



Mayors for Peace News Flash

May 2024 / No.173

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

8,389 cities

in **166** countries and regions

(as of May 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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Invitation for the Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" 2024



In order to expand peace education efforts in its over 8,300 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

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


Submission Deadline: 5:00 PM (Japan Standard Time), October 31, 2024

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

To ensure that submissions are only received from member cities, we have password protected. The password for Google Forms were emailed to respective member cities. Please contact the Secretariat for any inquiries.

Note: In the case that it is difficult to submit artwork via Google Forms, member cities are able to send submissions 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

 Details of the Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" 2024 (Mayors for Peace website): <https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/arts/>

Provision of Image Data of Award-Winning Works from the Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns"

To further promote peace education in its member cities, Mayors for Peace annually holds the Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns", centered on the theme of peace for children in all member cities. In line with this initiative, we provide image data of past award-winning works. To share the children's wish for peace, we encourage you to exhibit these remarkable works in public facilities or at various events. If you would like to hold the exhibition, please contact the Secretariat: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp.

 Image Data of Award-Winning Works (Mayors for Peace website) : <https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/arts/data/>

Request for Payment of the 2024 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 14 USD/13 Euro as of March 22, 2024) per city. If your city has not paid the 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 2024 membership fee was sent to each city by email on April 1. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

 Request for the 2024 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website):

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

Member city activities

● Manchester, UK

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



commemorative photo with students

To further the Manchester-Hiroshima school link first suggested by Chapter Secretary Richard Outram last year, Manchester actor, playwright, and author, Hazel Roy last month revisited the Funairi Municipal High School in Hiroshima.

Hazel says: “I made a presentation to the International Studies pupils, and showed them two films, one of the Chorlton High School in Manchester now linked to Funairi and another of a performance by the Open Voice community choir of the song, ‘Never Again the A Bomb’, in Japanese and English.

I presented the teacher with the scrapbook prepared by pupils from Chorlton High and the class were impressed that some pupils had included some Japanese text among their drawings and poems.

I was then given a tour of the impressive facilities at the school including a very large and beautiful theatre and a sight of their well-equipped orchestra, before being taken to meet the drama club.”

Funairi’s symbol is the acacia tree. Hazel was presented with a mug with this symbol in memory of her visit. Summing up her visit, Hazel said: “This was a very productive initial beginning to advance the twinning link, but this will need following up extensively now I am back in Manchester.”

● Varennes-Vauzelles, France

Sport and Peace at Château du Vernay: Youth Unite for Friendly Competitions

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



participants of the event

In Varennes-Vauzelles, a member city of Mayors for Peace, a sporty and friendly stay held at the Château du Vernay, bringing together sixty young people from Varennes-Vauzelles, Corbeil-Essonnes, and Grigny. Initiated by local officials and sports associations such as Asav Omnisports and Casi Cheminot, this event offered three days of dynamic activities and friendly competitions.

The young people, aged 12 to 16, participated in a range of events, from classic sports such as football, handball, basketball, athletics, and fencing to more original activities like Laser Run. Alongside the competitions, a documentary on peace was screened, in partnership with the Peace and Sports association, highlighting the values of cooperation and harmony.

The supervision of this stay was provided by professionals from the municipal sports service, educators from various local sports sections, and committed elected officials. This gathering also strengthened the bonds between young people and local authorities, with active participation from members of the Youth Municipal Council.

This sports event at the Château du Vernay is part of a broader initiative to promote sport and peace in the region. The municipality and Asav Omnisports are already planning a sports course to celebrate the arrival of the Olympic Flame in France, underscoring the ongoing commitment to youth and sport in Varennes-Vauzelles.



enjoying soccer among participants

Regional chapter activities

● Catalan Chapter

Ms. Montserrat Catà Lladó, City of Granollers, Spain

A new study reinforces the potential of local governments to strengthen peace policies

The Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace attended the conference «Local initiatives of peace and decentralized cooperation" in which the Diputació de Barcelona presented the new study of the EU-AL Observatory for Decentralised Cooperation: [«Guide for Local Agendas for Decentralised Peace & Cooperation: Guidelines for strengthening local peace policies»](#)



publication

The publication shows the potential of local and regional authorities of the European Union and Latin America when designing, implementing and strengthening local public peace policies. The study states that decentralised cooperation, although it is still an area of work to be explored, becomes an instrument that, with new proposals, can effectively contribute to the construction of territorial peace.



conference participants

In addition, although peace and security policies are not the responsibility of local governments, the guide recommends to promote a local peace agenda of its own by networks of municipalities and regions, so that decentralised cooperation is not only subject to state agendas or international networks of states.

The study also highlights the importance of the direct participation of the population interested or affected by conflicts as a characteristic element of decentralised cooperation that other levels of cooperation should also take into account.

The historical memory as a tool to promote peace culture

The Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace in partnership with the municipality of Santa Margarida i els Monjos organised on April 26 the II Conference: «Promoting the Peace Culture: Historical Memory as a Resource for the Promotion of Peace»

Local authorities, together with experts and academics, took part at the lecture and round table in order to present local initiatives related to historical memory and peace education. This conference provided the opportunity to continue the process of reflection and debate about how



participants of the conference

to construct a peace culture through historical memory, as well as to learn from each other's experiences.

