Peace Week (website of the City of Grigny; in French): <https://grigny91.fr/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/programme-semaine-de-la-paix-sans-trait-de-bleu.pdf>

● **Saran, France**

Report by Ms. Lorena Schlicht, Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

The City of Saran organized two events in commemoration of the International Day of Peace.

In the afternoon of September 20, the City of Saran organized a recreational event with a peace-related theme, “Water as a Source of Conflict.” The event focused on the promotion of peace and included numerous stands and activities by the city’s youth service and local associations, including *Peace Movement*, *Les Mains Tendues*, and *BRGM*. The event featured exhibitions related to water such as decorated water collectors, quizzes and interactive games, and the writing of peace messages on water bottles and bags, which *Les Mains Tendues* distributes to those experiencing homelessness. The event concluded with a circus performance.



Photo: courtesy of Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

On September 26, the City of Saran planted an olive tree in a local school as a tree symbolizing peace. Children, city officials, and *Peace Movement* participated in the tree planting ceremony. Mayor Mathieu Gallois of Saran delivered a speech, stating, “Peace is built every day through the commitment of countries and individuals, and through the development of regional and international cooperation in guaranteeing fundamental rights for everyone. Peace is also built through our actions such as planting a peace tree in a different school every year, which we did today with the students at the Bourg school and will continue to do in the future.”

● **Bonneuil sur Marne, France**

Report by Ms. Lorena Schlicht, Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

The City of Bonneuil sur Marne annually celebrates the International Day of Peace, and this year’s celebration was particularly remarkable. The City organized a diverse range of initiatives with a strong emphasis on engaging children. Furthermore, the City invited its residents to attend a free peace concert at Gérard-Philippe Hall, organized by Live Peace. This concert featured performances by the children of *La Passerelle*, conservatory music group, as well as the artist *Ruben*.

“We are planting the seeds of peace, now and for the future.” “Peace knows no borders.” “Peace is an ongoing creation.” These are only some examples of the many messages written by the children who participated in the citywide activities. All the city’s leisure centers carried out various projects to commemorate the International Day of Peace, such as exhibitions, workshops, murals, games, songs, photos, creative expressions, and street processions aimed at distributing messages of peace and hope. Through these activities, the children enjoyed exploring the topic of peace and shared their messages of peace with the entire community.



Photos: courtesy of Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

● **Varennes-Vauzelles, France**

Report by Ms. Lorena Schlicht, Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

On September 22, the City of Varennes-Vauzelles joined the fellow Mayors for Peace member cities in celebrating the International Day of Peace by organizing a memorial ceremony. Mayor Olivier Sicot, Vice President of the Agglomeration Community of Nevers, along with elected officials, welcomed Philippe Rio, Mayor of Grigny and President of AFCDRP–Mayors for Peace France.



Photo: courtesy of Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

During the ceremony, the officials delivered speeches that emphasized the importance of promoting the culture of peace and enabling residents to express their aspirations and desires to live together in peace and security, especially in these troubled times, when some states are engaged in a frenzied arms race with nuclear threats.

Following the speeches, young municipal council members planted a Ginkgo biloba tree, offered and grown by the City of Malakoff from seeds of atomic bomb survivor Ginkgo tree in Hiroshima. After the participants delivered remarks, the ceremony concluded with the inauguration of the Peace Esplanade.

● **Lasseran, France**

Report by Ms. Lorena Schlicht, Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

In Gers Department of France, Mayor Michel Soriano of Lasseran took the initiative to bring together various organizations at Place de la Libération in Auch City, the capital of Gers Department, to celebrate the International Day of Peace.



Photo: courtesy of Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

Mayor Soriano delivered a speech and underscored the importance of peace, quoting the words of the UN Secretary-General Guterres, who said, “War and conflict are unleashing devastation, poverty and hunger, and driving tens of millions of people from their homes.” Mayor Soriano then invited the audience to join him in his call to fight against inequalities, combat climate change, and protect human rights. He also addressed the challenge of nuclear weapons, highlighting the considerable number of nuclear weapons in the world and the substantial military budget allocated by the French government for them.

Following Mayor Soriano’s speech, two young participants shared a heartfelt poem and a poignant short story that reflected on the theme of peace.

● **Hiroshima, Japan**

In Hiroshima, staff of the Mayors for Peace Secretariat laid flowers and observed a moment of silence at the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims in the Peace Memorial Park, and rang the Peace Bell in the park in prayer for a world without nuclear weapons and lasting world peace.



