



Mayors for Peace News Flash

July 2024 / No.175

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

8,403 cities

in **166** countries and regions

(as of July 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)

U.S. Conference of Mayors Unanimously Adopts New Resolution “The Imperative of Dialogue in a Time of Acute Nuclear Dangers”

At the close of its annual meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, on June 23, the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) adopted a timely new resolution, titled, “The Imperative of Dialogue in a Time of Acute Nuclear Dangers.” This is the nineteenth consecutive year that the USCM has adopted resolutions submitted on behalf of U.S. members of Mayors for Peace.

Reflecting the urgency of the current moment, the new USCM resolution warns that, “the Russian war of aggression on Ukraine, with its attendant nuclear threats, brings into sharp focus the increasing risks of nuclear war by accident, miscalculation, or crisis escalation that make disarmament that much more urgent,” and adds that, “an intensifying array of antagonisms among nuclear-armed governments is also occurring in North-East Asia, the South China Sea, South Asia, and the Middle East.”

The resolution “condemns Russia’s illegal war of aggression on Ukraine and its repeated nuclear threats and calls on the Russian government to withdraw all forces from Ukraine,” and calls on the U.S. President and Congress to “maximize diplomatic efforts to end the war in Ukraine as soon as possible.” The resolution welcomes [U.S.] National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan’s June 2023 invitation “to engage Russia now to manage nuclear risks and develop a post-2026 arms control framework,” and “to engage China without preconditions—helping ensure that competition is managed, and that competition does not veer into conflict.”

Recognizing the essential role of cities, the USCM “calls on member cities to take action at the municipal level to raise public awareness of the growing dangers of wars among nuclear-armed states, the humanitarian and financial impacts of nuclear weapons, and the urgent need for good faith U.S. leadership in negotiating the global elimination of nuclear weapons.” The resolution’s lead sponsor, Mayor Quentin Hart of Waterloo, Iowa, declared: “I am proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with Mayors across the globe as a member of the Mayors for Peace initiative that has led the way.”

The USCM is the official nonpartisan association of more than 1,400 American cities with populations over 30,000. Resolutions adopted at its annual meetings become USCM official policy.

🔗 Visit the link below for the full text of this report:
<http://wslfweb.org/docs/USCM-MfP-resolution-press-release.pdf>

🔗 Visit the link below for the full text of the resolution:
<https://www.usmayors.org/the-conference/resolutions/?category=a0FKY000000sZ8x2AE&meeting=92nd%20Annual%20Meeting>

🔗 Visit the link below to read Mayor Hart’s op-ed, published in The Nation:
<https://www.thenation.com/article/world/hiroshima-nagasaki-nuclear-threats-rising-urgent-diplomacy-needed/>



(right to left) Resolution lead sponsor, Mayor Quentin Hart of Waterloo, Iowa and co-sponsors: Mayor Elizabeth Kautz of Burnsville, Minnesota; Mayor Matt Tuerk of Allentown, Pennsylvania; and Mayor Martha Guerrero of West Sacramento, California
 (photo courtesy: Jackie Cabasso)



Lead sponsor Mayor Quentin Hart of Waterloo, Iowa and Mayors for Peace Executive Advisor Jackie Cabasso celebrate the success of the new Mayors for Peace USCM resolution
 (photo courtesy: John Burroughs)

NEW INITIATIVE!!
Mayors for Peace Secretariat Hosts Online Meeting for New Member Cities