The municipalities of Vilanova i la Geltrú, Subirats, el Vendrell, Esparreguera, Santa Margarida i els Monjos and Granollers, a representative of the entity Associació Memòria i Història of the city of Manresa, and a peace and memory expert from the International Catalan Institute for Peace agreed on the importance of sharing experiences among local governments. They concluded that youth need to be included when creating new activities related to democratic history and that there is a need to construct strong synergies between the local policies of peace and democratic memory in order to build a strong democratic and inclusive society.

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.

Mayors for Peace member cities: 8,389 cities in 166 countries/regions

On May 1, we gained 12 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,389. 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
Germany	Lahr/Schwarzwald and 5 other cities	888	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
Italy	Fiesso d'Artico	524	
Netherlands	Tytsjerksteradiel and Wijchen	179	
Spain	Banyoles	403	
Türkiye	Izmir and Karatay	28	Upon a request from Ambassador of Turkey to Japan, who met with Deputy Mayor Susume of Hiroshima last November, Türkiye's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a letter urging municipalities to join Mayors for Peace.



List of new members (PDF):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/file-2404-newmembers2405_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 12 different languages: Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese (BZ), Portuguese (EU), Russian, Spanish and Thai.

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!

Report by Executive Advisor

● More civilian harm due to warfare in cities

Amb. Thomas Hajnoczi, Executive Advisor for Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation

Every day the media report on shelling and bombing of civilians in cities in Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, Myanmar, Syria and many other places around the globe. 90 percent of victims of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas are civilians which mirrors the fact that most of these acts violate international humanitarian law.

In November 2022, 83 States met in Dublin to endorse a Political Declaration that demands concrete actions to respect international humanitarian law and avoid civilian harm when explosive weapons are used in populated areas. On 23 April 2024, the First International Follow-up Conference took place in Oslo where additional four States endorsed the Political Declaration and States reported on their activities to implement it. An example of such an activity was the Vienna Military Workshop on the Implementation of the Political Declaration held in January where officers from 46 states discussed necessary changes in doctrine and operations to better protect civilians.



follow-up conference in Oslo

The Explosive Weapons Monitor 2023 presented at the Oslo Conference reports that 35,000 civilians became victims of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas in 75 countries which is an increase by 67 percent. In order to reverse this deadly trend, we have to engage.

● Feria de la Flor (Flower Festival) 2024, Cuernavaca, Mexico

Ms. Tomoko Aikawa, Executive Advisor for Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation

From March 22 to 31, 2024, the city of Cuernavaca in the state of Morelos, Mexico, hosted the Feria de la Flor (Flower Festival) 2024. This event aimed to celebrate diverse cultures and arts, and for the first time, Japan was invited as the guest country, leading to the creation of the "Japan Pavilion." The purpose of this pavilion was to show Japanese culture focusing on peace.

The Japan Pavilion was held by a collaboration of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (CRIM-UNAM), the Autonomous University of Morelos State, Japanese language schools as like Meguro School and Kame House, and the Minoh City Friendship Association in Cuernavaca. Since the city of Cuernavaca is a member city of Mayors for Peace, the Japan Pavilion featured exhibitions such as the Hiroshima-Nagasaki atomic bomb poster exhibition from the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, as well as a photo exhibition by Professor Ernesto Takayanagi from the city's university, showcasing images from the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park that 25 members from the Minoh City Friendship Association in Cuernavaca visited in 2023.



Minister Hirota, Embassy of Japan in Mexico visited Pavilion




visitors earnestly saw exhibit in Japan Pavilion

Additionally, participants have enjoyed Japanese food, bonsai, calligraphy demonstrations, and exhibitions of traditional Japanese clothing (kimono). Visitors to the Japan Pavilion not only enjoyed Japanese culture but also had the opportunity to contemplate peace through posters and photos adorned with origami cranes. There was also a peace signing booth available.


The Feria de la Flor 2024 attracted thousands of visitors, providing a wonderful opportunity for the citizens of Cuernavaca and surrounding areas to enjoy and appreciate Japanese culture and arts in peace!

