



Mayors for Peace News Flash

January 2024 / No.169

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

8,349 cities

in **166** countries and regions

(as of January 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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Mayors for Peace to host peace education webinar: Register for the livestream!

Mayors for Peace will host a peace education webinar to provide an opportunity for young leaders involved in peace activities to share information on their activities and exchange opinions. This initiative aims to stimulate youth-led peace activities in member cities.

The webinar will be streamed live on YouTube and anyone interested is welcome to join. Livestream registration is now open, and we cordially invite you to register for this insightful event. Join us in discovering the passion of the youths engaged in various peace activities!



Snapshot from a previous webinar

Livestream Registration

Visit the Mayors for Peace website to register for the livestream on YouTube.

[URL] <https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/news/2024/post-240126/>

[Registration Deadline] February 26 (Mon.), 2024, 12:00 noon (Japan time)

- Date & Time: February 28 (Wed.), 2024, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm (Japan time)
- Platform: Zoom (Livestreamed on YouTube)
- Program (To be determined):
 - Opening Remarks
 - Outline of Webinar Proceedings
 - Lecture on the International Situation Surrounding Nuclear Weapons
 - Presentations by Youths
 - Discussion
 - Summary by Facilitator and Closing Remarks
- Facilitator: Ms. Keiko Nakamura (Associate Professor, Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University)
- Scheduled Presenters (To be determined):

Organization / Title	Name	Participating from
Hiroshima Municipal Funairi High School	Ms. Himari Ideno Ms. Miku Oda	Japan
Wellington City Council	Ms. Phoebe Lockett	New Zealand
Communications and Sustainable Security Consultant	Ms. Vanda Proskova	Belgium
Universiti Malaya	Mr. Ho Yong Qi	Malaysia

Note: Additional presenters will be announced on the Mayors for Peace website.

- Language: English

Secretariat picks seeds of Hiroshima atomic bomb survivor trees (*hibaku* trees)

As one of the initiatives implemented under the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2021 – 2025), the Mayors for Peace Secretariat distributes seeds from atomic bomb survivor trees (known as *hibaku* trees or *hibaku jumoku*) to member cities, aiming at encouraging the member cities to raise peace consciousness by planting them at places where many citizens visit, and by nurturing them by hands of citizens as symbols of peace.

As part of this initiative, on the morning of December 17, 2023, staff of the Secretariat picked seeds of *hibaku* trees in Hiroshima, together with some of the organizations comprising “Hiroshima Hibaku Jumoku Working Group,” such as Green Legacy Hiroshima Initiative, which organized the seed picking.



(left) Pruning berries from the atomic bomb survivor Kurogane holly tree (*Ilex rotunda*)
(right) Squashing seeds out of the Kurogane berries

The participants first collected seeds of a Kurogane holly (*Ilex rotunda*) tree at the Hiroshima Castle. This Kurogane tree was planted in the yard in front of the Imperial Headquarters—the then highest military command center established in the castle in 1894. The tree managed to survive the atomic bombing 910 meters north-east of the hypocenter. The participants pruned berries off from the tree and squashed seeds out of the berries. Additionally, the participants pruned berries of an atomic bomb survivor Camphor tree.

At a later date, the collected seeds were cleaned and taken care of by an arborist with extensive expertise in the conservation of *hibaku* trees. They have since been preserved under the care of experts at the Hiroshima Botanical Garden, until they are ready to be sent to their new homes.

Any member cities interested in nurturing *hibaku* tree seeds are encouraged to contact the Secretariat. For details on potential projects involving second-generation *hibaku* trees, please visit the Mayors for Peace website, which showcases activities of member cities nurturing *hibaku* tree descendants.

🔗 Contact: Mayors for Peace Secretariat (Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

🔗 Distribute and nurture seeds from atomic bomb survivor trees (*hibaku* trees) (Mayors for Peace website): <https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/trees/>

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.

Member city activities

● Évora, Portugal

Awards ceremony for Évora's local winners of the Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" 2023; Évora signs appeal for the abolition of nuclear weapons

Report by Ms. Paula Helena Santos, the Municipality of Évora, Portugal

This report sheds light on two initiatives Évora undertook in 2023, inviting its young citizens to explore meanings of peace through creative expression while simultaneously participating in a global movement dedicated to striving for a peaceful and nuclear-free world.

On December 11, 2023, the awards ceremony for the local winners of the international children's drawing competition, "Peaceful Towns", organized by Mayors for Peace under the theme "What Peace Means to Me?", took place in Évora. Each of the five award-winning students was presented with a drawing/painting kit by the Municipality of Évora. Also, all the pupils who participated in the competition received a certificate. The ceremony included a musical performance by the teachers at the Évora Youth Wind Orchestra. The ceremony was attended by the classmates of the awarded students were present, totaling 87 pupils.