Member city activities

● Rosario, Argentina

Paper Cranes for Peace: 25th “A Thousand Cranes for Peace” Event in Rosario on August 6

Report by Ms. Valeria Miyashiro, the Municipality of Rosario

On August 6, in Rosario, Argentina, the 25th occurrence of the public event titled “A Thousand Cranes for Peace” took place on the esplanade of Montenegro Square. This collaborative project involved volunteers, the Municipality of Rosario, *La Ciudad de los Niños y las Niñas*, and the civil association *C.H.I.C.O.S.* The event invited participants to fold thousands of paper cranes and display them in public spaces to raise awareness about peace. Inspired by Sadako Sasaki and the children affected by the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945, this project sought to promote a more equitable and compassionate society.



Prof. Maria Clotilde (Meri) Affranchino, the project’s leader, emphasized that the act of folding these cranes would promote awareness of and commitment to peace in everyday life. This year, the event had to be relocated from its traditional venue at the National Flag Monument due to construction work. In recognition of Prof. Affranchino’s 25 years of dedication, the Municipality of Rosario paid tribute to her contributions to the culture of peace, aligning with the Action Plan of the Mayors for Peace network. The legislature of the Province of Santa Fe and NGO Fundación Sadako also recognized her significant work. This 25th occurrence coincided with Argentina’s 40 years of democracy, and the participants reaffirmed their commitment to peace within this context.

Prof. Affranchino honored by the Municipality of Rosario for her 25 years of dedication
Photos: courtesy of the Municipality of Rosario

Regional chapter activities

● French Chapter

French Chapter rallies for peace during *La Fête de l’Humanité* (The Festival of Humanity)

Report by Ms. Lorena Schlicht, Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

In the context of numerous wars happening worldwide, including the ongoing war in Ukraine, 19 organizations, including the French Chapter of Mayors for Peace, rallied at *La Fête de l’Humanité* (the Festival of Humanity) titled “Unite Against War, For Peace”. The festival took place at the former Air Base 217 in Brétigny-sur-Orge / Le Plessis Pâté from 15 to 17 September 2023.

During this event, several meetings were held involving the active participation of representatives from Mayors for Peace France. Guillaume Du Souich, Deputy Mayor of Villejuif, and Fatiha Alaudat, Deputy Mayor of Malakoff, represented the French Chapter in meetings on the themes of “Peace and Climate: Towards an Ecology of Peace” and “Promoting the Culture of Peace: Peace Education and City Diplomacy”.



Photos: courtesy of Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

Deputy Mayor Du Souich of Villejuif emphasized the importance of peace and international cooperation, stating, “The last 25 years have demonstrated that the imperative shift toward ecological sustainability requires a transition to pacifism and international cooperation in funding”.

This culturally and politically rich festival contributed to raising awareness of issues related to peace, education, and ecology among the attending public. The event also provided the representatives of AFCDRP with the opportunity to connect with elected officials from various cities.

 *La Fête de l’Humanité* website (in French): <https://fete.humanite.fr/>

● **European and French Chapters**

European and French Chapters discuss roles of cities in achieving peace at the Third Forum of Mayors in Geneva

Report by Ms. Lorena Schlicht, Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

On 3 October, the European and French Chapters of Mayors for Peace co-organized a seminar titled “Urban Dialogues for Peace: When Mayors Become Architects of Peace,” as an official side event to the Third Forum of Mayors.

The “Forum of Mayors” brings together city leaders from across the region covered by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and beyond to address key challenges and boost efforts towards a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive urban development. Operating as a subsidiary body of the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM), the third edition of this Forum took place in Geneva from 2 to 3 October 2023.

On this occasion, the European and French Chapters collaborated with the City Diplomacy Lab at Columbia Global Centers | Paris, the U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Geneva, and the Nicosia Initiative to organize the seminar. The goals were to identify and exchange best practices unique to mayors and municipalities in achieving and maintaining peace and stability and to review the role of cities in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16 and unite internationally for peaceful coexistence.



Photos: courtesy of Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

Mr. Albertino Ramaël, Deputy Mayor of Vitry-sur-Seine and representative of the French Chapter, emphasized the significance of city networks such as Mayors for Peace. He stated, “Cities actively engage in diplomacy, particularly through decentralized cooperation and twinning programs, in order to establish enduring and peaceful relationships. [...] Such cooperation helps maintain connections when governments may have chosen to sever them for economic or political reasons and develop sustainable and peaceful cities globally.”

Throughout the Forum, the European and French Chapters actively engaged in discussions with other mayors attending the event, inviting them to join the Mayors for Peace network.

