



Mayors for Peace News Flash

June 2024 / No.174

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

8,397 cities

in **166** countries and regions

(as of June 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)

100-day countdown message for the International Day of Peace

June 13, 2024

The United Nations has established September 21 as the International Day of Peace (IDP), which is dedicated to world peace, specifically 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. Mayors for Peace has been a long-time supporter of the IDP through holding commemorative events and also encouraged all member cities to hold their own events on the International Day of Peace.

On June 13, the President of Mayors for Peace issued a message for the 100-day countdown to the IDP, inviting all members to commemorate the 2024 International Day of Peace in their city.

We are planning to conduct a social media campaign using X(Twitter) as a new initiative starting this year, involving member cities, to coincide with the IDP. We would be grateful if you could join us.

📄 Message for the International Day of Peace, 100-day countdown by the President of Mayors for Peace (Mayors for Peace website): https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/file-2406-2024_100DayMessage_IDP_en.pdf

📄 International Day of Peace 21 September (The United Nations website): <https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace>

📄 Mayors for Peace X(Twitter) <https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace>

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

<Please send information on your city's 2024 IDP event!>

If your city is planning to organize an event to commemorate the IDP, please send an event report to our secretariat. We will share the report on the Mayors for Peace website, etc.

▼ Please mail us with an outline of your event at:

mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp



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

Chofu, 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/>

Welcome to Hiroshima! Interns from Sarajevo and Tasman!

We are happy to announce that we welcome interns from the city of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Tasman District, New Zealand! Mr. Harun Pašić and Ms. Iuliia Panfylova stay in Hiroshima and work at the Secretariat from June 19 to July 3. In our next NewsFlash, we will introduce their activities during the internship.



Welcome to Hiroshima! Iuliia and Harun

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 activities

● Gonfreville l'Orcher, France

Survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki share their stories to students in Gonfreville-l'Orcher to raise awareness

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

On May 31, 2024, Toshiko Tanaka, 85, and Tadayoshi Ogawa, 80, as part of the Peaceboat *hibakusha* delegation, shared their experiences of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with students in Gonfreville-l'Orcher to raise awareness about the consequences of the atomic bombings. It is a member city of Mayors for Peace, located near the port of Le Havre.

Toshiko, six years old at the time of the Hiroshima bombing on August 6, 1945, described the horror of burned bodies and clothes reduced to ashes. Tadayoshi, evacuated from Nagasaki before the explosion of August 9, 1945, recounted the effects of radiation and the loss of his home. "We must eliminate nuclear weapons. It's an illusion to think that weapons can protect us," Toshiko emphasized. Tadayoshi Ogawa stresses the importance of "never forgetting." He fears the time when "no survivors will be left to testify." Therefore, he insists that "young people must talk about it among themselves, as they have a role to play in creating a more just and peaceful world."

These two *hibakusha* met with Alban Bruneau, Mayor of Gonfreville-l'Orcher, Deputy Jean-Paul Lecoq, and Jean-Marie Collin, director of ICAN France, everyone hoped their stories would inspire younger generations to vote for a future without nuclear arms.



Two *hibakusha* and Mayor Bruneau of Gonfreville-l'Orcher

● Cervia, Italy

Ms. Bruna Rondoni, City of Cervia, Italy



Ginkgo Biloba "Pacifco"

During the month of May, the municipality of Cervia invited classes from several Primary Schools to visit the park "Rondano Dondini" in Montaletto, where "Pacifco" was planted almost ten years ago.

"Pacifco" (which means "peaceful") is a second-generation ginkgo biloba tree, born from the seeds of trees that survived Hiroshima after the atomic bomb was dropped on 6 August 1945, donated to the city of Cervia, through Mayors for Peace German member city, Aalen, one of the many twinning cities

with Cervia. The seed was planted in 2015 by the students of the Buonarroti School with the help of our administration, and it has become a symbol of peace in our community.

During these visits, our children can learn about the painful stories of the past generations and reflect on the sorrow caused by war, which can push people to work together to build a brighter future.

We teach our students that, even though we are lucky enough to live in a country that has been free from war for many decades, we are still surrounded by less fortunate people, whose life is in peril because the conflict to this day still scourge our Earth. It is our duty to be aware of the struggle of these people so that we can reach out to them and offer a helping hand.

These are the reasons that brought us to adhere to the International Kindness Movement and to proclaim the Buonarroti school “Scuola Gentile”. We are committed to upholding the foundational values of forgiveness, optimism and kindness.



Children in the "Rondano Dondini" park

Regional chapter activity

● UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter

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



(left to right) Richard Outram, Dr Becky Alexis-Martin and Professor Fiona Macaulay

As part of the Golden Jubilee Conference to celebrate 50 years of Peace Studies at the University of Bradford (6-9 June), UK/Ireland Chapter Secretary Richard Outram travelled to the West Yorkshire city to plant a ginkgo sapling grown from a *hibaku* seed donated by the Mayor of Hiroshima. Bradford is a member of Mayors for Peace.

Richard graduated from the Peace Studies Department in 2021 and was delighted to return with the tree to his alma mater, which was fittingly planted in the Peace Garden there.

The sapling was the last of seventeen grown with the assistance of Oldham Council’s Parks Department, after the seeds were first planted by two *hibakusha* after an invitation by Oldham’s first Mayor of Peace, Councillor Derek Heffernan.