Photo: courtesy of the Municipality of Évora

As a member of Mayors for Peace, the Municipality of Évora encouraged primary school pupils to take part in this children's art competition, which aims to promote peace education and make future generations aware of the importance of peace. Around 200 paintings from 10 classes at the S. Mamede, Sra. da Glória and Valverde Primary Schools were submitted to the local competition, after which the municipal jury selected five artworks and sent them to the Secretariat in Hiroshima.

Furthermore, Évora's dedication to peace was exemplified in August 2023 when Mayor Carlos Pinto de Sá of Évora signed the "Cities Appeal". This significant move was in fulfilment of a unanimous decision taken at a Public Meeting of the City Council. Launched by ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons), the "Cities Appeal" supports the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and Évora's signing symbolizes the municipality's commitment to global disarmament efforts.

🔗 Official Facebook Page of *Évora Cidade Educadora* project by the Municipality of Évora (in Portuguese): <https://www.facebook.com/EvoraCidadeEducadora/posts/pfbid02BKJfckwtrkRiGHofNbxam6Wv2Hj7zfrXfDx6AxyoxDe56tftbKUFZcEN76Uvtr7kl>

● Lasseran, France

Lasseran supports musicians' efforts to revitalize a wartime anthem into an ode to peace

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

In December 2023, the City of Lasseran supported a group of musicians in transforming a wartime anthem into a contemporary ode to peace. During their visit to Lasseran in late 2023, Chogal Duo were deeply moved by the city's commitment to peace. This visit sparked a creative impulse, leading to discussions with Mayor Michel Soriano of Lasseran about launching a project that would encapsulate the essence of Lasseran's pacifist spirit. Under the municipality's support, the duo, known for their evocative music, transformed the iconic wartime anthem, "Le Chant des Partisans [Song of the Partisans]"—a song that served as the anthem of the French Resistance during the Second World War, particularly throughout the Nazi occupation in France—into a contemporary ode to peace titled "Le Chant des Artistes [Song of the Artists]". Their rendition, performed in the church of Lasseran, serves as a powerful reminder of the enduring need for solidarity and hope in our world. This collaborative project between Chogal Duo and the City of Lasseran honors the past and lights a path for peace in our time, showcasing the timeless power of music to inspire positive change.

🔗 Link to the music video (in French): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZxeijPWbwo>

Regional chapter activities

● Catalan Chapter

Catalan Chapter holds an exhibition to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Report by Ms. Montserrat Catà, the City of Granollers, Spain

From December 11 to 13, the Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace hosted an exhibition on human rights in Granollers (Barcelona) on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was drafted after the catastrophe of World War II, including the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It stipulates the fundamental rights that must be universally protected in order to achieve peace. They are a critical foundation for preventing future conflicts and sustaining peace and security.

The exhibition had the form of a cube. Each side of the cube showed some of the articles of the Declaration. Also, one had a photo of Narges Mohammadi, the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize laureate. Another had a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt, the first Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights of the United Nations.

On December 11, with the purpose of raising awareness of the Declaration of Human Rights, 30 citizens, including Mayor Alba Barnusell of Granollers, read the 30 articles of the Declaration.



Photo: courtesy of the City of Granollers

● French Chapter

Mayors for Peace France organized training on SDGs and the culture of peace

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

On December 8, 2023, Mayors for Peace France, in partnership with the CIDEFE training center, conducted training (in person and online) dedicated to the Sustainable Development Goals and the culture of peace, specifically designed for elected officials. The event was led by Guillaume du Souich, an elected official from the City of Villejuif, a Mayors for Peace member city.

Keynote speakers included Alain Rouy, a member of the International Peace Bureau, and Raphael Porteilla, a lecturer in political science at the University of Bourgogne. Their speeches emphasized the role of education and non-violent action in nurturing the culture of peace. Also, they reviewed the UN resolutions that underscore peace as a human right, advocating diplomacy over warfare. Subsequently, Michel Cibot, the General Delegate of Mayors for Peace France, shed light on the organization's history and objectives.



Image: courtesy of Mayors for Peace France (AFCD RP)

In this training, over 15 representatives actively participated and shared a variety of successful peace initiatives from their respective cities. The event wrapped up with discussions on citizen involvement and the significance of documenting peace endeavors for future reference and educational purposes. This training day offered profound insights into cultivating the culture of peace within communities and set the groundwork for upcoming 2024 training sessions on diverse topics such as nuclear disarmament, global security, city diplomacy, the transmission of memories, and international cooperation.

