



# Mayors for Peace News Flash

January 2025 / No.181

## Mayors for Peace Member Cities

**8,466** cities

in **166** countries and regions

(as of January 1, 2025)

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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## Release of the video for Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" 2024 Prize-winning works



In order to expand peace education efforts in its member cities, Mayors for Peace holds an annual Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" for children from 6 to 15 years old in all member cities.

For the 7th competition in 2024, a total of 4,208 artworks were submitted to 123 member cities in 21 countries. They went through a screening process handled by their respective member cities, after which 617 artworks were sent to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat in Hiroshima. We created a video introducing the selected 20 prize-winning artworks for the 2024 competition.

 Video for Mayors for Peace Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" 2024 (Mayors for Peace website): <https://youtu.be/s2dn9R90ek8>

## Mayors for Peace Holds the 12th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in Japan

On Thursday, January 16 and Friday, January 17, the 12th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in Japan was held in Musashino, Tokyo, to discuss and exchange opinions on the initiatives of Mayors for Peace in Japan and to share information on the initiatives of member cities attended by 177 participants from 100 cities across Japan.



The Brass Band of Musashino Third Municipal Elementary School



Deliberation on the agenda items

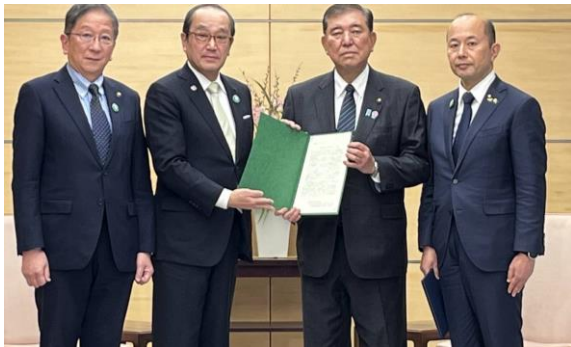
On the first day, the Musashino City program, “Peace from Musashino,” included a performance by the Brass Band of Musashino Third Municipal Elementary School, a screening of a Musashino City promotional video, presentations on Musashino City's peace initiatives, a testimony by a war veteran, and a lecture by photographer Yoshino Oishi, entitled “Overcoming the Disasters of War,” among others.

On the second day, the Deputy Mayor of Obu (Aichi), the Mayor of Hino (Tokyo), the Director of the Policy Planning Office of Kyoto, and the Mayor of Koga (Fukuoka) reported on their peace initiatives, followed by the Mayors for Peace secretariat's reports on the financial statements of the membership fees for the 2023 financial year, the 11th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in Nagasaki this summer, and initiatives to mark the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings.

The participants also discussed and decided on the submission of a letter of request to the Japanese government for the abolition of nuclear weapons as well as a proposal for the development of peace education for the younger generation on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Finally, the 12th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in Japan adopted the summary document and the conference was closed in success.

On the afternoon of Friday, January 17, after the Conference, the Mayor of Hiroshima (President of Mayors for Peace), the Mayor of Nagasaki (Vice President of Mayors for Peace), and the Mayor of Musashino, the host city of the Conference, visited Prime Minister Ishiba and handed a letter of request to the Japanese government in person to him.



Handing of the Letter of Request to Prime Minister Ishiba




Commemorative Logo for the 80<sup>th</sup> year of the atomic bombings, for the MfP domestic conference

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## Initiatives for the promotion of the culture of peace in the 80th year since the atomic bombings

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This year marks the 80th year since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. By strengthening initiatives, such as those during Peace Culture Month held each November, the City of Hiroshima will, in this milestone year, strive to create an environment where the promotion of the culture of peace, led not only by the city, but also by citizens and businesses, spreads throughout the world for generations to come.

 Please visit our city's website for information on the promotion of the culture of peace:  
<https://www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/site/english/331001.html>



Event in the Peace Culture Month  
 (Photo courtesy: City of Hiroshima)



## Mayors for Peace Secretariat Hosts Online Meetings for New Member Cities



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



To inform new members about our initiatives and strengthen ties with member cities, we have been organizing Zoom meetings since June 2024. In December, we had the pleasure of connecting with a representative from a new member city. These meetings offer invaluable opportunities not only to share information about our initiatives but also to learn about the unique efforts of each member city.

#### Meeting Agenda:

- Introductions: Participants introduce themselves and their municipality.
- Overview of Mayors for Peace initiatives: Activities and resources for member cities.
- UK/Ireland Chapter: Introduction and Manchester's role.
- Q&A Session



With Cllr Eddie Hyndes (top left), Peace Champion of Horsforth, UK, and Mr. Richard Outram (bottom), Secretary of the UK/Ireland Chapter

Thank you for becoming a part of Mayors for Peace. Your involvement is vital to the strength of our network and our shared mission to promote peace. Together, we can make a lasting impact. Please feel free to reach out to us at any time – we are always here to assist and engage with you!