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

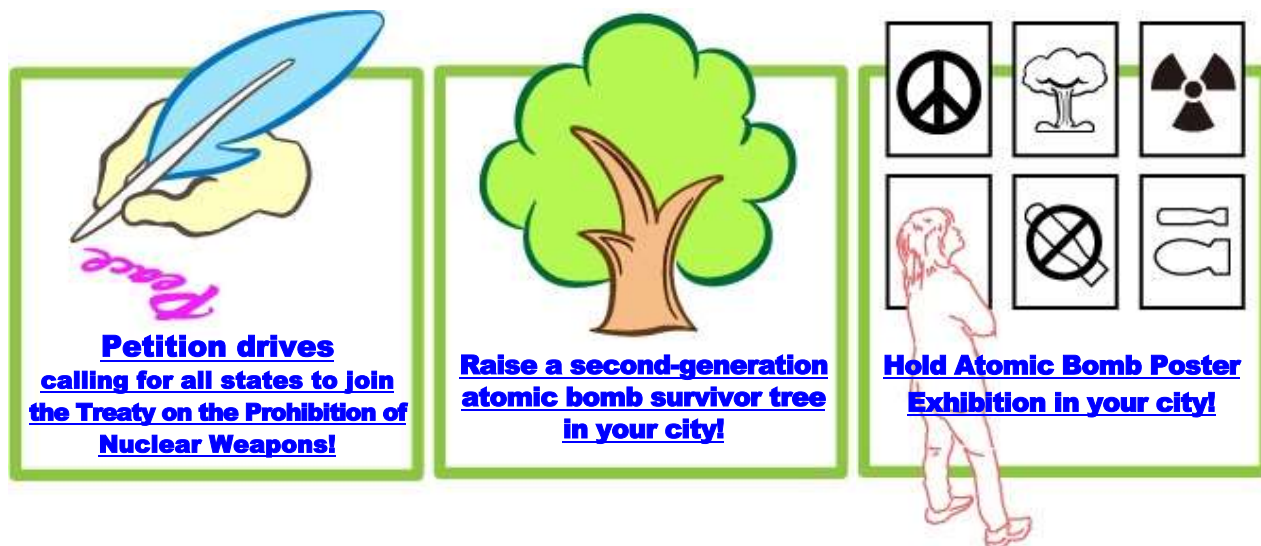
At the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held online in July 2021, we adopted the latest Action Plan (2021–2025). Together, let us continue our utmost efforts toward our ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace. Please implement initiatives outlined in the Action Plan within your own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

 Mayors for Peace Action Plan (PDF):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/file-PX_Vision_Action_Plan_en.pdf

 Initiatives implemented under the Action Plan:

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



Call for input: examples of peace education initiatives

The Mayors for Peace Secretariat has been seeking examples of peace education initiatives conducted by any organization (city government/school/NGO, etc.) in Mayors for Peace member cities. The Mayors for Peace Secretariat accepts reports on a rolling basis, so please send your report whenever your project is completed. The submitted reports will be posted on our website and in the Mayors for Peace News Flash as a source of information for other member cities that are planning to launch their own peace education programs.

 Call for Input on the Mayors for Peace website:

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

Peace-related news from Hiroshima

(provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

This year marks the 79th anniversary of the atomic bombings. Sensing that this might be their last opportunity, some A-bomb survivors are striving to travel overseas and share in their own voices the experiences they faced in the bombings.

One is Toshiko Tanaka, 85, an A-bomb survivor and enamel artist. Since April 13, Ms. Tanaka has been sailing around the world on a 105-day voyage organized by Peace Boat, an NGO in Tokyo. She is speaking about her A-bombing experiences to people on board the boat and at their ports of call around the world. The Peace Boat will also likely be paying visits to member cities of the Mayors for Peace organization.

Ms. Tanaka, six years old at the time, experienced the atomic bombing in the area of Ushita, located around 2.3 kilometers from the hypocenter in Hiroshima. She has traveled on the Peace Boat several times before but has special feelings about this most recent journey. For one, it is the first voyage after the Covid-19 pandemic. And now, as wars persist in the world and the risk of nuclear weapons use has reached unprecedented heights, she has an unwavering determination to “communicate to others as an A-bomb survivor about the terror of nuclear weapons.” She apparently also hopes to tell the stories of her classmates who, struggling in the post-war period from the atomic bombing, were rejected in marriage or committed suicide. “I saw many A-bomb survivors left behind in the city’s recovery. Talking about this reality is the responsibility of those that are still alive.”

Terumi Tanaka, 91, a survivor of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki and co-chair of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo) who lives in Niiza City in Saitama Prefecture, and Tadayoshi Ogawa, 80, a resident of Nagasaki City, will also join the voyage. Younger generations need to receive more inspiration from such individuals, who continue to push on despite their advanced age. Please access the following websites and read our peace-related news.

My guidepost, Hiroshima pioneers: Hiromu Morishita, 93, A-bomb survivor and teacher, speaks about Barbara Reynolds

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=140705>

Toshiko Tanaka, A-bomb survivor and enamel artist, to embark on fifth voyage, advocating for nuclear abolition; will visit 18 countries after 7-year hiatus, vowing to share her account sincerely

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=141303>

Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima, unfinished judgment, Part 1: Tokyo Trial

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=141264>

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum starts sales of stamps for visitors to communicate their impressions through 'Peace Mail' service

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=140701>

In role as Family A-bomb Legacy Successor, Kyoto's Toshifumi Taniguchi hopes to pass on experience of A-bomb survivor mother, who was orphaned after losing 6 family members

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=140782>

Former Akatsuki Corps child soldiers, who trained for suicide attacks and engaged in rescue work after A-bombing, call for end to war in special exhibit at Hiroshima National Memorial Hall

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=141048>

Hiroshima Christ Church Convention releases statement calling for immediate halt to Gaza attacks, conveying wish for peace from A-bombed city

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=140448>

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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