

November 2024 / No.179

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

8,429 cities

in 166 countries and regions

(as of November 1, 2024)

Help us achieve **10,000** member cities!

Check our website and follow us on social media:

Website 😥

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/

Facebook (

https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace

X (Twitter)

https://x.com/Mayors4Peace

"Like" and **share** our Facebook and X (Twitter) posts to help spread awareness of our mission.

Table of Contents

- > The 13th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held
- President Matsui visited Dublin, Ireland
- > Mayors for Peace Congratulates Nihon Hidankyo for 2024 Nobel Peace Prize
- > Join the Webinar "Nuclear deterrence -Guarantee of or Threat to our Security
- > The 11th General Conference of Mayors for Peace is scheduled to be held in Nagasaki in August 2025
- Request for payment of the 2024 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee
- We are providing data for exhibitions!
- Regional chapter activities
- Report from the Executive Advisor
- Mayors for Peace member cities: 8,429 cities in 166 countries/regions
- Request to implement initiatives outlined in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan
- Call for input: examples of peace education initiatives
- Peace-related news from Hiroshima (provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

The 13th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held

The 13th Mayors for Peace Executive Conference was held in Manchester, UK, and 9 Executive Cities and 1 Chapter attended. The Executive Conference reviewed the initiatives implemented under the PX Vision and the current Action Plan (2021-2025) and included a discussion of the next Action Plan and the 11th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, which will be held in Nagasaki in 2025.

1 Dates

October 28 (Mon) and 29 (Tue), 2024

2 Venue

Manchester, UK

3 Participating Cities

9 Cities

Title	City	Representative
President	Hiroshima (Japan)	Mr. Kazumi Matsui (Mayor)
Vice President	Nagasaki (Japan)	Mr. Shiro Suzuki (Mayor)
Vice President	Manchester (UK)	Cllr. Paul Andrews (Lord Mayor)
Vice President	Hannover (Germany)	Mr. Thomas Hermann (Deputy Mayor)
Vice President	Malakoff (France)	Ms. Fatihat Alaudat (Councilor for the culture of peace)
Vice President	Ypres (Belgium)	Mr. Filip Deheegher (Head of Peace Department)
Vice President	Granollers (Spain)	Ms. Carme Barbany (International Relations Head of Office)
Vice President	Biograd na Moru (Croatia)	Ms. Jasminka Bajlo (Counselor)
Executive	Evora (Portugal)	Ms. Paula Santos (City Official)

Mayors for Peace French Chapter

Ms. Lorena Schlicht

Executive Advisors of Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation

Ms. Jacqueline Cabasso Mr. Randy Rydell Mr. Thomas Hajnoczi

4 Agenda

Meeting I: Progress Report on Action Plan (2021-2025)

Meeting II: Initiatives for the next Action Plan

Meeting III: Initiatives commemorating 80 years since the atomic

bombings

Exchange of views on Mayors for Peace administration

Meeting IV: Summary

5 Resolution

The 13th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace Summary Notes



President Matsui visited Dublin, Ireland

President MATSUI Kazumi (Mayor of Hiroshima) visited Ireland, a country actively promoting the TPNW, taking the opportunity presented by his attendance at the 13th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace. He conveyed the "spirit of Hiroshima"—the spirit for a peaceful, nuclear-weapon-free world—, and requested greater understanding of and continued support for the initiatives of Mayors for Peace through his address to Seanad Éireann (the upper house of the Oireachtas, Ireland's national parliament) and meetings with Ireland's President, Minister, Cathaoirleach (chairperson of Seanad Éireann), and Ceann Comhairle (chairperson of Dáil Éireann, the lower house).

In his address to Seanad Éireann, President Matsui emphasized the importance of hope in the face of adversity, quoting a passage from a poem by Irish Nobel Prize Laureate for Literature Seamus Heaney. Reflecting on Ms. Teruko Yahata's survivor testimony and the awarding of this year's Nobel Peace Prize to Nihon Hidankyo, he emphasized that this must be the time to strengthen solidarity for peace among citizens to realize the total elimination of nuclear weapons.



Furthermore, noting that the people of Ireland, blessed with a rich culture, can lead the culture of peace in the world, President Matsui expressed his hope that more and more Irish cities will join Mayors for Peace.