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## The 11th General Conference of Mayors for Peace is scheduled to be held in Nagasaki in August 2025

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Mayors for Peace holds a General Conference once every four years in principle. Hosted alternately between Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the General Conference is an opportunity for member cities to decide and approve agenda items significant to the organization.

We are pleased to announce that the 11th General Conference of Mayors for Peace is scheduled to be held as follows:

[Dates]

Thursday, August 7 to Sunday, August 10, 2025

[Venue]

Dejima Messe Nagasaki (4-1 Onouemachi, Nagasaki City), etc.

<https://dejima-messe.jp/en>

[Participant expenses]

- Registration fee: 14,000 JPY per participant
- Travel cost
- Accommodations
- Private interpreter (if you intend to bring or hire an interpreter)
- Meals, shopping, sightseeing, etc.



The 10th General Conference held in Hiroshima in October 2022

[For your reference]

You can review the program of the 9th General Conference, which took place on the same dates in Nagasaki from August 7 to August 10, 2017, at the following link:

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/news/2017/former-9th-gc-en/>

We would also be truly grateful if many people could take this opportunity to visit Hiroshima and attend its Peace Memorial Ceremony on Wednesday, August 6, 2025. The advance program, which contains the conference outline and registration information, will be available in early 2025.

We look forward to many member cities' participation in the 11th General Conference, which will mark the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

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## Request for Payment of the 2024 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee

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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.

We cordially 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, 2024. 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/>

## 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/>



## Regional chapter activities

### UK and Ireland Chapter

#### Mayors for Peace UK and Ireland Chapter calls for Peace Education

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

The Secretary of the UK/Ireland Chapter of Mayors for Peace has responded to a government consultation by calling for peace education to be included on England's school curriculum and give students the opportunity to achieve a qualification in this subject.

The Department for Education Curriculum and Assessment Panel conducted a consultation which closed in November.

The Chapter Secretary recently graduated from the University of Bradford Peace Studies department, so the subject is close to his heart.

The United Nations has recognised that 'quality education for peace and tolerance for every child holds the potential to transform societies'. The UN Human Rights Council passed a motion: 'on ensuring education for peace and tolerance for every child'.

Mayors for Peace places a strong emphasis on peace education, and the present President of the initiative, Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima, is passionate about the promotion of a 'culture of peace', particularly amongst younger people.

At the recent Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held in Manchester, an action plan was adopted which included 'Promoting peace education in each member city'.

Our Mayors for Peace Chapter stands ready to participate in any future professional/expert panel established by the Panel to take forward the inclusion of peace education in the curriculum.

### French Chapter

#### Mayors for Peace France Hosts Training Session on Human Security, Memory, and Peace for Elected Officials

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

On December 17th, Mayors for Peace and the Training Center CIDEFE organized a training session titled "Human Security, Memory, Commemoration, and Peace: What Concrete Actions Can Local Authorities Take?" The event brought together 15 elected officials from member local authorities and beyond, offering a platform to

explore key concepts such as human security and city diplomacy while showcasing practical peace initiatives at the local level.

Bertrand Badie, a distinguished political scientist and professor emeritus renowned for his work on international relations, presented the concept of human security. He highlighted its historical and conceptual ambiguities, particularly regarding the evolving role of war in the international political system. Emphasizing the interconnectedness of various insecurities—food, health, environmental, and more—he advocated for a comprehensive approach in which local authorities and civil society serve as essential drivers of change.

Lorenzo Kihlgren Grandi, Director of the City Diplomacy Lab at Sciences Po Paris, introduced city diplomacy as a dynamic alternative to traditional state diplomacy. Rooted in global mayoral exchanges since 1955, this concept underscores the capacity of local governments to promote peace and international solidarity due to their proximity to citizens. He also addressed the unique challenges and opportunities that this innovative model presents.

Michel Soriano, a former mayor of Lasseran (a member city of Mayors for Peace) and the son of Spanish Republican refugees, shared his experience in a rural setting. His initiatives, such as inclusive November 11 commemorations and educational workshops on peace, transformed his community into a space of collective reflection and engagement.

This session highlighted the critical role of local actions in building a safer and more inclusive world, reinforcing the idea that peace and human security require coordinated efforts from civil society, local authorities, and international networks.

