



Mayors for Peace News Flash

March 2025 / No.183

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

8,472 cities

in **166** countries and regions

(as of March 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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Mayors for Peace delegation attends the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

A Mayors for Peace delegation, including Vice President Belit Onay (Mayor of Hannover) and Secretary General Takehiro Kagawa, attended the Third Meeting of States Parties (3MSP) to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in New York, US. At the 3MSP, they expressed profound concern regarding the devastating humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, called for advancing discussions to ensure the effective implementation of the TPNW, and urged the representatives of national governments and the UN to make concrete progress toward nuclear disarmament. In addition, Mayors for Peace hosted a joint side event for the 3MSP with ICAN (the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons), held the Mayors for Peace Atomic Bomb Exhibition, Exhibition of Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" and VR Experience, to have the 3MSP attendees deepen their understanding of the realities of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the initiatives of Mayors for Peace.

On March 5, Vice President Onay and Secretary General Kagawa delivered the Mayors for Peace statement during the General Exchange of Views session.

In his speech, Secretary General Kagawa emphasized that Mayors for Peace places great importance on the TPNW. He also highlighted that Nihon Hidankyo's receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize reaffirms to the entire international community, including nuclear-armed states, the message that the use of nuclear weapons is never acceptable.

Following this, Vice President Onay spoke about the severe destruction the City of Hannover suffered during the Second World War. He noted that the TPNW has opened a way to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons, specifically at a time when the risks posed by nuclear weapons are increasing. Concluding his speech, he urged all states to ratify the TPNW and to initiate a foreign policy shift toward a peaceful resolution of conflicts through dialogue in good faith.



Mayors for Peace statement at the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at:

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/file-2503-TPNW_3MSP_speech_E.pdf

On this occasion, the delegation had opportunities to meet with representatives of national governments and the UN to exchange views on the unfolding situation of the world concerning nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In the meetings, the delegation called on the representatives to take concrete actions toward a world without nuclear weapons and requested support for the expansion of Mayors for Peace membership.

In order to further promote the culture of peace as outlined in its [PX Vision](#), Mayors for Peace will, in close collaboration with the member cities, the UN, and other NGOs, continue to develop youth leadership by utilizing its network and establish a civil society which urges policymakers to demonstrate decisive leadership to effect peace-oriented policy change.



Mayor Onay (left) and Secretary General Kagawa (right) at the General Exchange of Views session



Under Secretary-General Nakamitsu (center)




Reports on Mayors for Peace activities in New York (Mayors for Peace website):

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/news/2025/post-250327-5/>

Award ceremonies celebrate winners of the Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" 2024


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 2024 competition, a total of 4,208 artworks were submitted to 123 member cities in 21 countries and 20 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.

 Selection results: Mayors for Peace Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" 2024:
<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/news/2024/post-241212/>



The Award-Winning Works from the Children' Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" 2024 are now available for download!

To further promote peace education among its member cities, Mayors for Peace annually holds the Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns", focused on the theme of peace for children in all member cities. We have recently updated our webpage to make this year's award-winning works and messages from the artists available for download. To help share the children's wish for peace, we encourage you to utilize these artworks for exhibitions at public facilities or displays at various events. If you are interested in hosting the exhibition, please contact the Secretariat at: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp.

 Image Data of Award-Winning Works (Mayors for Peace website) :
<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/ja/vision/initiative/art/drawings-data/>

[Registration is now open] The 11th General Conference of Mayors for Peace Commemorating 80 Years since the Atomic Bombings will be held

We are pleased to announce that the 11th General Conference of Mayors for Peace Commemorating 80 Years since the Atomic Bombing is scheduled to be held from Thursday, August 7 to Sunday, August 10, 2025 in Nagasaki City. We expect many participants from the Mayors for Peace member cities and peace NGOs.



Conference Outline and Registration Website:

<https://amarys-jtb.jp/11thmayorsforpeace-travel/?&g=1>

*The registration deadline is Friday, May 23.

Member Cities' Activities Featured on Our Website!





The Mayors for Peace Secretariat collects and shares peace-related initiatives undertaken by member cities on our website. These initiatives serve as a reference for promoting collaborative efforts under the PX Vision toward realizing a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful world. We invite you to visit our website and learn more!