Fifteen of these saplings were planted in Oldham peace schools and parks. On the UN International Day of Peace 2023, another was planted by the Lord Mayor of Manchester Councillor Jasmine Dar in Heaton Park, Manchester.

Richard is a passionate advocate for the *hibaku* tree planting campaign. He was delighted to be able to visit the ginkgo mother tree in the Shukkeien Garden, Hiroshima when he worked with the Mayors for Peace Secretariat in January 2023.

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: 8,397 cities in 166 countries/regions

On June 1, we gained 8 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,397. 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 | Selm | 889 | Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City. |
| Japan | Yawata | 1,740 | The Secretariat mailed an invitation letter. |
| Nepal | Sunkoshi | 41 | |
| Netherlands | Hengelo and Oostzaan | 181 | |
| Portugal | Caldas da Rainha | 53 | Thanks to efforts by Evora, an Executive and Lead City. |
| Spain | Caldes de Montbui | 404 | Thanks to efforts by Granollers, a Vice President and Lead City. |
| Türkiye | T. C. Merzifon | 29 | Upon a request from Ambassador of Turkey to Japan, who met with Deputy Mayor Susume of Hiroshima last November, Türkiye's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a letter urging municipalities to join Mayors for Peace. |



List of new members (PDF):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/file-2405-newmembers2406_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>

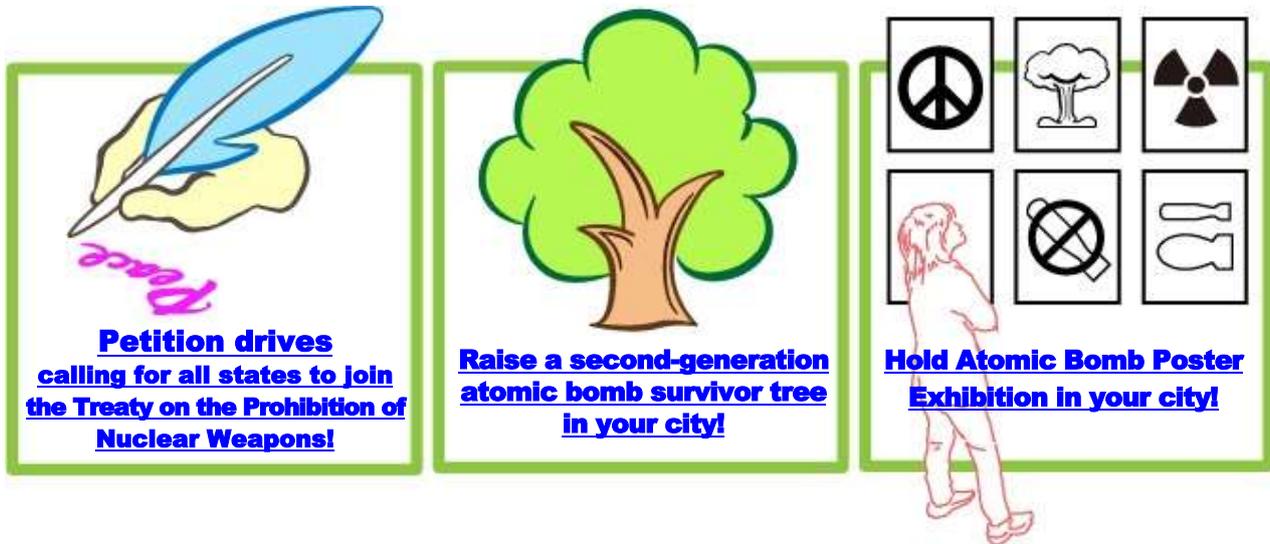
Your continued cooperation is highly appreciated!

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)

On May 14, the United States conducted a subcritical nuclear test at its nuclear test facility in the western state of Nevada. Although it did not reach criticality, which involves a nuclear explosion, the test provoked a strong reaction from the citizens of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Subcritical nuclear tests are not banned under the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT, not yet in force). That decision was made during the treaty’s negotiating process. On the other hand, many experts insist that, since the purpose of the CTBT is nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, the relationship with subcritical nuclear tests should be considered in light of the treaty’s original purpose, rather than the “compromise” that arose during the treaty’s negotiation. They argue that subcritical nuclear tests run counter to the spirit of the CTBT.

It is certain the main premise of the CTBT is to maintain and modernize nuclear weapons. In order to continue to appeal for the abolition of nuclear weapons, however, it will be necessary to focus attention on not only subcritical tests, but also all movements regarding the production of nuclear weapons, including various kinds of testing, research and infrastructure development.

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

Did you know? Basic information about A-bombed Hiroshima... Survivor’s certificates also issued to those who entered city after bombing, engaged in relief work
<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=142044>

Ventilation of register for A-bomb victims is globally live-streamed first time
<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=142186>

Hiroshima A-bomb survivors and citizens get annoyed with U.S. subcritical nuclear test; see it as a reverse movement against nuclear abolition: “It is unforgivable”
<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=142188>

G7 Hiroshima Summit Commemorative Gallery opens in Peace Memorial Park; visitor says, “I felt importance of peace”
<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=142238>

Hiroshima survivor Hiromu Morishita returns from Oslo — Recounts A-bomb experience to good response, finds Norwegians interested in nuclear issues
<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=142244>

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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