Mayors for Peace member cities: 8,349 cities in 166 countries/regions

On January 1, we gained 7 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,349. 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	Soulevre en Bocage	173	Thanks to efforts by St. Ulrich bei Steyr, a member city in Austria.
Germany	Wesseling	874	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
Jordan	Greater Salt and Mu'ab	27	Thanks to a request from Ambassador of Jordan to Japan, who attended the Peace Memorial Ceremony of Hiroshima last August.
Nepal	Bhotekoshi and Lisankhu Pakhar	39	Upon a request from Ambassador of Nepal to Japan, who met with President Matsui last April, Nepal's Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration issued a letter urging all municipalities to join Mayors for Peace.
Portugal	Caminha	52	Thanks to efforts by Évora, an Executive and Lead City.

7 new cities from 5 countries

	France	1 city
	Germany	1 city
	Jordan	2 cities
	Nepal	2 cities
	Portugal	1 city

Member Cities

8,349 member cities

166 countries & regions

As of January 1, 2024

Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!

List of new members (PDF): https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/file-2312-newmembers2401_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 **11 different languages**: Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese (BZ), Portuguese (EU), Russian, and Spanish.

Letters of request to join Mayors for Peace and document pack <https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/about-us/resources/#recruit>

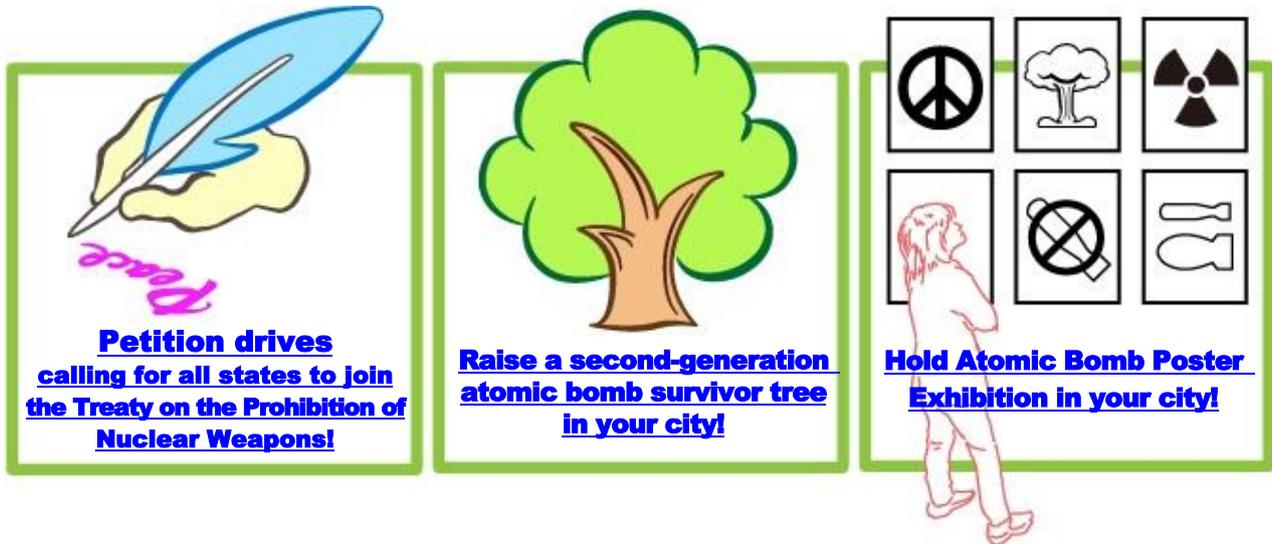
Your continued cooperation is highly appreciated!

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/>

Request for payment of the 2023 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 16 USD/15 Euro as of March 27, 2023) 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 2023 membership fee was sent to each city by email on April 4. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

🔗 Request for the 2023 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website):
<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/about-us/joins/fees/>

A closer look at the “World’s Fissile Material Inventory in 2023” Part 2: Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA)

Highly enriched uranium (HEU) or plutonium are essential raw materials for producing nuclear weapons. Modern nuclear weapons are made using both HEU and plutonium.

As introduced in the previous issue, there are an estimated 1,260 tons of highly enriched uranium and an estimated 552 tons of separated plutonium in the world, equivalent to more than 110,000 Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombs (data as of the end of 2021).