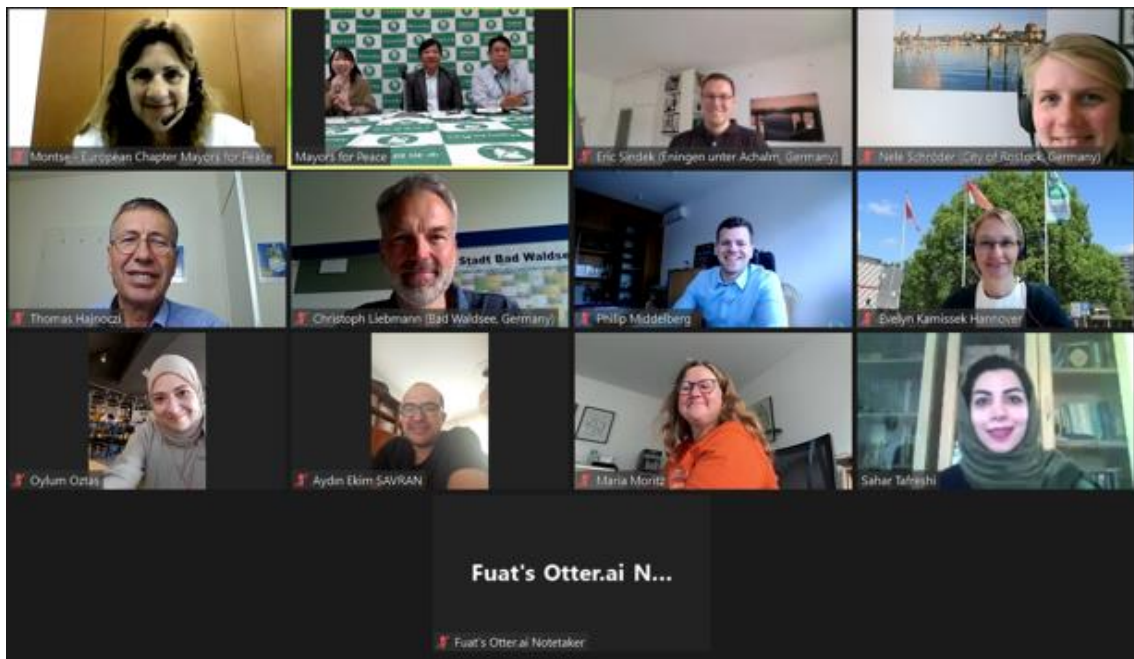
★ Welcome to Mayors for Peace ★
Meeting for Newly Joined Members



Aiming to inform new members of our initiatives and strengthen ties among member cities, on June 20, the Mayors for Peace Secretariat hosted an online meeting via Zoom. The meeting was attended by 9 representatives from newly joined members around the world, including three mayors in Germany, our executive advisor, and 3 coordinators from our Lead Cities. This event marked the launch of our new initiative, and we were delighted to connect with the new municipalities and their representatives.

Program:

- Overview of Mayors for Peace and Its Initiatives by Secretary-General
- Introduction of the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace
- Welcome Message from Our Executive Advisors
- Greetings from Participating Mayors
- Commemorative Photo



In addition to this meeting, we had a separate online session with two new member cities that joined our network in June 2024. Mayors, Deputy Mayors, and a technician from Spain and Portugal attended. We were delighted to welcome them and engage in discussions on peace initiatives during the meeting.

Thank you so much for your participation and your municipalities' aspiration for peace. We truly look forward to future collaboration with you!



Mayors for Peace Secretariat welcomes interns from Sarajevo and Tasman [June 19-July 3, 2024]



The Mayors for Peace Secretariat annually invites young officials from member cities to Hiroshima as interns. This internship program aims to strengthen collaboration with member cities by engaging them in the Mayors for Peace initiatives at the Secretariat. It is also hoped that by deepening their understanding of the realities of the atomic bombings and sharing the city's wish for peace, participants will be motivated to pursue initiatives toward realizing lasting world peace in their home cities after completing the program.



Ms. Keiko Ogura, atomic bomb survivor (middle), Ms. Iuliia Panfylova (right), and Mr. Harun Pašić (left)



With students from Hiroshima Municipal Funairi High School

From June 19 to July 3, 2024, the Mayors for Peace Secretariat welcomed Mr. Harun Pašić from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (an Executive City of Mayors for Peace and the Lead City of the country) and Ms. Iuliia Panfylova from Tasman District, New Zealand as interns.

During the internship, they engaged in the Secretariat tasks, 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. Additionally, Ms. Panfylova invited 32 kiwi member cities to join the Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns", one of the Mayors for Peace initiatives in which her city has been participating for the last three years, via email. Furthermore, they deepened their understanding of the realities of the atomic bombing by visiting the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and listening to *hibakusha* (atomic bomb survivor). 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:



Mr. Harun Pašić / Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

"Mayors for Peace fascinated me, how determined they are to establish all-round ties of cooperation with the world, all in building peace between nations and nuclear disarmament."

Ms. Iuliia Panfylova / Tasman District, New Zealand

"I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity to learn first-hand about the horrific event that happened 79 years ago on August 6. For all those children who died, for all those who survived I will be promoting peace in the world through my work back home in New Zealand."

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

We are providing data for exhibitions!

As summer approaches, a time when many commemorative events for the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings are held around the world, we would like to introduce 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.

We want to hold a peace event in August to commemorate the atomic bombings and help everyone, even children, understand the importance of peace, as well as provide our community with an opportunity to reflect on peace. What should we do?