Speech by President (Mayor of Hiroshima) at Leinster House

President Higgins noted the importance of fostering inter-city relationships, referencing the initiatives of Mayors for Peace. In response to President Matsui, who emphasized his focus on conveying citizens' wishes and needs to national governments and educating young people about the wrongness of conflict, President Higgins noted the utmost importance of education appealing to citizens' conscience.

He also met with the Cathaoirleach, the Ceann Comhairle, the Minister of State, and the Lord Mayor of Dublin, among others, to exchange views on the current international situation. President Matsui also



expressed the wish of the hibakusha that 'no one else should suffer as we have' and outlined the initiatives of Mayors for Peace.

He also attended the Mayors for Peace affiliation ceremony, where 16 Irish cities signed up for new membership. Additionally, he participated in opening ceremonies and interacted with local students at three locations for the "Hiroshima Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Poster Exhibition" and "Sadako and the Paper Cranes Poster Exhibition," both of which are being held with the full cooperation of the Embassy of Japan in Ireland.

Mayors for Peace Congratulates Nihon Hidankyo for 2024 Nobel Peace Prize

On October 11, it was announced that the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the Japanese Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations, Nihon Hidankyo, which have been calling for the total abolition of nuclear weapons as hibakusha. The award ceremony will be held in Oslo, Norway on December 10.

Nihon Hidankyo has long condemned the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and supported their abolition through hibakusha testimonies. This tireless works has contributed to international efforts towards the realization of a world without nuclear weapons.

We cordially express our heartfelt congratulations to Nihon Hidankyo, which is working toward our common goal of abolishing nuclear weapons, and we sincerely hope that this award will serve as an opportunity to make a significant change in the current severe global situation and lead to concrete actions by the political leaders of each country toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Join the Webinar "Nuclear deterrence -Guarantee of or Threat to our Security



With the increased tensions and re-appearance of war in Europe the term "nuclear deterrence" is heard more often in the public discourse. The theory of nuclear deterrence was developed by the American economist Thomas C. Schelling in the bipolar world of the 1950s as a zero-sum game. It is based on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and presumes that an opposing nuclear armed state would not use nuclear weapons in view of the potential huge damage to itself by a counterstrike. Together with ICAN and IDN, the Mayors for Peace European Chaper will host the Webinar on November 28, Friday, from 5PM to 6 PM (CET), and we are pleased to invite you to join this highly topical seminar

Please click here to register!!!

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yy2CLKrQTu27MbEp7Id9cg

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

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.

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/

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

French Chapter

Building Peace through City Diplomacy: Elected representative of Mayors for Peace France participated in the International Action Meetings of Local Governments of Cités Unies France Ms. Lorena Schlicht, Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

The 15th edition of the "International Action Meetings of Local Governments" (RAICT), organized by Cités Unies France, took place on October 23-24, 2024, at the Pavillon d'Armenonville in Paris, gathering over 500 participants from more than 20 countries. This event serves as a key platform for discussing territorial internationalization and decentralized cooperation.

El Hadj Mahmoud, Elected Official Delegate for International Cooperation and Culture of Peace at the City of Noisy-le-Sec and representative of Mayors for Peace France, spoke at the workshop on "Parliamentary Diplomacy/Diplomacy of Local Authorities." Local diplomatic action, once reserved for national governments, is increasingly becoming a local prerogative. Networks of cities, like Cités Unies France and



At the Int'l Action Meetings of Local Government

UCLG, highlight the need for local actors to have global representation and influence in international relations. Amid rising global conflicts, such as the war in Ukraine, local governments continue to maintain open dialogue and cooperation even in challenging contexts. Past initiatives, like the post-WWII Franco-German partnerships and Palestinian city twinning's following the Oslo Accords, illustrate the peace-building potential of local partnerships. This workshop provided a geopolitical update on current conflicts and explored the peace-building role of local governments.

El Hadj emphasized the growing role of local governments in international diplomacy, particularly in sensitive and crisis regions like the Sahel (Africa). He shared insights from Noisy-le-Sec's "Sport and Peace" project with Mayors for Peace France on August 6, 2024, which brought together hundreds of young people around the themes of coexistence and mutual respect, with Palestinian athletes also participating. El Hadj Mahmoud also highlighted the success of cross-border mobility initiatives, such as the project in Marrakech, where young people from different backgrounds traveled together to Morocco, fostering unity through shared experiences.