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/ja/activity/2025/>

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/>



Mayors for Peace Secretariat Hosts Online Meetings for New Member Cities



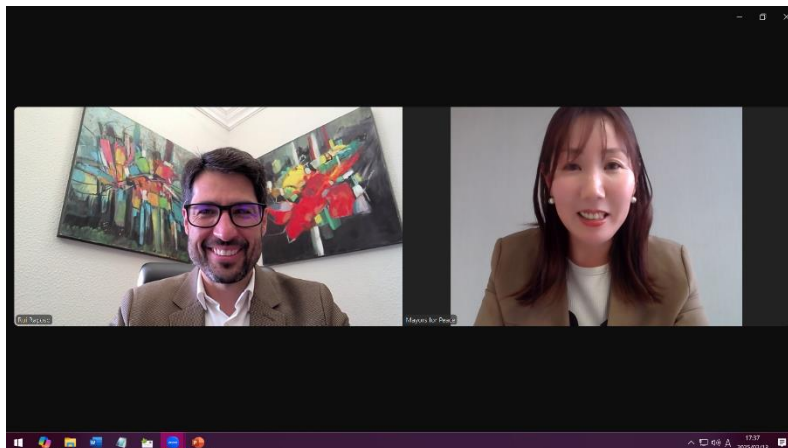
★ Thank You for Your Solidarity ★ Meetings with Member Cities



To inform new members about our initiatives and strengthen ties with them, we have been organizing Zoom meetings since June 2024. We are also happy to accommodate these meetings for existing members. In February 2025, we had the pleasure of connecting with the Mayor from a member city in Portugal. These meetings provide invaluable opportunities, not only to share information about our initiatives but also to learn about the unique efforts of each member city.

Meeting Agenda:

- Introduction of yourself and your municipality
- Overview of Mayors for Peace initiatives available to member cities
- Q&A Session



With Mayor Rui Raposo of Vidigueira, Portugal (left)

We learned that the Municipality of Vidigueira has been implementing peace activities with universities there. We truly look forward to collaborating with Vidigueira and its youth in the future.

It was both a pleasure and an honor to connect with the Mayor, a fellow peace advocate. Let's continue working together for a peaceful future. If you have any questions or are interested in our initiatives, please feel free to contact us at any time. We are always happy to hear from you!



Member cities activities

Hannover, Germany

Harmony Across Borders: Hannover and Hiroshima Unite Through Music

Ms. Evelyn Kamissek, Mayor's Office, International Unit, City of Hannover, Germany



On March 7, 2025, the German-Japanese Society and the Hannover Cultural Office, together with the Hannover Chamber Orchestra, invited the public to a concert as part of the Hannover-Hiroshima city partnership. Special guests from Hiroshima were the four members of the “My Heart String Quartet Hiroshima”, who gave a concert together with the Hannover Chamber Orchestra in the Christ Church Hannover. The concert was a part of the Eurasia Festival, a project where musicians from Hannover and

musicians from Asian countries meet and make music together. Music unites people and sends a signal against violence and isolation, especially in this international form.



Varennes-Vauzelles, France

Varennes-Vauzelles launches its Local Action Plan for a Culture of Peace for 2023-2026

Ms. Lorena Schlicht, Mayors for Peace France (AFCDP)

On Thursday, March 13, 2025, under the pyramid of the town hall, the city of Varennes-Vauzelles officially launched its Local Action Program for a Culture of Peace (LAPCP) for the 2023-2026 period, alongside an exhibition dedicated to the culture of peace in Varennes-Vauzelles.

The LAPCP serves as a new framework for the city, highlighting its commitment through concrete projects for all residents. Created in collaboration with Mayors for Peace France, this document, accessible to everyone, was developed with the participation of municipal council members and city services.



The Varennes-Vauzelles LAPCP is structured around four key pillars:

- Raising awareness of the duty of remembrance, tolerance, and civic engagement
- Gender equality and the fight against all forms of discrimination
- Exploring the world through culture and sports
- Tackling climate change

The program also outlines upcoming initiatives, such as the future twinning with the German city of Rheurdt and the Citizen Rally aimed at engaging the city's youth. Find the 2023-2026 LAPCP of Varennes-Vauzelles online on the city's official website and social media platforms.

Malakoff, France

Malakoff celebrates March 8 with a committed program for Women's Rights

Ms. Lorena Schlicht, Mayors for Peace France (AFCDP)

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Malakoff highlights the role of women in public spaces with a rich program from March 8 to March 21, 2025, under the theme “Women and Public Spaces: What Kind of City?”