## Sécurité humaine, mémoire, commémoration et paix : quelles actions concrètes locales ?

**MARDI 17 DÉCEMBRE 2024**

1 JOURNÉE | 9h-12h30 - 13h30-17h - Durée : 7h

Modalités : Présentiel ou visioconférence

Lieu de la formation : CIDEFE - Cap Voltaire - 20, rue Voltaire - 93100 MONTREUIL

Mise à jour : 13 novembre 2024

### Contexte

L'actualité européenne et mondiale interroge quotidiennement les concepts et les enjeux de Sécurité Humaine. Elle interpelle l'action locale, le rôle potentiel des communes sur la scène internationale et la nécessaire promotion de la culture de paix.

Aussi, le CIDEFE propose cette nouvelle formation, en collaboration avec l'Association Française des Communes, Départements et Régions pour la Paix (AFCDRP-Maires pour la paix).

Training Session Poster

### 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](mailto: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: 8,466 cities in 166 countries/regions

On January 1, we gained 8 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,466. 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
Albania	Devoll and 5 other cities	22	Thanks to efforts by Pathways To Peace.
Nepal	Chhabispathivera	43	
Somaliland	Berbera	2	



List of new members (PDF):

[https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/file-2412-newmembers2501\\_en.pdf](https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/file-2412-newmembers2501_en.pdf)

Membership by country (PDF):

[https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/monthly/file-07\\_membership\\_by\\_country\\_en.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

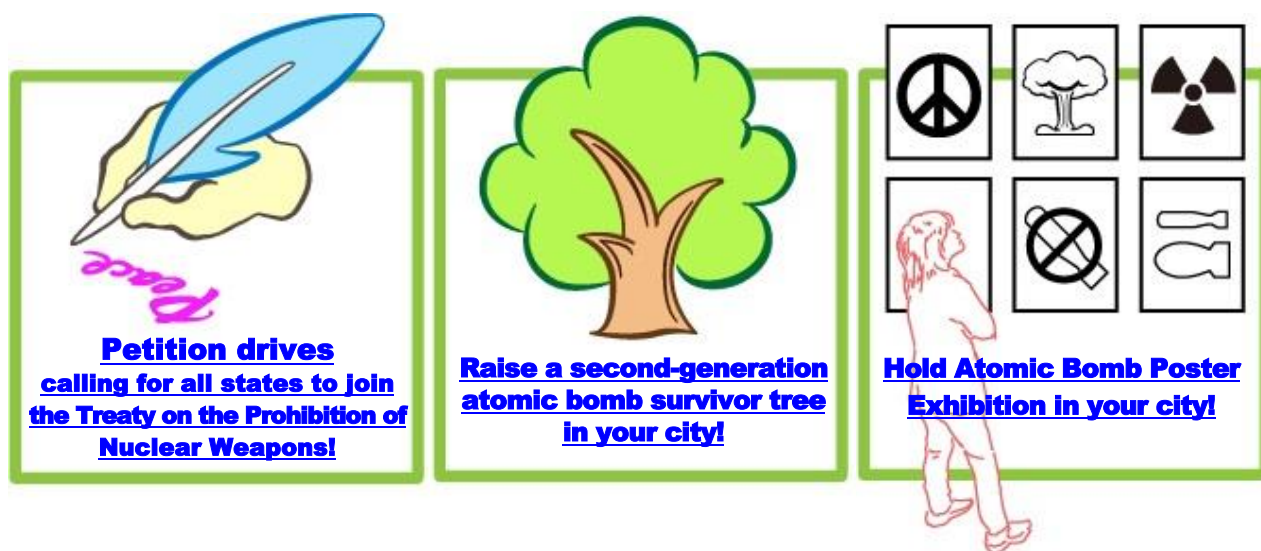
At the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held online in July 2021, we adopted the latest Action Plan (2021–2025). Together, let us continue our utmost efforts toward our ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace. Please implement initiatives outlined in the Action Plan within your own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

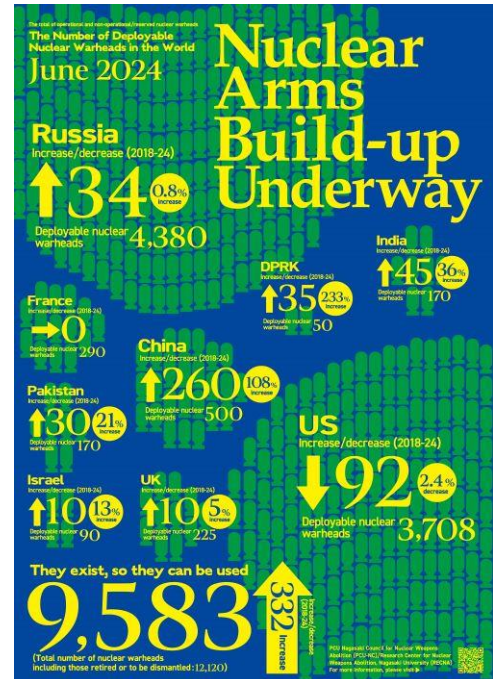
## A closer look at the “World’s Nuclear Warheads Count in 2024” Part 3: Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA)

Over the past three issues, we have introduced the outline of the 2024 edition poster. This time, we would like to address some "frequently asked questions" related to the poster.