Additionally, he discussed the importance of the 80th commemoration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 2025, emphasizing that transmitting the memory of these events to young people is crucial for peacebuilding efforts.

Varennes-Vauzelles

First Peace exchange between Varennes-Vauzelles and the city of Rheurdt in Germany

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

As part of Mayors for Peace initiative, a delegation from the city of Varennes-Vauzelles traveled to Rheurdt, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, to launch a partnership focused on promoting the culture of peace (both cities are members of Mayors for Peace).

This historic step for both communities began a few months ago with virtual meetings with Mr. Dirk Ketelaers, Mayor of Rheurdt-Shaephuysen, where they had the chance to get to know each other and define the framework for future projects. From October 27 to 30, 2024, Ms. Céline Lalet, Deputy Mayor for Culture and Citizenship, and Mr. Florian Guillon, Municipal Councilor for Communication, Information Technology, and Culture of Peace, accompanied by Ms. Sona Simonyan, who has kindly assisted them by translating from French to German, had the opportunity to discover the charming city of Rheurdt and further discuss the first concrete actions to be taken for youth of both cities. July 2025 promises to be filled with great emotions and French-German stories in Varennes-Vauzelles, as the first group of young people aged 11 to 15 is expected to visit France to share sporting, cultural, and friendly moments.



(left to right) Ms. Céline Lalet, Deputy Mayor for Culture and Citizenship, Mr. Dirk Ketelaers, Mayor of Rheurdt and Mr. Florian Guillon, Municipal Councilor for Communication, Information Technology, and Culture of Peace

UK/Ireland Chapter

The Peace Museum at Saltaire in Yorkshire, UK received the gift of a special item from UK/Ireland Chapter Secretary Richard Outram

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

The Peace Museum https://www.peacemuseum.org.uk/ is the only one of its kind in the UK. After 25 years operating in Bradford city centre and after a long period of refurbishment, the Museum reopened to the public fittingly on the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki (9 August) in new accessible premises at the iconic Salts Mill in Saltaire, West Yorkshire, a village awarded UNESCO World Heritage Status.

On 9 November, Richard was attending the first Peace History Conference held at the Museum. This continued a series of such conferences first convened by the Movement for the Abolition of War in 2007. At this all-day event, participants learned about important peace organisations and about historic peace activism.



Richard presents Charlotte with the banner (photo courtesy: The Peace Museum)

At the close of the conference, participants were able to join curator Charlotte Houlahan on a guided tour of the exhibits. The displays include a significant number of items relating to the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings, and Richard was pleased to be able to present Charlotte with a green and white Mayors for Peace banner to add to the museum's everexpanding collection.

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 <u>website</u> 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

Building Connections, Visit to Molekoff France

Building Connections: Visit to Malakoff, France

Ms. Jacqueline Cabasso, Executive Advisor of Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation

Following the Mayors for Peace Executive Committee meeting in Manchester, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation Executive Advisor and Mayors for Peace North American Coordinator, Jackie Cabasso, visited Vice-President City, Malakoff, France, to learn more about Malakoff's flourishing culture of peace and exchange views on building Mayors for Peace and increasing international cooperation among member cities. Ms. Cabasso and her partner, John Burroughs, with the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, were greeted by Ms. Fatihat Alaudat, Malakoff's Deputy Mayor for the Culture of Peace, who led them on a walking tour of the city center, visiting memorials to the victims of World Wars I and II and a peace garden with a huge gingko tree, grown from the sapling of an A-bombed survivor tree in Hiroshima,

planted in 1995.

They were welcomed at City Hall by Mayor Jacqueline Belhomme, who explained that historically, peace is a huge part of Malakoff's philosophy and activism, especially with regard to education, recalling the city's historic commitments to human rights and opposing wars, and its role in the French resistance during World War II. Mayor Belhomme stressed that young children need to learn that peace is important in everyday life and noted that each month

peace activities are promoted throughout the city. She described how Malakoff twins peace with sports, music, and art in modeling how people can live together. She emphasized the importance of solidarity between people, describing Malakoff's cooperative arrangements with towns in Senegal and Palestine, and noting that Malakoff is known for welcoming immigrants and is currently supporting migrants and refugees from Afghanistan, Africa, Syria, Palestine, and Ukraine. The inspiring visit ended with a tour of an experimental art center, supported by the City, currently featuring an interactive exploration of the role of gender in society.