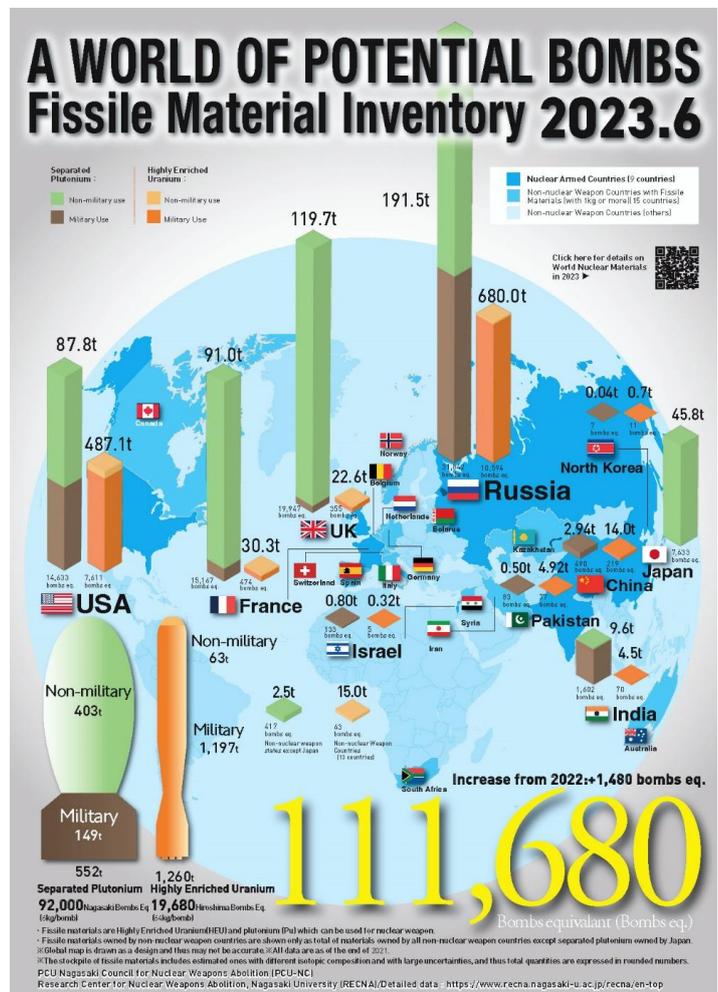
Uranium is a natural radioactive element. In nature, most of uranium is found as the less fissionable uranium-238 (99.3%). Only 0.7% of uranium is the fissile uranium-235. Therefore, the concentration of uranium-235 needs to be increased in a process known as “uranium enrichment.” Uranium enriched to 20% or more is believed to be usable for weapons, and is referred to as “Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU).” Typical nuclear weapons use uranium enriched to 90% or higher. On the other hand, nuclear fuel used in a nuclear power plant typically has a 3–5% concentration, and is referred to as “Low Enriched Uranium (LEU).”

It is still possible to produce HEU, even in LEU facilities for civilian use. However, even though this is technically simple, the clandestine production of HEU in non-nuclear weapon states is not easy if reactors are under the surveillance of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). All non-nuclear armed states that are parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty are obligated to undergo IAEA inspections.

Plutonium, on the other hand, is an artificial radioactive element that does not exist in nature. For example, spent nuclear fuel discharged from a light water reactor—which is the type most commonly used around the world—contains about 1% plutonium by weight. Plutonium can be recovered from spent nuclear fuel through so-called “reprocessing,” which separates plutonium leaving uranium and fission products.

Plutonium recovered from conventional nuclear power plants is called “reactor-grade plutonium.” Some people say that it is not suitable for nuclear weapons production, but this is not accurate. Even if nuclear weapons are made with this sort of plutonium, they still have an explosive power that far surpasses that of conventional weapons. Moreover, if even more advanced design technology is applied, it is possible to build nuclear weapons using reactor-grade plutonium that have the same reliability and destructiveness as weapons built using weapon-grade plutonium. (To be continued.)

For more detailed information, please visit RECNA’s website:
<https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/en-topics/43755>



World’s Fissile Material Inventory in 2023
 Courtesy of RECNA

Peace-related news from Hiroshima

(provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

The year 2024 began with a major earthquake and tsunami on Japan’s Noto Peninsula, disasters that completely transformed the everyday lives of people there. When thinking about the near daily increase in number of victims and the harsh living conditions experienced by the evacuees in the disaster zone, one cannot help but feel crushed. Turning our eyes to the rest of the world, it becomes clear that natural disasters are not alone in robbing people of their daily lives and life itself. Around the globe, the new year arrived with persistent war and conflict.

Our hope is that, at the conclusion of 2024, we can look back with the thought, “No matter how insignificant, we have taken a step toward peace.” We must persevere in our efforts to seek a world in which lives are free from the threat of nuclear weapons and war. This year, too, the Chugoku Shimbun aims to introduce news stories that can help in reaching that goal.

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

Silent Witness: Wartime soap

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=138714>

Silent Witness: Small bowl with imbedded bone fragments

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=138730>

Hiroshima City government initiates project to make products promoting peace with branches of A-bombed trees for 80th anniversary of atomic bombing

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=138666>

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum to introduce online ticketing system to reduce congestion: Ticket sales to begin February in 15 languages with reservation slots available morning and evening

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=138672>

Illegality of nuclear weapons continues to be questioned 60 years after ruling on “A-bomb lawsuit”

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=138668>

Learning program of the Youth Leader Fund for a World without Nuclear Weapons launched by U.N.—young people encouraged to visit Hiroshima, Nagasaki

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=138675>

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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