If that's the case, you should hold a peace exhibition from Mayors for Peace!

Peace Exhibitions from Mayors for Peace

1) Children's Art Competition *Peaceful Towns* Award-Winning Works Exhibition

Download

Download images of past winning artwork created by children from around the world to express their thoughts on peace.

2) Mayors for Peace Atomic Bomb Poster Exhibition

Download

Download posters introducing the realities of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the damage caused by nuclear weapons, and the initiatives of Mayors for Peace (18 posters total).

4 easy steps!

Step 1

Contact the Mayors for Peace Secretariat

Step 2

We will provide you with the ID and password to download the data!

Step 3

Download the data from our website

Step 4

Print posters or panels using the downloaded data

Done!

Past exhibitions held in member cities

Chōfu, Tokyo

Message from the Artist
I created this work hoping that the peaceful days when we hold hands with our family and people around us and smile together will continue forever.

Muntinlupa, Philippines

So, all we need to do is print them out? That's easy!

Be sure to send us a report on how the exhibition went after it ends along with pictures. We hope you'll have a great event!

Mayors for Peace Secretariat

✉ mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp ☎ 082-242-7821

Exhibition of the Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns"
<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/>

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/>

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/>

Regional chapter activities

● French Chapter

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

The delegations from France, Catalonia, and Belgium of Mayors for Peace commemorate the 80th anniversary of the massacre of Oradour-sur-Glane and participate in the 5th Conference of Cities of remembrance



Mayors for Peace Delegation

On June 10, 2024, the delegations from the French, Catalan, and Belgian sections of Mayors for Peace gathered to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the massacre of Oradour-sur-Glane, which claimed the lives of 643 people. This solemn event was honored by the presence of the French and German presidents, as well as delegations from foreign cities, French ministers, elected officials, institutional representatives, associations, and families of the victims. This poignant moment served as a strong reminder of these tragic events and the importance of preserving their memory.

As part of the commemorations, on June 11 at the Regional Council headquarters in Limoges, the Mayors for Peace delegations participated in the 5th Conference of Cities of remembrance, initiated by Dunkirk in 2016. The conference brought together members such as Bizerte, Bucha, Caen, Coventry, Gdansk, Guernica, Hiroshima (via the Mayors for Peace France delegation), Hwaseong, Krefeld, Le Havre, Oradour-sur-Glane, Oustréham, Rostock, Saint-Nazaire, Saint Petersburg, Szczecin, Volgograd, and Ypres.



5th Conference of Cities of remembrance

Discussions focused on: "Transmitting Memory: Why and How to Remember," featuring a video testimony from hibakusha Ms. Toshiko Tanaka, presented by Peace Boat; "Memorial Sites in Europe: Assessment and Perspectives"; "Memory Tourism in the Digital Age: From Pilgrimage to Consumption"; the proclamation of the Cities of remembrance manifesto; and the Youth Manifesto, highlighted by the project "Youth Storming for Peace" involving ten young participants from Bucha.

Before the video of Toshiko Tanaka, Fatiha Alaudat, Deputy Municipal Councilor for Peace Culture in Malakoff and representative of Mayors for Peace France, underscored the historical commitment of mayors from the two martyr cities to peace. She highlighted the crucial role of hibakusha as "the last living witnesses of the atomic bombings on Hiroshima

and Nagasaki," emphasizing the strength and uniqueness of their testimonies that "powerfully express the inhumanity of these weapons of mass destruction, while delivering a message of hope and peace," aiming "to prevent humanity from reliving the terrible suffering caused by their use."

She stressed the need to integrate memory and peace culture into public policies: "listening to survivors, preserving memorial sites, participating in commemorative events, developing educational programs, organizing artistic, cultural, and sports events, sharing our ideas and experiences marks our commitment to a culture of peace locally and globally, to usher in a sustainable and peaceful world..."

She did not fail to connect with current events worldwide and in Europe: "In these times of reflection and commemoration, it is impossible not to think of all those today still enduring the tragedy of war in Ukraine, Yemen, Syria, or Palestine. The repeated threats of the use of nuclear weapon remind us of the importance and urgency of permanently banning these weapons of mass destruction, as demanded by hibakusha and the global network of Mayors for Peace. Faced with violence, the rise of extremism, intolerance, isolationism, and hatred of the other, it is imperative that we collectively act to prevent such situations and protect the fundamental rights of everyone."

Next year, the 6th Conference will be held in Dunkirk to continue this vital dialogue.