Gingko tree in the Malakoff peace garden. A plaque, describing a small ceramic sculpture installed under the tree in 2015, reads: "70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATOMIC BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASKI IN 1945. IN PEACE LIFE IS REBORN. Installation by Jean Kohen. This Gingko Biloba, a symbolic tree of life known in Japan for its resistance and vitality after the nuclear destruction, was planted in 1995 for the 50th anniversary of the United Nations."



(right to left) Jacqueline Belhomme, Mayor of Malakoff; Jackie Cabasso, Executive Advisor for Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation; Fatihat Alaudat, Deputy Mayor for the Culture of Peace; John Burroughs, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, in the Mayor's office. The quote in the background mural, attributed to Louise Michael, 1830 – 1905, reads, "Don't forget that utopia is tomorrow's reality." Note the prominence of the gingko leaves.

Mayors for Peace member cities: 8,429 cities in 166 countries/regions

On November 1, we gained 3 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,429. 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
France	Noisy-le-Sec	177	Thanks to efforts by Grigny, an Executive City.
Netherlands	Smallingerland	185	
UK	Horsforth	88	Thanks to efforts by Manchester, a Vice President and Lead City.



List of new members (PDF):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/file-2410-newmembers2411 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 <u>available</u> in 12 <u>different languages</u>: 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

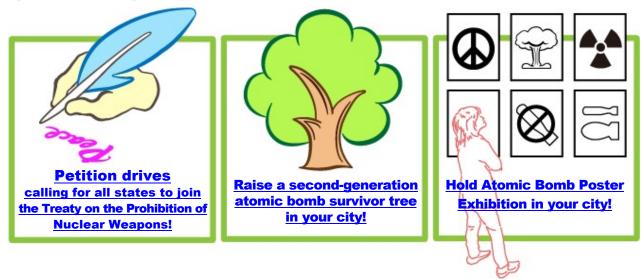
At the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held online in July 2021, we adopted the latest Action Plan (2021–2025). Together, let us continue our utmost efforts toward our ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace. Please implement initiatives outlined in the Action Plan within your own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

Ever since it was announced that the Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo) would be awarded this year's Nobel Peace Prize, more and more people seem to be making an effort to learn about Nihon Hidankyo's current activities, its history, and the prefectural organizations that comprise the group. At the same time, they are striving to learn about the suffering, the concerns, and the simple joys each of the A-bomb survivors (hibakusha) has experienced in the 79 years since "that day," August 6, 1945. As its reasoning for awarding the prize to the Nihon Hidankyo organization, the Norwegian Nobel Committee remarked, "One day, the Hibakusha will no longer be among us as witnesses to history. But with a strong culture of remembrance and continued commitment, new generations in Japan are carrying forward the experience and the message of the witnesses."

For more than 10 years, the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center has continued to post on its website a series of feature articles titled "Survivors' Stories." In the series, at least 180 hibakusha have recounted their experiences in the atomic bombing to the Chugoku Shimbun's junior writers, made up of junior and senior high school students. We hope the articles will once again be read widely by people around the world as one of the efforts by "new generations in Japan" to carry forward the experience.

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

Survivors' Stories: Miyako Yano, 93, Nishi Ward, Hiroshima City—Having survived A-bombing, she placed the blame on herself

https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=146901

Survivors' Stories: Fumie Yoshida, 95, Higashi Ward, Hiroshima City—After losing her father and sisters, she vowed to live, supporting her mother, who cried with her daughter's skull in her arms https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=145784

Nihon Hidankyo to conduct survey of all Diet members ahead of 80th A-bombing anniversary https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=146875

Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for Atomic Bomb Victims registers portrait of Shogo Nagaoka, first director of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=146470

Hidankyo awarded Nobel Peace Prize: Hisaharu Matsui, former teacher colleague, guides next generation to Sunao Tsuboi's legacy of hope for nuclear abolition three years after his death https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=146910

Mayors for Peace Official Social Media Accounts

 $\langle X \text{ (Twitter)} \rangle X \text{ @Mayors4Peace}$ https://x.com/Mayors4Peace



(a) mayorsforpeace (Facebook) ttps://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