🔗 Forum of Mayors website (in English): <https://forumofmayors.unece.org/>

Please send us a report on your city's peace activities

Share your city’s peace activities with fellow member cities! 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 your submissions!

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.

● **Japan Chapter**

Japan Chapter holds 11th Mayors for Peace Japanese Member Cities Meeting

On October 18 and 19, the 11th Mayors for Peace Japanese Member Cities Meeting was held in Himeji City, Hyogo Prefecture. A total of 135 participants attended the Meeting, representing 85 member cities from across Japan, to discuss and exchange views on the Mayors for Peace initiatives in the country and share information on various activities implemented by the member cities.



Music Performance by the Himeji Municipal Josai Elementary School Marching Band



Deliberations on Items on Agenda

The program on the first day was presented by the host city, Himeji City, under the theme “Peace from Himeji.” The program featured a variety of activities, including a music performance by the Himeji Municipal Josai Elementary School Marching Band, a screening of Himeji City’s promotional video, a presentation by Mayor Kiyomoto of Himeji on the city’s peace initiatives, a testimony by survivor of the air raids in Himeji during WWII, a presentation of peace education projects by junior high school students, oral presentations of peace essays, and a chorus performance of “Toward a Century of Glories,” the fourth movement of “Symphonic Poem Himeji,” by junior high and high school students.

The second day began with presentations of peace activities by the Mayor of Setagaya, the Deputy Mayor of Fujisawa, and the Director of Kitakyushu City Museum of Peace, and a pre-recorded video presentation by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, UK. The Mayors for Peace Secretariat reported the financial statement of the Mayors for Peace Membership Fees in FY2022 and announced that Musashino City, Tokyo Metropolis, would host the 12th Japanese Member City Meeting in the next fiscal year. The Meeting also confirmed our commitment to improving the collection rate of the Membership Fees.

Furthermore, the Meeting decided to submit letters of request to the Japanese government, calling for the promotion of actions to abolish nuclear weapons and financial support for municipalities to promote the culture of peace.

The Meeting concluded following the adoption of its Summary Notes.

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.

 Request for the 2023 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website): <https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/about-us/joins/fees/>

Mayors for Peace member cities: 8,311 cities in 166 countries/regions

On October 1, we gained 24 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,311. 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	Melle	172	
French Polynesia	Rangiroa	2	President of French Polynesia issued a letter urging all municipalities to join Mayors for Peace.
Germany	Artland and 5 other cities	867	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
Nepal	Bahradashi and 11 other cities	33	Upon a request from Ambassador of Nepal to Japan, who met with President Matsui this April, Nepal’s Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration issued a letter urging all municipalities to join Mayors for Peace.
Netherlands	Súdwest-Fryslân and Voorst	175	
Ukraine	Melitopol	7	
US	Portage (MI)	227	

24 new cities from 7 countries and regions

	France	1 city
	French Polynesia	1 city
	Germany	6 cities
	Nepal	12 cities
	Netherlands	2 cities
	Ukraine	1 city
	US	1 city

 **Member Cities** 


8,311 member cities

166 countries & regions


As of October 1, 2023

Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!



 List of new members (PDF):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/file-2309-newmembers2310_en.pdf

 Membership by country (PDF):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/monthly/file-07_membership_by_country_en.pdf

Report by Executive Advisor

● Webinar of European Chapter: “Protecting civilians in cities from explosive weapons”

Report by Amb. Thomas Hajnoczi, Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace

In commemoration of the International Day of Peace on 21 September, the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace organized a webinar on 29 September, titled “Protecting civilians from explosive weapons: How city diplomacy can take action to prevent the use of explosive weapons in towns and cities”. The co-organizer was the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW), an international network of NGOs that calls for immediate action to prevent human suffering from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

Since conflicts are fought increasingly in towns and cities, explosive weapons used there cause severe harm to civilians. 90% of the victims of explosive weapons with wide area effects used in populated areas are civilians. This clearly shows that such use of explosive weapons violates the principles of international law for the protection of civilians. Each year, tens of thousands of civilians are killed and injured by explosive weapons across different contexts, including in Gaza, Ethiopia, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen.

Victims suffer complex and life-changing injuries and long-term psychological distress from the trauma of living under constant bombing. Explosive weapons destroy critical civilian infrastructure such as housing, hospitals, schools, and power and water systems, preventing the provision of essential services to the civilian population, and forcing civilians to flee or leave their homes towards an uncertain fate.

