



Mayors for Peace News Flash

February 2024 / No.170

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

8,363 cities

in **166** countries and regions

(as of February 1, 2024)

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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(provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

Mayors for Peace issues “Joint Appeal calling for peaceful resolution of armed conflicts and the elimination of nuclear weapons”

On February 22, 2024, in response to the further intensified global state of turmoil due to factors including the protracted Russian invasion of Ukraine showing no signs of coming to an end, Mayors for Peace issued a Joint Appeal to all UN Member States and the UN Secretary-General, and shared with all Mayors for Peace member cities, calling for diplomatic efforts to pursue the peaceful resolution of conflicts through dialogue and concrete steps toward the realization of a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

 Mayors for Peace Joint Appeal calling for peaceful resolution of armed conflicts and the elimination of nuclear weapons (Mayors for Peace website):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/file-2402-MfP_Joint_Appeal_Feb_2024_E.pdf

Mayors for Peace Secretariat hosts interns from Granollers and Wellington [January 17-31, 2024]



Ms. Teruko Yahata, atomic bomb survivor (middle),
Ms. Cata Llado from Granollers (right), and
Ms. Lockett from Wellington (left)



With students from Hiroshima Municipal Funairi High School

From January 17 to 31, 2024, the Mayors for Peace Secretariat welcomed as interns Ms. Montserrat Cata Llado from Granollers, Spain (a Vice President City of Mayors for Peace) and Ms. Phoebe Lockett from Wellington, New Zealand (an Executive City of Mayors for Peace).

During the internship, they engaged in the Secretariat’s activities, such as public relations activities on social media and the collection of petitions calling for all states to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) at the earliest date. Furthermore, they deepened their understanding of the realities of the atomic bombing by visiting the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and listening to *hibakusha* (an atomic bomb survivor) testimony. They also visited Hiroshima Municipal Funairi High School and shared their cities’ peace initiatives and thoughts for peace with the students.

Upon completion of the internship program, they made the following comments:

Ms. Montserrat Cata Llado

“Hibakusha, volunteers and staff members of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation have inspired me, through their stories and work, to keep promoting new initiatives on peace and nuclear disarmament in my community.”

Ms. Phoebe Lockett

“I treasure the knowledge about August 6 1945 that I gained from the Hibakusha testimonies, poetry, memoirs and museum exhibitions. I am excited to organize my peace initiatives back home in Wellington.”

We look forward to seeing peace initiatives develop in their cities and countries based on what they learned during their internship in Hiroshima.

Award ceremonies celebrate winners of the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2023

In order to expand peace education efforts in its member cities, Mayors for Peace has been holding an annual Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” for children living in all member cities. For the 2023 competition, a total of 4,766 artworks were submitted to 115 member cities in 19 countries and 15 artworks won awards.

To celebrate the award winners, mayors and school officials held award ceremonies. Award winners were congratulated and handed certificates and commemorative gifts.



Seiyō, Japan



Hiroshima, Japan



Grigny, France



Leuven, Belgium




Reykjavik, Iceland



Nova Ushytsia, Ukraine

We hope that the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” provides children with an opportunity to think about peace through creating artworks. This year, we plan to hold the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2024, and we look forward to your city’s participation!

 Selection results: Mayors for Peace Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2023:
<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/news/2023/post-231208/>

Member city activities

● Cervia, Italy

Students in Cervia listen to online testimony from Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Survivor Ms. Teruko Yahata

Report by Ms. Bruna Rondoni, the City of Cervia, Italy

On 24 January, on the occasion of the third anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), the fifth-grade children of M. Buonarroti Primary School in Montaletto, Cervia, together with their teachers and councilors Michela Brunelli and Cesare Zavatta, connected with the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum to listen to the testimony of Ms. Teruko Yahata, *hibakusha* of Hiroshima. Also, on 25 January, another online meeting with Ms. Yahata was held for the 140 students of the High School Tonino Guerra in Cervia.