Since 2003, the city has been honoring the legacy of women in its streets. This year, the Malakoféminin video series showcases emblematic locations linked to inspiring female figures such as Angela Davis and Louise Michel.

Exhibitions, debates, performances, and theater will shape this edition. Highlights include:

- Exhibition "Forgotten Women of the Past Centuries" by Marie Morel (until March 23, Pablo-Neruda Media Library).
- Discussion on domestic workers, March 13, with researchers from Paris 8 University.
- Presentation of the Women's House project, March 20 at City Hall.
- Sound walk "From Here, You Can See the Eiffel Tower", March 15, retracing the history of inspiring women.



The full program is available on the city's website and social media. Malakoff reaffirms its commitment to building a more equal and inclusive city, as gender equality remains a key pillar of the culture of peace. City website: <https://www.malakoff.fr/51-3518/agenda/fiche/journee-internationale-des-droits-des-femmes-2025.htm>.

Regional chapter activity

German Chapter

German Mayors for Peace Conference on March 21, 2025

Ms. Evelyn Kamissek, Mayor's Office, International Unit, City of Hannover, Germany

The German Chapter held their Mayors for Peace Conference in the former federal capital of Bonn. Some 35 members took part in presence while the same amount joined online.

The format of the session included a modern digital survey tool that engaged participants with questions on the topics and generated a mood picture. Thankfully, we received a greeting message from Mayor Kazumi Matsui of Hiroshima, President of Mayors for Peace. Firstly, we listened to a keynote speech from Prof. Dr. Conrad Schetter (Bonn International Centre of Conflict Studies) entitled "Everyone wants peace! On the possibilities of peace-making in times of eroding international order". Then, followed a panel discussion with him as well as Mayor Katja Doerner (Bonn), Mayor Belit Onay (Hannover) and Regina Hagen (Action alliance "nuclear-weapons-free now").



Photo: Mayor Doerner and Mayor Onay in interview
(Photo Courtesy: City of Hannover)

After a short lunch break, Mayor Onay reported on his impressions and the results of the 3rd Meeting of the States Parties to the TPNW in New York. Dirk Lechelt, Head of the Nuclear Safety and Security Unit at the Federal Foreign Office reported on "Challenges for nuclear disarmament and arms control" which was followed by a discussion.

The news from the Mayors for Peace office Hannover included measures and activities in 2024 and 2025, the number of members and the balance sheet connected with a call for the membership fees. Finally, the member cities Chemnitz and Leipzig shared their activities and the Crane Campaign of the Peace Cooperative Network was presented.



Attendees at German Chapter Conference on staircase
of town hall in Bonn
(photo courtesy: Sascha Engst/Bundesstadt Bonn)

Related story on the German Mayors for Peace website in German:
www.mayorsforpeace.de

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

The Role of Cities in the Promotion of Nuclear Disarmament


Jackie Cabasso, Executive Advisor, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation

Mayors for Peace was pleased to co-sponsor a side event and reception on March 4 during the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. "The Role of Cities in the Promotion of Nuclear Disarmament," was sponsored by the Austrian Permanent Mission to the UN. Other co-sponsors were the Back from the Brink campaign, Northwestern University, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, and Physicians for Social Responsibility.

The events were convened by Professor Hirokazu Miyazaki of Northwestern University, who is conducting research on municipal efforts for nuclear disarmament and nuclear justice. A roundtable discussion featured George-Wilhelm Gallhofer, Austrian Foreign Ministry; Takehiro Kagawa, Secretary General, Mayors for Peace; Mayor Belit Onay, Hannover, Germany; Mayor Malik Evans, Rochester, New York; Mayor Nicole LaChappelle, Easthampton, Massachusetts; Alderwoman Maria Hadden, Chicago City Council, Illinois; and Francesco Vignarca, Campaigns Coordinator, the Italian Peace and Disarmament Network. Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui and Nagasaki Mayor Shiro Suzuki participated via video.

The reception which followed featured speakers from the roundtable as well as U.S. nuclear disarmament campaigners. Baltimore, Maryland Comptroller Bill Henry and California Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry participated via video.

Both events drew capacity audiences and provided an opportunity to learn from local elected officials about how and why they decided to get involved in promoting nuclear disarmament, and to examine the key role of local grassroots organizing during this time of rising global tensions and uncertainty.

