



Mayors for Peace News Flash

September 2024 / No.177

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

8,417 cities

in **166** countries and regions

(as of September 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.

Table of Contents

- Commemorative event for the 2024 International Day of Peace on September 21
- Mayors for Peace Secretariat hosts Online Meetings for New Member Cities
- Invitation for the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2024
- We are providing data for exhibitions!
- Request for payment of the 2024 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee
- Member city activity
- Regional chapter activity
- Report from the Executive Advisor
- Mayors for Peace member cities: 8,417 cities in 166 countries/regions
- Request to implement initiatives outlined in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan
- Call for input: examples of peace education initiatives
- Peace-related news from Hiroshima
(provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

Commemorative event for the 2024 International Day of Peace on September 21

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

In Hiroshima, as a new initiative, we created a message video titled “Voices of Peace” for the IDP to share messages for Peace to with the world, and we held a peace event for young people.



Talk with UN staff member!



Peace Walk in the Peace Memorial Park

S Message to the International Day of Peace (Mayors for Peace website):
<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/news/2024/post-240920/>

S IDP event (Mayors for Peace website):
<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/news/2024/post-240927/>

Please share information on your city's 2024 IDP events!

The Secretariat welcomes reports on your city's events commemorating the IDP. 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.

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

Mayors for Peace Secretariat hosts Online Meetings for New Member Cities



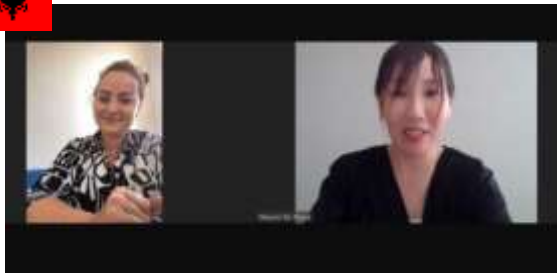
★ Welcome to Mayors for Peace ★ Meetings for Newly Joined Members



Aiming to inform new members of our initiatives and strengthen our ties with them, we have been organizing Zoom meetings with new members since June. In August 2024, we met with representatives from four new member cities and one city with a newly elected mayor. Their participation in the meetings has energized us more than ever to advance our initiatives. Additionally, during these meetings, officials from our Lead Cities and one of our Executive Advisors provided invaluable support in communicating our message and delivering warm welcome messages. We extend our gratitude to all for your time and dedication to peace.

Agenda:

- Introduction of yourself and your municipality
- Overview of Mayors for Peace initiatives available to member cities
- Welcome message from a Lead City or an Executive Advisor
- Q&A Session



With Ms. Enerida Kupo from Roskovec, Albania (left).



With Vice Mayor Monti and Daniela from Cotignola, Italy (top left), and Ms. Bruna Rondoni from Cervia, Lead City in Italy (bottom left).



With Mr. Luis Carlos (bottom left) and Ms. Valeria Rojas (bottom right) from Grecia, Costa Rica, and Ms. Tomoko Aikawa, Executive Advisor (top left).



With Mayor Salzberger of Kaufering (bottom right), Mr. Sebastian Tattenberg from Templin (top left), and Evely Kamissek from Hannover, Lead City in Germany (bottom left).

We look forward to seeing further Mayors for Peace initiatives develop in our member cities around the world. Thank you for your municipalities' efforts toward a peaceful world!



Invitation for the Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" 2024



In order to expand peace education efforts in its over 8,400 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/>

We are providing data for exhibitions!

We have introduced our data providing for exhibition that can be utilized in your city. To all member cities, we would greatly appreciate your cooperation in promoting the culture of peace.

 Exhibition of the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” (message from the award-winning artists also available)

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/ja/vision/initiative/art/drawings-data/>

 Holding the Mayors for Peace Atomic Bomb Poster Exhibition

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/ja/vision/initiative/poster/>



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 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 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 activity

● Vitry-sur-Seine, France

Vitry-sur-Seine Celebrates Peace with Its First International Conference

Lorena Schlicht, Mayors for Peace France (AFCD RP)

The International Peace Conference was held from July 19 to 21 at the city hall of Vitry-sur-Seine, a member city of Mayors for Peace. The event was honored by the presence of Mayor Pierre Bell Lloch, as well as elected officials from Mayors for Peace France, Mayor of Granollers, President of Mayors for Peace Europe and elected officials from Graz Austria.

The conference began with a moving moment of silence to remember victims of global conflicts. Associations such as Ensemble pour l'Avenir, the Tamils of Vitry, Coopération Vitry Mali, and Cubacoop Vitry shared their experiences under the theme of a culture of peace. Raphaël Porteilla, a Political Science professor at the Peace Institute in Burgundy, posed the question: "What is peace?" and emphasizing how peace embodies a culture and mindset that converts conflicts into opportunities for progress rather than destruction.

The conference featured enriching discussions on peace through sport and internationalism, showcasing Vitry's commitment to impactful projects. It concluded with the lighting of the Olympic flame and a joint declaration. The weekend underscored solidarity and fraternity, highlighted by the symbolic journey of the Olympic flame and the vibrant Olympic village. The event ended with a global call for a ban on nuclear weapons in presence of ICAN France representative, Jean Maire Collin, and the reading of the final declaration, marking a powerful and inspiring conclusion.



First International Peace Conference in Vitry-sur-Seine

Regional chapter activity

● Mayors for Peace French Chapter

Mayors for Peace France celebrated Peace Through Sport at Noisy-le-Sec

Lorena Schlicht, Mayors for Peace France (AFCD RP)

On August 6, 2024, Noisy-le-Sec proudly hosted a special event, organized in collaboration with Mayors for Peace France, at the Olympic Village, during the Paris Olympic Games 2024, to commemorate the victims of the Hiroshima atomic bomb. This day was dedicated to highlighting the values of peace through the lens of sport.