Ms. Teruko Yahata was 8 years old when she was exposed to the bombing on 6 August 1945. She was in her backyard, on her way to the house next door. She was 2.5 km away from the hypocenter.



Photos: courtesy of the City of Cervia

Her testimony, supported by images and paintings, was full of heartbreak and pain, but also of courage and hope, deeply touching the souls of all those present, especially the children. After this connection, the pupils at M. Buonarroti Primary School and the students of Tonino Guerra High School reported their thoughts of sadness, fear, and hope, and emphasized the importance of making the atrocities of war known to future generations.

These hearings were organized by the City of Cervia, the Italian Lead City of Mayors for Peace, in cooperation with Senzatomica and the “*Pace e Disarmo* (Peace and Disarmament)” Italian network.

● Malakoff, France

The City of Malakoff celebrates the 3rd anniversary of TPNW entry into force

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

In its steadfast commitment to peace and nuclear disarmament, the City of Malakoff together with Mayors for Peace France, in response to the call from local organizations including peace advocacy associations and political parties, gathered for a significant assembly marking the third anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) at Place du 11-Novembre-1918 at the end of January.

Together, they celebrated this pivotal milestone while fervently advocating for its ratification in France, thereby reaffirming their dedication to a world liberated from the looming threat of nuclear weapons. Fatiha Alaudat, Deputy Mayor Delegate for the Culture of Peace in the City of Malakoff, delivered a poignant speech reflecting on the exorbitant cost of maintaining nuclear weapons and the tragic toll they exacted in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. She also underscored the growing number of countries ratifying the treaty, emphasizing, “France must ratify the TPNW to put an end to nuclear weapons.”



Photo: courtesy of Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

Regional chapter activities

● Japan Chapter

Mayors for Peace Tokyo Metropolis Tama Area Peace Network issues Peace Declaration

January 25, 2024 [Kunitachi City, Japan]

26 cities in the Tama Area of Tokyo Metropolis, Japan, have established the “Mayors for Peace Tokyo Metropolis Tama Area Peace Network” in response to the call by President Matsui of Mayors for Peace (Mayor of Hiroshima) for the formation of an inter-city network in the area to promote the culture of peace, as outlined in the [Vision for Peaceful Transformation to a Sustainable World \(PX Vision\) and Mayors for Peace Action Plan \(2021–2025\)](#).

In FY2023, the Network organized two mayoral conferences. The conferences enabled the Tama Area mayors to exchange views on potential future initiatives and relevant issues, including peace-related challenges in the area, concerns regarding the aging of individuals who experienced the Pacific War, and strategies for providing future generations with opportunities to reflect on peace.



Photo: courtesy of Kunitachi City

On January 25, 2024, the Network issued its “Peace Declaration,” affirming the commitment of all Network members in the Tama Area to collaboratively promote the culture of peace outlined in the [PX Vision and the Action Plan](#). The Declaration will serve as a cornerstone for the Network members to offer opportunities to the public to reflect on peace and to address local peace-promotion challenges in the Tama Area, such as the aging population affected by the Pacific War, in partnership with the Cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the other member cities of Mayors for Peace.

The Declaration is available in Japanese on the website of Kunitachi City.

[Peace Declaration, Mayors for Peace Tokyo Metropolis Tama Area Peace Network \(Kunitachi City website; in Japanese\): <https://www.city.kunitachi.tokyo.jp/soshiki/Dept01/Div01/Sec03/gyomu/0373/0384/10476.html>](#)

● Mayors for Peace France

Mayors for Peace France issues appeal commemorating 3rd anniversary of TPNW entry into force Report by Ms. Loréna Schlicht, Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

On the third anniversary of the TPNW on January 22, 2024, Mayors for Peace France issued an appeal titled “Striving for a Peaceful World: Commemorating Three Years of the TPNW” and showed its firm dedication to global nuclear disarmament.