Philippe Rio, President of Mayors for Peace France, actively participated in the Cités Unies France conference titled “The Diplomacy of Local Authorities Confronting Crises in the Middle East and Near East”



Active Discussion at the Conference

The conference organized by Cités Unies France on June 26, titled "The diplomacy of local authorities faced with the crises engulfing the Middle East and Near East," underscored the pivotal role of decentralized cooperation in addressing contemporary challenges. With nearly half a century of experience, Cités Unies France and its partners have supported French local authorities in developing multilateral strategies amidst diplomatic, political, and natural disasters. Focusing on the Middle East and Near East, the conference highlighted how local governments can facilitate dialogue and solidarity amid entrenched conflicts such as those between Israel and Palestine, Syria's civil war, and tensions in Iraq, Iran, and Lebanon. By promoting cultural exchanges

and economic ties, local authorities aim to build trust and contribute to peace efforts, complementing national and international initiatives in resolving regional crises.

Philippe Rio, Mayor of Grigny and President of Mayors for Peace France, played a crucial role during the conference held at the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO) in Paris. During Session 1, themed "Middle East and Near East, the territory of all crises: an inevitable chaos?" he contributed alongside Pascal Boniface from the Institut des Relations Internationales et stratégiques (IRIS). Philippe Rio emphasized the engagement of French cities in twinning initiatives with Palestinian cities and refugee camps through various associations and networks, as well as the hosting of Palestinian sports delegations during the Olympic Games in Paris despite challenging circumstances.



Mayor Rio addressed at the conference

Facing the insecurities in the landscape of the Middle East, the issue of military nuclear capabilities is heightened by geopolitical tensions and regional rivalries. Israel's policy of "strategic ambiguity" concerning its presumed nuclear arsenal, along with ongoing concerns over Iran's nuclear ambitions despite its commitment to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), underscores significant security threats regionally and globally. The absence of a clear international consensus on nuclear disarmament perpetuates these risks, necessitating urgent calls for Israel and Iran to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) to mitigate conflict potential and foster a more secure and stable region.

● **German Chapter**

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

Showing the flag for peace and a nuclear-free world

Wars, climate change and a global threat to democracies: it is against this backdrop that the Mayors for Peace Flag Day took place on July 8. This year, around 600 cities in Germany once again sent a clear signal against wars and for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons by hoisting the Mayors for Peace flag in front of their town halls.

According to the latest annual report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the global stockpile of nuclear warheads has fallen to an estimated 12,121. The number of warheads kept on high alert has risen to around 2,100. Nine countries have nuclear weapons, with the USA and Russia possessing most of the acutely operational weapons. China is rapidly expanding its nuclear arsenal. SIPRI sees efforts to modernize stocks in all nuclear-armed states.

In addition, the ongoing Russian war of aggression against Ukraine is accompanied by Russia's withdrawal from international treaties, such as the New START Treaty, which was extended for five years in 2021 and regulates the limitation of strategic nuclear weapons between the USA and Russia, as well as the CTBT (Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty).


Mayor Onay:

"We are celebrating our Flag Day again this year under challenging conditions. For Mayors for Peace, advocating nuclear disarmament and the peaceful coexistence of all people remains the common goal. We therefore expect the two major nuclear powers, the USA and Russia, to declare their willingness to negotiate a successor agreement to the New START treaty. One thing is also clear: nuclear weapons tests must remain a taboo!"

We are particularly pleased to receive a video message from the President of Mayors for Peace, Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima, who addressed the German members on this year's Flag Day.



The Mayors for Peace flag in front of the Aegidien Church, Hannover (photo courtesy: City of Hannover, Germany)

 Visit the link to German Website:

<https://www.hannover.de/Leben-in-der-Region-Hannover/Politik/Politische-Gremien/Mayors-for-Peace/Aktivitaeten/Flagge-zeigen-fuer-Frieden-und-eine-atomwaffenfreie-Welt>

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: 8,403 cities in 166 countries/regions

On July 1, we gained 6 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,403. 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	Kloster Lehnin and 3 other cities	893	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
Iran	Tark	1,017	Thanks to efforts by a member city in Iran.
Mauritania	Lekhcheb	16	Thanks to efforts by a member city in Mauritania.

6 new cities from 3 countries

- Germany 4 Cities**
- Iran 1 City**
- Mauritania 1 City**

Member Cities
8,403 member cities
166 countries & regions
 As of July 1, 2024

Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!