 Back from the Brink report with photos, quotes, and videos from the side event and reception <https://preventnuclearwar.org/bftb-brings-communities-together-at-3msp/#cities>


 Professor Miyazaki's Mapping Nuclear Legacies project <https://mappingnuclearlegacies.com/>




Left to Right: Takehiro Kagawa, Secretary General, Mayors for Peace; Mayor Belit Onay, Hannover Germany; Mayor Malik Evans, Rochester, New York; Alderwoman Maria Hadden, Chicago City Council, Illinois (photo courtesy: Back from the Brink)

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

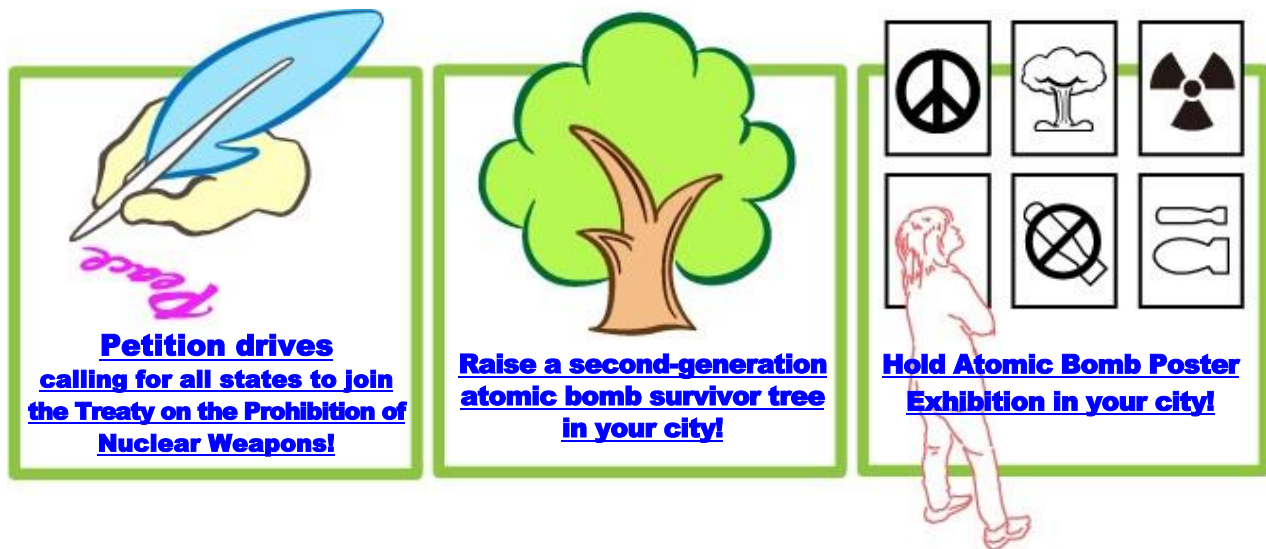
At the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held online in July 2021, we adopted the latest Action Plan (2021–2025). Together, let us continue our utmost efforts toward our ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace. Please implement initiatives outlined in the Action Plan within your own 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 Fissile Material Inventory in 2024” Part 1: Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA)

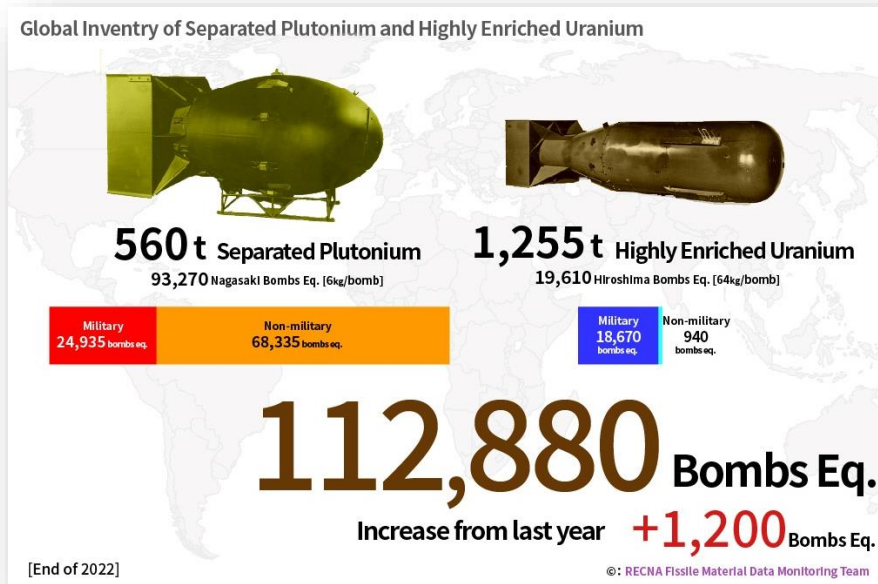
In the previous issues, we have provided detailed explanations of the “World’s Nuclear Warhead Count” poster, along with answers to frequently asked questions related to nuclear warhead trends.