Mrs. Alma Taslidzan from Handicap International, who has worked extensively with the victims of explosive weapons, shared her first-hand experience of the harm and secondary effects caused by these weapons. Mrs. Christina Wille, the Director of Insecurity Insight, further elaborated on the dangers of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. Mrs. Laura Boillot, the Coordinator of INEW, explained what can be done to prevent this harm. In particular, she presented the Political Declaration, which has already been endorsed by 83 states that have committed themselves to undertaking concrete steps to strengthen the protection of civilians from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

In the discussion, mayors underlined the high importance of this topic for them, since it concerns the protection of their inhabitants in armed conflicts. City diplomacy and organisations such as Mayors for Peace can contribute to raising more awareness of this humanitarian problem and to demanding that international humanitarian law be respected in armed conflicts and the objectives of the Political Declaration implemented.

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

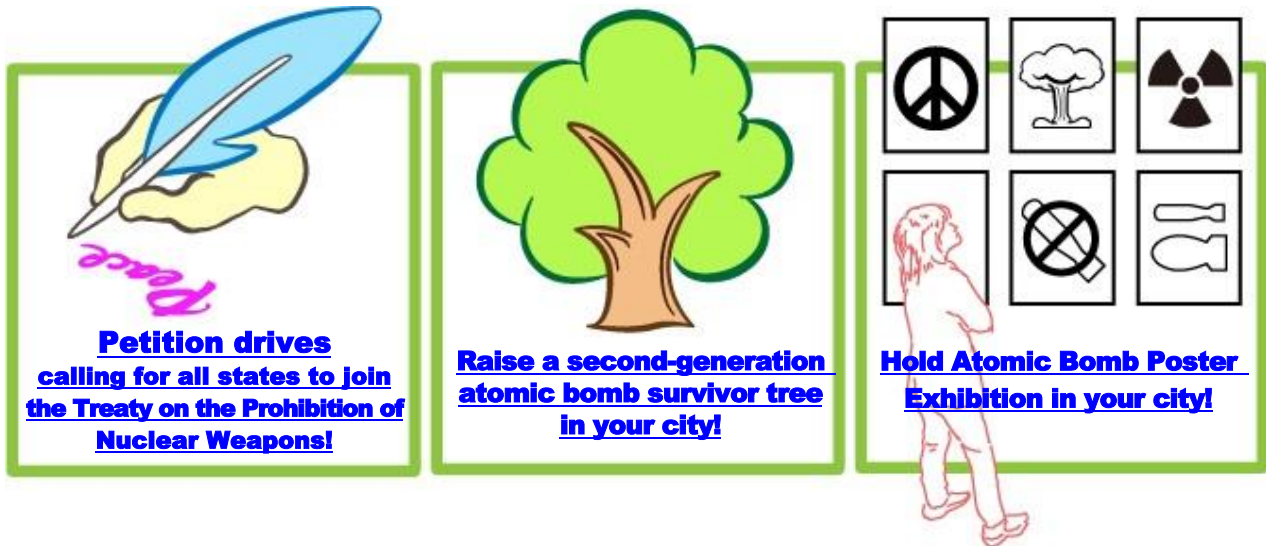
At the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held online in July 2021, we adopted the latest Action Plan (2021–2025). Together, let us continue our utmost efforts toward our ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace. Please implement initiatives outlined in the Action Plan within your own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

A closer look at the “World’s Nuclear Warheads Count in 2023” Part 3: Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA)

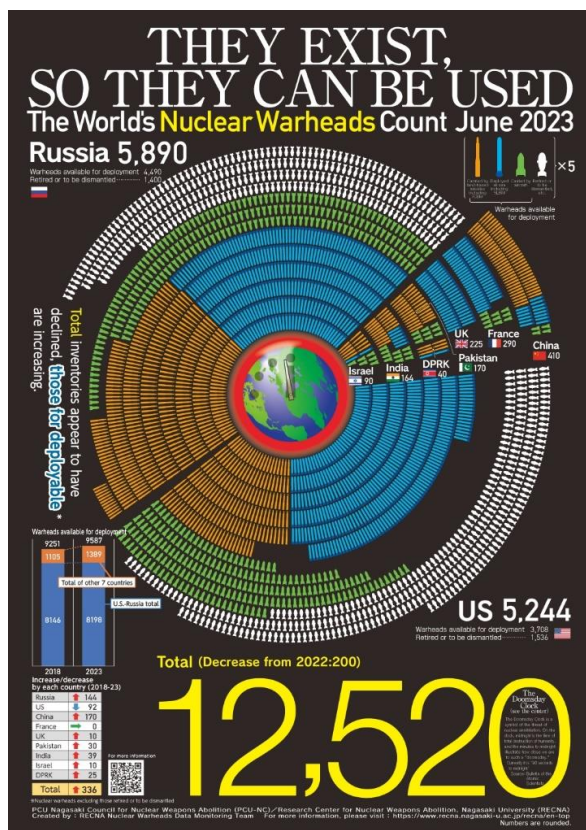
Approximately 90% of the total number of nuclear warheads on the earth (estimated at 12,520 warheads) are held by Russia and the United States (Russia has a total of 5,890 warheads, of which 4,490 are deployable, and the United States has a total of 5,244 warheads, of which 3,708 are deployable). The tension and confrontation between these two nuclear armed countries has further intensified against the backdrop of Russia’s military invasion of Ukraine, which began in February 2022, leading to a renewed nuclear arms race.

Both the U.S. and Russia have been pursuing modernization plans with huge budgets in order to upgrade their aging Cold War-era nuclear weapons systems. In March 2023, President Vladimir Putin announced the deployment of the Iskander tactical nuclear weapon missile system in the allied nation of Belarus.

There have been significant cracks in bilateral and multilateral arms control frameworks. In February 2023, Russia announced the suspension of the New START treaty and, in response, the U.S. declared a partial halt in information sharing. New START is currently the last remaining bilateral arms control and disarmament treaty between the U.S. and Russia. The treaty has facilitated confidence-building between the two countries through limitations on the numbers of warheads and missiles, as well as verification measures including regular information exchange and on-site inspections. The breakdown of such treaties would further accelerate nuclear proliferation and have serious implications for the global order concerning nuclear weapons.

As we introduced in the last issue, since the implementation deadline of New START in February 2018, there has been a shift towards an increase in deployable nuclear warheads. This emphasizes the urgent need to establish a new framework for arms control and disarmament to succeed New START, which is set to expire in 2026. Both countries must engage in dialogue immediately. Future U.S.-Russia negotiations should not only focus on reducing the numbers of warheads and delivery systems but also include discussions about qualitative disarmament. This encompasses limitations or prohibitions on new weapons such as hypersonic missiles and precision-guided weapons that raise the risk of nuclear weapon use, as well as regulations on military activities in space and cyberspace. It is also crucial to involve China in these negotiations. (To be continued)

“World’s Nuclear Warheads Count in June 2023”



Courtesy of RECNA
Created by RECNA Warheads Data Monitoring

“The World’s Nuclear Warheads Count in 2023” Poster (RECNA website):
<https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/en-topics/43753>

Peace-related news from Hiroshima

(provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

Three-quarters of 2023 is already over. After the summit meeting of the G7 (Group of Seven industrialized nations) held in May and the 78th commemoration of the atomic bombings in August, one more important opportunity awaits on the path toward achieving a world without nuclear weapons. Starting in late November, the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is set to take place at the United Nations headquarters in New York City.

The Japan NGO Network for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, a Tokyo-based non-governmental organization consisting of about 30 citizen groups in Japan including Hiroshima, worked on a crowdfunding effort called the Japan Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons in order to broaden support for the TPNW, recently reaching its target of 10 million yen. In partnership with the Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo), the network called on the public to support the campaign and, in the space of about two months, collected a total of 10.385 million yen from 789 individuals in Japan and overseas. The funds will be used for a diverse set of activities, including work to enhance the network’s efforts to encourage Japan’s Diet members to take the next step in ensuring the government’s participation in the TPNW. Japan’s national government has consistently shunned the idea of joining the treaty, which is considered crucial as a starting point for the elimination of nuclear weapons. At the very least, Japan should participate in the upcoming meeting of the States Parties to the TPNW as an observer. To begin, citizens and organizations representing wide-ranging perspectives must urge the government to take that first step.

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

To gain more advocates for TPNW: Japan NGO Network for Nuclear Weapons Abolition hits 10-million-yen target of crowd-funding to be used for study sessions and brochure publication

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=136908>

Takao Fujiwara, a local photographer in Hiroshima, sends his photo collection of the A-bombed trees to Ukraine, with an aim to provide hope for recovery

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=136925>

Steven Leeper, former chair of Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, awarded Kiyoshi Tanimoto Peace Prize

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=136906>

Hiroshima City to provide public organizations with free replicas of Peace Memorial Museum guestbook in which G7 leaders left messages

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=136901>

A-bomb victim’s blood-stained shirt represents plea for nuclear abolition: Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum begins exhibit of 150 newly arrived items

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=136903>

Mayors for Peace Official Social Media Accounts

<X (Twitter)>  @Mayors4Peace
<https://x.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:

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