List of new members (PDF): https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/file-2406-newmembers2407_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

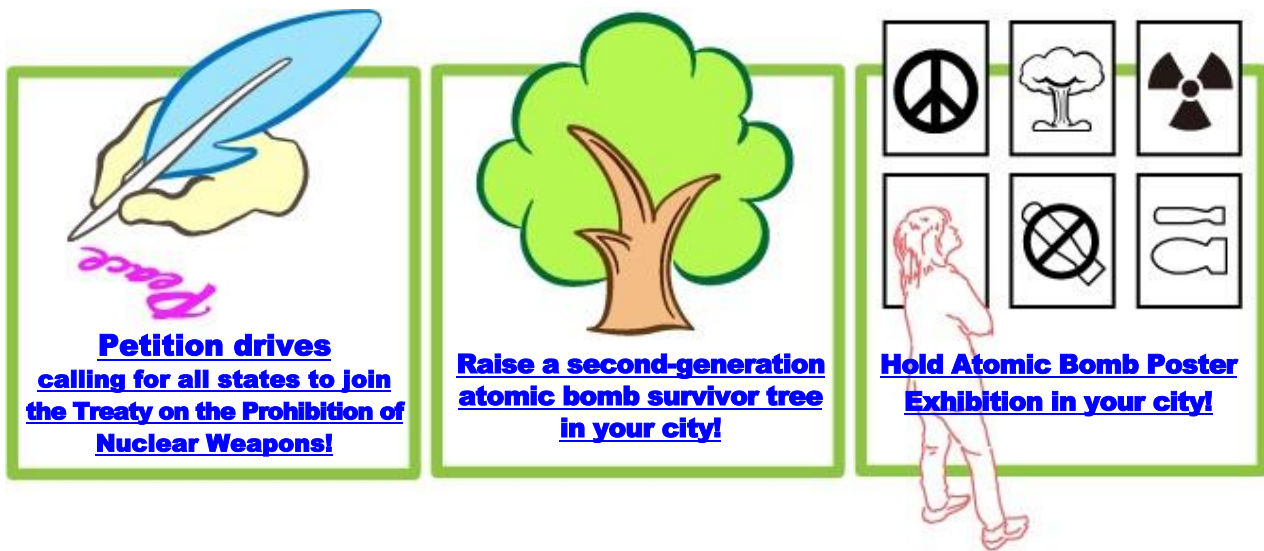
At the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held online in July 2021, we adopted the latest Action Plan (2021–2025). Together, let us continue our utmost efforts toward our ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace. Please implement initiatives outlined in the Action Plan within your own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

Running east and west for a distance of four kilometers through the central part of Hiroshima City and measuring 100 meters in width, Peace Memorial Boulevard is commonly known as “100-meter road.” The boulevard began in an open area where during the war many people, from junior high school students to adults, had been mobilized to demolish houses to create open spaces for fire lanes in preparation for air raids. On August 6, 1945, many citizens who had been sent to work at that location were killed in the atomic bombing. Following the war, the road went through a number of twists and turns, and it was not until 1965 that it was completed in its entirety, from Tsurumi Bridge at the east end to the Koi area in the west. In the period 1957–1958, the Hiroshima City government carried out what was called a “tree-planting campaign,” leading to trees donated by local governments in Hiroshima Prefecture being planted along the street. And, with other forms of support from Japan and overseas, the greenbelt along the street flourished.

Over the past year, however, three trees have toppled over in the area along Peace Boulevard. According to the city government, the tree that fell in June was a honey locust grown from a seed that had been donated to the city by Eva Peron, wife of the president of Argentina at the time. The seed reportedly reached Hiroshima in 1953, a year after Ms. Peron’s death.

The highest priority should be placed on ensuring the safety of people passing by on the street. At the same time, however, we should remember that many of the trees standing silently along Peace Boulevard are imbued with wishes for peace and for the city’s recovery from amid the incinerated ruins after the atomic bombing.

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

As general meeting concludes, Nihon Hidankyo appoints Emiko Honma, from Matsue, as its first second-generation A-bomb survivor director

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=142889>

Three trees fall over on Peace Boulevard in just over the course of one year—one even supported by props

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=142714>

Motomachi High School students’ A-bombing paintings convey horror

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=142891>

Niece of Southern Special Student Yusof visits grave at temple in Hiroshima and expresses her intention to convey the story of his live in her homeland

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=142895>

Health Ministry’s report: Number of A-bomb survivors falls below 110,000 for the end of March, average age 85.58

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=142887>

Sculpture based on A-bomb victim’s tricycle to go on display at museum in Geneva

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=142905>

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/>

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