This landmark treaty, which entered into force three years ago, is a significant milestone in the pursuit of lasting peace and security for all nations. Despite the progress made by the TPNW, challenges persist. International tensions, fueled by nuclear arsenals maintained by certain nations, continue to undermine global stability. Events unfolding in regions such as Ukraine and Palestine serve as stark reminders of the urgent need for concerted efforts towards disarmament and conflict resolution.

In this pivotal moment, the appeal by Mayors for Peace France calls upon all nuclear-weapon states, including France, to take meaningful steps towards nuclear disarmament and to participate in the Meetings of States Parties to the TPNW at the UN. It further urges the unification of efforts in pursuit of a peaceful world free from the threat of nuclear weapons.



Image: courtesy of Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

[“Striving for a Peaceful World: Commemorating Three Years of the TPNW” \(Mayors for Peace France website; in French\): <https://afcdrp.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Tribune-AFCDRP-3eme-anniversaire-TIAN.pdf>](#)

Mayors for Peace member cities: 8,363 cities in 166 countries/regions

On February 1, we gained 14 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,363. 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
Austria	Bisamberg	126	
Belgium	Molenbeek-Saint-Jean	396	Thanks to efforts by Ypres, a Vice President and Lead City.
France	Vendres	174	Thanks to efforts by Malakoff, a Vice President and Lead City.
Germany	Bergkamen and 5 other cities	880	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
Nepal	Kanepokhari	40	Upon a request from Ambassador of Nepal to Japan, who met with President Matsui last April, Nepal's Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration issued a letter urging all municipalities to join Mayors for Peace.
Turkey	Arsin and 2 other cities	21	Upon a request from Ambassador of Turkey to Japan, who met with Deputy Mayor Susume of Hiroshima last November, Turkey's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a letter urging municipalities to join Mayors for Peace.
Ukraine	Bucha	8	Last August, the Mayor of Bucha sent a letter to President Matsui, requesting cooperation in the city's reconstruction following the devastation of war. In response, President Matsui proposed collaboration through the Mayors for Peace network.



List of new members (PDF):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/file-2401-newmembers2402_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 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!

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

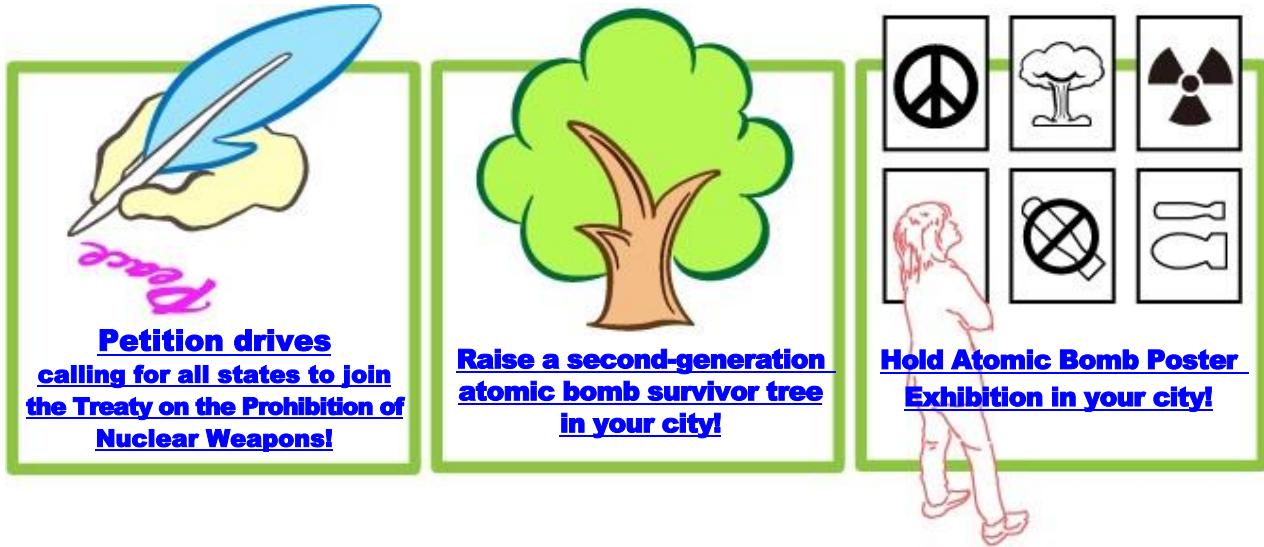
At the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held online in July 2021, we adopted the latest Action Plan (2021–2025). Together, let us continue our utmost efforts toward our ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace. Please implement initiatives outlined in the Action Plan within your own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