The morning began with a warm welcome at the city hall, where delegations of youth from Mayors for Peace member cities, Noisy-le-Sec, Grigny, Varennes-Vauzelles, Septèmes-les-Vallons, Montpellier, Vitry-sur-Seine, Villejuif, and Malakoff, gathered. Speeches on the values of peace through sport and Olympism were delivered by notable figures, including:

- Olivier Sarrebeyrouse, Mayor of Noisy-le-Sec, who introduced the peace cooperation project involving the hosting of the Palestinian sports delegation.
- Bernard Amsalem, Board Member of the French National Olympic and Sports Committee (CNOSF) and former President of the French Athletics Federation
- Clément Rémond, Co-President of FSGT 93 (Sport and Gymnastic Federation of Labor)
- A delegation from the New Japan Sports Federation, discussing the annual peace relay in Hiroshima

In the afternoon, the focus shifted to the youth Olympics, where young participants from various cities came together to engage in and experience different Olympic sports. This provided a unique opportunity for them to

interact and build connections through friendly competition. Following this, notable athletes shared their testimonies, including:

- Ryad Sallem, a triple European champion in wheelchair basketball and 2023 European champion in wheelchair rugby. Ryad is also a committed entrepreneur and leader, chosen to carry the Paralympic Flame for the Paris 2024 Games.
- Dany Makamata, young karateka with achievements including participation in the Mediterranean Games, victory at the international tournament in Pamplona, and a French team championship title.
- Hadjer Rahmouni, a young vice champion of France in junior judo.

The day concluded with the presentation of participation certificates and the signing of the Youth Call for Peace by the eight delegations. The event also featured a meeting with Mr. Ismaïla Dione from the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games organizing committee. The enthusiasm for this project was overwhelming, and its promising future developments are eagerly anticipated.



(Photo courtesy: S. Fayed// Mairie de Noisy-le-Sec)



(Photo courtesy: S. Fayed// Mairie de Noisy-le-Sec)



(Photo courtesy: S. Fayed// Mairie de Noisy-le-Sec)

Peace Through Sport at Noisy-le-Sec

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 from the Executive Advisor

- **UN General Assembly Hosts High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament**

Dr. Randy Rydell, Executive Advisor for Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation

On 26 September, the UN General Assembly hosted a high-level meeting on the occasion of the [International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons](#). The General Assembly established this annual event in 2013 to promote nuclear disarmament and to educate the public about the benefits of disarmament and the dangers of existing nuclear weapons.

The event was live-streamed on the [UN's WebTV](#) and featured statements by senior government officials from a majority of UN member states. UN Secretary-General [António Guterres](#) also spoke, referring to the “lived experience” of the hibakusha as “a clear reminder of where the nuclear path ends.” The event was also supported by resolutions by the [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) and the [US Conference of Mayors](#).

Most speakers represented developing countries, who lamented the lack of progress in nuclear disarmament, ongoing nuclear weapon modernizations programmes, the growing risks of using such weapons, and the horrific humanitarian consequences of any such use.

Other UN disarmament events this year have included: the [International Day for Disarmament and Nonproliferation Awareness](#) (5 March); the [International Day Against Nuclear Tests](#) (29 August); and the 2024 Summit of the Future (23 September), which included disarmament in its agreed “[Pact for the Future](#)”.

Mayors for Peace member cities: 8,417 cities in 166 countries/regions

On September 1, we gained 7 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,417. 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
Belgium	Zedelgem	396	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Kakanj	40	
Germany	Zossen	899	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
Netherlands	Lingewaard and Zoeterwoude	183	
Portugal	Ribeira de Pena	54	Thanks to efforts by Evora, an Executive President and Lead City.
US	Syracuse (NY)	228	



List of new members (PDF): https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/file-2408-newmembers2409_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!

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)

After an atomic bomb was dropped in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, it is said about 140,000 people are estimated to have died prior to the end of that year. What was the devastating situation in Hiroshima’s urban area and the suffering of the people like? The Chugoku Shimbun began a series of articles entitled “Documenting Hiroshima of 1945” on August 5, to convey a record of events during that period on a day-to-day basis, by examining all available materials such as photos, notes written by the A-bomb survivors, diaries, or artifacts left by those who died due to the bombing, as well as medical documents and so on...

Each day, an article about what exactly happened on that same day 79 years prior appears in the newspaper. Many photos used in the series are included in the 1,532 portfolio the City of Hiroshima and five media companies, including the Chugoku Shimbun, submitted in their joint “Memory of the World,” international registry application, a program provided by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as important document of human history.

The clock is ticking toward a time when we will no longer be able to listen to a recounting of the atomic bombing experience from A-bomb survivors firsthand. So, it is an urgent task for us to preserve Hiroshima’s records and memories for the future. In the approach to the upcoming 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing next year, we will integrate the memories, feelings, and emotions of those who were affected by the atomic bombing into the series of articles run in the newspaper. The articles will be translated into English one by one, and released on our website. Please access the website and read them.

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

Hiroshima document 1945: In diary that stops on August 5, girls’ school student describes daily life during war <https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=145215>

Mazda car designer Maeda’s record of A-bomb experience describes memory of searching for family in burned-out ruins, studying in U.S., and suppressing hatred <https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=144716>

Survivors’ Stories: Tomie Mito, 106, Fuchu-cho, Hiroshima—Her father died in the atomic bombing, and her unborn child was exposed <https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=144928>

Hiroshima-based group “Learning from Floyd Schmoie” to donate all proceeds from self-published book to support restoring Sadako’s statue in Seattle <https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=144886>

Thurlow’s group Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition holds A-bomb Day rally in Toronto <https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=145400>

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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