**Q** How do we count the number of nuclear warheads?

The numbers of nuclear weapons displayed for each country on the poster are all estimates. Generally, information about nuclear weapons is classified as a state military secret, and no country discloses detailed data. In particular, official information is extremely limited regarding the nuclear warheads for countries such as Russia, China, India, Pakistan, and North Korea. As for Israel, it has not even clarified whether it possesses nuclear weapons.

Researchers and experts tackling this issue make estimates about the number, types, and deployment status of nuclear weapons in each country based on various sources, such as the quantities of nuclear materials used to produce these weapons. The data on the poster has been carefully compiled from such diverse information sources.



**Q** How do the nuclear warheads in existence today differ from the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

With the progress of science and technology, the capabilities of today's nuclear weapons are vastly more advanced than those of 80 years ago. On average, the explosive power of modern nuclear weapons is several to tens of times greater than the atomic bombs used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. By today's standards, the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki can be considered 'small' nuclear weapons.

The variety of nuclear weapons has also greatly expanded. The development and deployment of forefront nuclear weapons with advanced capabilities, such as high-speed, long-range flight, and precision targeting across land, sea, and air, have been progressing.

**Q** What will happen if nuclear weapons are used?

The memory of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki reminds us of what would happen if even a single nuclear weapon was to be used, and how it would cause long-term suffering for people.

In addition, over the last few years, several research institutions have released damage assessments for various scenarios involving the use of nuclear weapons. Princeton University in the United States, for example, created 'PLAN A,' a simulation video based on a realistic nuclear war plan. The simulation predicts that a nuclear conflict between Western countries, including the United States, and Russia could escalate into a full-scale nuclear war resulting in over 90 million casualties within just a few hours of the conflict's onset.

Other research findings indicate that nuclear war has the potential to change the global climate. According to a study led by Rutgers University, a full-scale nuclear war waged between the U.S. and Russia would release vast amounts of soot and dust into the atmosphere, causing temperature drops severe enough to devastate crop production. The resulting global scale starvation could potentially lead to the deaths of more than 5 billion people.

According to estimates from a damage assessment published by RECNA et al. on the use of nuclear weapons in the Northeast Asia region, the death toll in affected areas could reach several million within a few months of an attack. Additional deaths resulting from the effects of radiation and other factors could rise to several hundred thousand over the time frame of a year or longer.

## Peace-related news from Hiroshima

(provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

The year 2025, marking 80 years since the atomic bombing, has just begun. Last year was one in which messages calling for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons reached the world in a number of different ways, from survivors of the atomic bombing, as well as from the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, and other nations around the world. Still, the global nuclear situation, marked by the potential for use of nuclear weapons at any time, is thought to be dire. Such a sense of crisis likely underlay last year's decision to award the Nobel Peace Prize to the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo).

This year, we at the Chugoku Shimbun will dedicate all our efforts into reporting on initiatives to eliminate nuclear weapons at the citizen and regional levels, as well as what has to be considered the starting point of that movement—the journey traveled by A-bomb survivors and the A-bombed Hiroshima over the past 80 years. We will also continue striving to translate into English articles originating in Hiroshima and convey that information to people in the member cities of the Mayors for Peace organization.

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

Nihon Hidankyo awarded Nobel Peace Prize: Peace Museum exhibition commemorating award reveals history of nuclear-abolition movement through photos

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=148483>

Kunihiko Sakuma, chair of Hiroshima Prefectural Confederation of A-bomb Sufferers Organizations, brings seeds from A-bombed tree to University of Oslo

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=148345>

WFC's new base near Peace Park, available for accommodation and seminars, open to the public

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=148349>

Survivors' Stories: Kim Hwaja, 84, Kure City—Having suffered from “double hardship”

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=148477>

Hiroshima and Film, Part 5: Hisako Yamada—Film director “Barefoot Gen” (released in 1976) Director: Tengu Yamada

Our own air raid experiences often shared and reflected in the film

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=148504>

### 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/>

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

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