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.

Report by Executive Advisor

● Civil society consultations to advance a UN Special Session on Disarmament

Report by Dr. Randy Rydell, Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace

On 25 January, the University of London's SCRAP project (for Strategic Concept for the Removal of Arms and Proliferation) hosted a webinar co-sponsored by two Canadian NGOs and Oxfam, featuring Brazil's ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, a retired Canadian diplomat, and a UN disarmament official, on SCRAP's proposal for the General Assembly to convene a fourth "special session" on disarmament (SSOD-IV).

Its purpose would be to revive "general and complete disarmament" (GCD), a goal found in the NPT and the "ultimate goal" of the UN. This places priority of nuclear disarmament within the context of related issues, including WMD disarmament, conventional arms control, military spending limits, and Charter obligations on the use of force and the peaceful resolution of disputes. UN Secretary-General Guterres included SSOD-IV in his New Agenda for Peace and it is also a subject for next September's UN Summit of the Future.

Conclusions: (a) difficult political challenges remain; (b) developing countries should remain supportive of GCD while expanding cooperation with other non-nuclear countries and civil society; (c) disarmament's close relationship with development; (d) reforming the UN disarmament machinery; and (e) possibly the establishment of a General Assembly "open-ended working group" or a "preparatory committee" on SSOD-IV.

A video of this webinar is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WI0eFtSefA&t=1s>.

Peace-related news from Hiroshima

(provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

January 22 this year marked the third anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Images of rallies held in front of the A-bomb Dome were shared around the world through social media.

In conjunction with the anniversary, Melissa Parke, executive director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), an international non-governmental organization that contributed greatly to the establishment of the TPNW, paid a visit to Hiroshima. She offered flowers at the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims in Peace Memorial Park and spoke passionately in a lecture about her desire for the elimination of nuclear weapons. Mayors for Peace Tokyo Metropolitan Tama Area Peace Network declared that its people region-wide would collaborate to promote the culture of peace.

As residents of Hiroshima, we are buoyed by all those who engage with the A-bombed city and willingly communicate their thoughts and feelings on related issues. As we listen to their stories, we gain new insights for our own reporting work. This year, we hope to continue having many such opportunities.

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

Hiroshima's Tsuyoshi Fujimoto "reunites" with smile of sister killed in A-bombing thanks to photo in Chugoku Shimbun — Prompts his anti-war feelings

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=139064>

Artist Keith Haring's unfulfilled dream of creating wall mural in Hiroshima — "Tears would not stop flowing" on his visit to city in 1980s

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=139283>

13,000 photographs entrusted to Hiroshima Municipal Archive that capture citizens' lives and cityscapes in Hiroshima City before atomic bombing

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=138916>

Mayors for Peace network, composed of all 26 cities in Tokyo, announces declaration of promoting peace culture

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=139084>

Junior Writers Reporting: There are no nuclear weapons on a sustainable planet

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?junior=junior-writers-reporting-there-are-no-nuclear-weapons-on-a-sustainable-planet>

Mayors for Peace Official Social Media Accounts

〈X (Twitter)〉  **@Mayors4Peace**
<https://x.com/Mayors4Peace>



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



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

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

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