Starting with this issue, we will turn our attention to another key topic: “World’s Fissile Material Inventory.” Alongside the warhead data, RECNA continuously tracks and publishes data on the global stockpiles of fissile materials.

As of the end of 2022, approximately 1,255 tons of highly enriched uranium (HEU) and about 560 tons of separated plutonium exist worldwide, covering both military and non-military (*) uses. To better illustrate the scale of this situation, the figure below shows these amounts converted into the number of bombs equivalent to those dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki 80 years ago.

The Hiroshima bomb is believed to have contained 64 kg of HEU, while the Nagasaki bomb contained 6 kg of plutonium. When we apply these figures to the current global stockpile, it amounts to approximately 19,610 Hiroshima-type bombs and 93,270 Nagasaki-type bombs—bringing the total to nearly 113,000 bombs’ worth of fissile material. (Please note that this is a rough estimate, subject to considerable uncertainty.)

Of further concern is the overall upward trend in fissile material stocks. Compared to the previous year, the global inventory of HEU decreased by around 5 tons, or about 70 Hiroshima bombs' worth. However, the amount of separated plutonium increased by 8 tons—approximately 1,270 Nagasaki bombs—mainly due to an increase in civilian plutonium. As a result, the net total has risen by the equivalent of about 1,200 bombs compared to last year. (To be continued)



* Military and
Non-military Uranium:

Military: HEU used in nuclear warheads, or for reactor fuel for naval nuclear propulsion. Non-military: HEU used for fuel for research and testing reactors; and that declared as “excess” for military purposes.

Military and Non-military Plutonium:

Military: Plutonium used in nuclear warheads.

Non-military: Plutonium separated from spent nuclear fuel in nuclear reactor for non-military purposes; and plutonium declared as “excess” for nuclear weapons

Peace-related news from Hiroshima

(provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

During the five-day period March 3–7, the third meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was held at the United Nations headquarters in New York City, the United States.

At the meeting, there were no observer participants present from countries that are reliant on the “nuclear umbrella,” including Japan and member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), giving a sense of the clear and growing divide that exists between nations that support the treaty and those that do not. Meanwhile, around 160 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and roughly 1,000 members of the public took part in the event. At the site of the meeting, the Mayors for Peace organization played a role in enlivening the atmosphere by holding events and setting up exhibit booths, among other activities. The meeting unquestionably served as an opportunity to enhance solidarity between nations that support the treaty and civil society. As the TPNW now turns “four years old,” there is still time to work on its development moving forward. Citizens of the A-bombed cities certainly have much to contribute to that effort.

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

“Paper crane displayed in Sadako’s hospital room” given to former U.S. President Barack Obama; Sadako’s nephew Yuji meets Obama in Hawaii

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=150080>

Editorial: As the meeting of States Parties to the TPNW closes, “division” must be overcome

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=150193>

National Peace Memorial Hall attracts record high 434,215 visitors in fiscal 2024 against backdrop of unstable world situation

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=150195>

Replicas of Nobel Peace Prize medal, certificate to be displayed at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, Hiroshima City's plan

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=150197>

Health Ministry to collect accounts of A-bomb experiences from all A-bomb survivors for first time in 30 years, to pass on experiences to next generation 80 years after atomic bombing

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=149673>

Changes in the frequency of distributing our News Flash from next issue.

Thank you very much for subscribing to "Mayors for Peace News Flash".

We have reviewed the publication of our News Flash and have decided to change the frequency to once every two months starting April 2025, with links to related articles in the body of the email.

As in the past, we will continue to share information on the activities of the Mayors for Peace and examples of peace initiatives of our member cities. We hope you will continue to subscribe.

The next issue will be scheduled to distribute in late May.

Mayors for Peace Secretariat

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:

Mayors for Peace Secretariat

1-5 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730-0811 Japan

Tel: +81-82-242-7821 Fax: +81-82-242-7452

Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp
