

Mayors for Peace News Flash

October 2021 / No.142

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

<u>8,047</u> cities

in 165 countries and regions

(as of October 1, 2021)

Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!

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Events Commemorating 2021 International Day of Peace

The United Nations has declared September 21 as International Day of Peace (IDP), an annual day of non-violence and cease-fire. In support of this declaration, Mayors for Peace encouraged all the member cities to commemorate IDP. Upon our call, many commemoration events were held in our member cities across the world.

Hiroshima, Japan

In Hiroshima, the event commemorating IDP was attended by ten people including high school students who are working on a petition, which calls for all countries to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as soon as possible. To pray for the abolition of nuclear weapons and lasting world peace, the participants rang the Peace Bell and observed a moment of silence at the Cenotaph for the A-bomb, holding up a Mayors for Peace banner that reads "Join us on a path of peace towards a world free of nuclear weapons!"





Urayasu, Japan

Events were held across the City of Urayasu on September 21 to commemorate IDP and to pray for everlasting world peace. At half past noon on that day, the Peace Bell was rung at Dairen-ji Temple, hotels, and schools. The municipality called on its citizens to think about peace.





• Halabja, Iraq

International Day of Peace has been celebrated by the people of Halabja every year since the city was nominated as the Capital of Peace by the Parliament of Iraqi Kurdistan in 2015. At this year's ceremony, Mayor Kwestan Akrem delivered a speech on behalf of Mayors for Peace. The special guests were children who lost their fathers in the war with ISIS. Together they painted the dove of peace in rainbow colors and received a gift from the mayor.





Carrières-sous-Poissy, France

On IDP, a peace event for children was carried out in 46 primary schools and kindergartens in Carrières-sous-Poissy and two neighboring cities, in partnership with a civic group, Le Mouvement de la Paix (The Peace Movement). At the event, children painted pictures with the theme of peace and decorated trees with their hand-made paper cranes. These paper cranes will be sent to Hiroshima.





Malakoff, France

The City of Malakoff held a 10-day-long peace event from September 16th to the 25th as part of PLACP, Local Initiatives for the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. Along with a series of lectures, poem readings, and film screenings, one of the highlights of this year's event was an art project, "Sur le fil de la Paix (On the Road of Peace)." Artists and citizens together decorated fences with ribbons, paper cranes, and message cards, which led to a small park in the city hall square surrounded by the "Peace Trees." Anti-nuclear weapons posters and children's peace artworks were also hung on the fences. Artists drew a dove on the road and people, including local children, added some drawings and messages around it. For the next year, the city plans to decorate the site with more paper cranes and drawings on the ground, hoping to raise more awareness for the event.





Oldham, the UK

Ss Aidan and Oswald's RC Primary School, Royton is one of the schools in Oldham with a long-standing commitment to promoting peace. The school has forged strong links with Hiroshima through participating in a project to exchange paper cranes with the children of Hiroshima as well as being the first school to receive one of the saplings of atomic bomb survivor trees which were grown from the seeds planted in Oldham by two visiting *hibakusha* in 2017.

The school held a special ceremony on IDP to celebrate this wonderful partnership of peace between Oldham and Hiroshima. 350 children and 30 staff attended the assembly, which was addressed by the Worshipful Mayor of Oldham and other distinguished guests. The children sang beautifully their school peace anthem, May Peace Prevail on Earth (which is titled after the school motto). They also baked special confectionary: Peace Dove Shortbread.

During the day, the children enjoyed a different approach to the curriculum as they explored and researched many aspects of finding and promoting peace. This included activities such as a peace picnic and prayers for peace.





Marcos Paz, Argentina

During the week of IDP, the City of Marcos Paz presented to the public and the press its entrance as a member city of Mayors for Peace in February of this year with the purpose of promoting the complete eradication of nuclear weapons in the world and the peaceful coexistence of people. With the presence of the Minister Counselor of the Embassy of Japan in Argentina, Shinichi Sato and members of the Japanese Collectivity of the city, Mayor Ricardo Curutchet stressed that "humanity has to learn from its mistakes and not repeat them, work for peace, unity and the coexistence of people" and stated that "it is an honor and a joy to be a member of Mayors for Peace."





Montréal, Canada

The <u>Peace Network for Social Harmony</u>, in collaboration with Ville de Montréal, organized an event to launch the <u>7th edition of Peace Days</u>, under the theme "Take action for equality." The event was followed by a panel on the topic of reconciliation with indigenous communities. Ville de Montréal is a proud member of Mayors for Peace since 1989. Montréal also promotes the notion of "vivre-ensemble" on the international scene and hosts the <u>International Observatory of Mayors on Living Together</u>, a platform and a network dedicated to exchanging good practices related to social cohesion, inclusion, and peace in cities where the City of Hiroshima is a founding member.

The Peace Network for Social Harmony is a Montreal-based charitable organization, involving a series of actors who believe in the importance of peace, non-violence, and inclusive and open-minded society. Journée de la paix / Peace Days is a two-week-long programme of more than fifty local activities dedicated to promoting peace and social harmony (see Peace Days programme 2021).





Thank you for the efforts of those organizing these events celebrating and commemorating the International Day of Peace in many member cities around the world. We sincerely hope that these great examples above will help you to organize your future peace initiatives in your city.

Release of a new webpage: "Nuclear Disarmament Archive"

As outlined in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2021-2025), we promote outreach concerning the current international situation surrounding nuclear weapons, in order to have as many citizens as possible deepen their understanding of the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons and the grave risks and devastating consequences they pose.

As part of our efforts in doing so, we have just released a new webpage on the website, titled "Nuclear Disarmament Archive" in October. In this webpage, useful resources to learn and understand the international circumstances surrounding nuclear weapons, the current status of nuclear disarmament, and the realities of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are shared.



Some very difficult and complicated terminology used in the field of nuclear disarmament, for example, the "entry into force" or the "ratification" of/to a treaty, is explained using easy-to-understand words.

Please visit the webpage from the link below, make use of it in your daily works as a reference, and share it with the citizens.

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/library/index.html

Member city activities

Évora, Portugal

"Peace Is Made With Our Hands": Creative project by students and teachers of the school Gabriel Pereira in Évora

Report by Ms. Paula Helena Santos, Técnica Superior, the City of Évora, Portugal

Together with the poster exhibition "The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki" organized by the Municipality of Évora as a member city of Mayors for Peace, and in association with the International Day of Peace celebrated on September 21, an exhibition of ceramic pieces "Peace Is Made With Our Hands" was held at the Gabriel Pereira Secondary School on October 4.

This exhibition, inspired by the theme of peace, was developed from a project promoted by the school, involving students, teachers, and pottery artisans from the nearby city of Redondo. Adopting the figure of the dove and other symbols associated with the theme, students from all age groups worked on ceramic tiles and sculptural pieces with their hands.

The opening ceremony took place on site with the presence of the Vice-Mayor Alexandre Varela on behalf of the Municipality of Évora, Fernando Farinha Martins, the Director of the Secondary School, and several teachers involved in the project.

At the ceremony, the importance of this project was highlighted—that it became a great opportunity and means for individuals, especially young students, to reflect their own ethical and moral value of peace to their artworks. Such an approach to peace through cultural or creative experiences is increasingly becoming important throughout the world.

The poster exhibition "The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki" had been held at the Gabriel Pereira Secondary School during the month of September, then toured around other secondary schools in Évora. The exhibition was moved to the Town Hall and is now being held there until the end of this year.





Photos: courtesy of the City of Évora

Associated with this exhibition, the Municipality is also conducting Mayors for Peace petition drive calling all states to join the TPNW at the earliest date possible.

Regional chapter activities

German Chapter

Mayors for Peace Germany Ginkgo project: Planting ginkgo trees in Erfurt

Report by Ms. Evelyn Kamissek, the City of Hannover, Germany

Erfurt's Mayor Andreas Bausewein has been involved with Mayors for Peace on behalf of the city since 2015. In 2017, the idea was born to grow ginkgo trees in Erfurt from seeds of the trees that had survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945—as a sign of solidarity in the common endeavor for a permanently nuclear-free world.

The cultivation and care of the seeds were carried out by experts from the garden and cemetery office of the Erfurt city administration. After five years, the plants were strong enough to be planted out.

On the occasion of the Federal Garden Show BUGA 2021, delegations from Erfurt's twin cities of Kalisz (Poland), Kati (Mali), Lovech (Bulgaria), Lille (France), Vilnius (Lithuania) and Mainz (Germany) visited Erfurt at the invitation of Erfurt's Mayor Andreas Bausewein. It was a special pleasure for the Mayor to plant several Ginkgo trees near the Erfurt zoo park entrance together with his international guests.

The wish on a small scale is that the trees now grow and flourish as a "symbol of peace," standing for diversity, openness and tolerance; the wish on a large scale, on the other hand, is that humanity may finally follow the lessons of history with action.



Photos: courtesy of the City of Erfurt

Website of Mayors for Peace Germany (in German):

https://www.hannover.de/Leben-in-der-Region-Hannover/Politik/Politische-Gremien/Mayors-for-Peace/Aktivitäten/Pflanzung-der-Ginkgobäume-in-Erfurt-2021

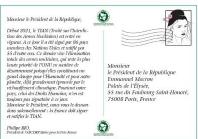
French Chapter

Sending out anti-nuclear weapons postcards on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

Report by Ms. Lorena Schlicht, AFCDRP-Mayors for Peace France

As part of an event associated with the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP), in partnership with the City of Grigny, sent out postcards to the French members, inviting them to forward it to the President of the French Republic. In the postcard, there is a message from the President of the French Chapter of Mayors for Peace, Mayor Philippe Rio of Grigny, calling on the French government to sign and ratify the TPNW.





Member city recruitment model cases

Mayors for Peace aims to achieve 10,000 member cities to foster international public support for the realization of a world without nuclear weapons. To encourage recruitment of new members, we showcase model cases that have led to gaining new members.

Report by Ms. Helena Aranda Mayor, the City of Granollers, Spain

The City of Granollers, headed by Mayor Mayoral, has invited Catalan cities to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) as well as recruited them to join Mayors for Peace.

Whenever the occasion arises, Mayor Mayoral and the city staffers always promote Mayors for Peace and the TPNW to other cities. Over the last couple of months, Mayor Mayoral called different mayors in Catalonia to urge them to approve a motion in which they recognize the danger posed by nuclear weapons, to show solidarity with the people and communities affected by their impact, and to call on the Spanish Government to sign and ratify the TPNW. The motion has been adopted by 59 localities in Catalonia, as well as the Barcelona Provincial Council, which represents more than half of the population of Catalonia.



Mayor Mayoral (second person from the right) Photo: Courtesy of the City of Granollers

To read the full text of the report, please visit the link below: http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/data/2021/Sept2021 CatalanChapt.pdf

Please take inspiration from the model cases that we introduce here to 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 (ten languages) below.

Letters of request to join Mayors for Peace and document pack http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/aboutus/join.html#section01

Please send a report on your city's successful recruiting activity

The Secretariat is looking for model cases of recruiting new members. We would like to share cases which will encourage other member cities in the News Flash. Please contact us if your city has any model cases. Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

Mayors for Peace member cities - 8,047 cities in 165 countries/regions



Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!



On October 1, we gained 2 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,047. We thank all involved in promoting expanded membership for their invaluable support. Below is the breakdown of the new members.

| Country | New Members | Total No. | Remarks |
|---------|------------------------|-----------|---|
| Germany | Arnsberg | 722 | Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City. |
| Spain | Sant Vicenç dels Horts | 396 | Thanks to efforts by Granollers, a Vice President and Lead City. |

List of new members (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/03 newmembers/2021/newmembers2110 en.pdf

Membership by country (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/01 monthly updating/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 in 10 different languages</u>: Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

Letters of request to join Mayors for Peace and document pack http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/aboutus/join.html#section01

Report by Executive Advisor

 Nuclear Weapons Are A Local Issue: An Open Letter from Local and State U.S. Officials to President Biden and the U.S. Congress

Report by Ms. Jacqueline Cabasso, Executive Advisor, Mayors for Peace

On September 23, 2021, the Back from the Brink campaign released an Open Letter signed by over 300 local, county and state officials in 41 U.S. states. The letter, directed to President Biden and the U.S. Congress, welcomes the entry-info-force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and "urge[s] bold action and U.S. leadership in the pursuit of global, verifiable nuclear disarmament and concrete policy steps to reduce and eliminate the severe danger nuclear weapons pose to each and every one of our constituents – and all of humanity." Signatories include Mayors for Peace Vice President, Mayor Frank Cownie of Des Moines, Iowa and twelve other U.S. members of Mayors for Peace. The letter signers hope to influence the Biden administration's Nuclear Posture Review, the document that sets U.S. nuclear policy.

The Back From the Brink campaign calls on the United States to:

- Actively pursue a verifiable agreement among nucleararmed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals;
- Renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- End the sole, unchecked authority of any president to launch a nuclear attack;
- Take U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert; and
- Cancel the plan to replace the entire US arsenal with enhanced weapons at a cost of more than \$1 trillion over the next 30 years.



The campaign has been endorsed by 53 U.S. municipalities, six state legislative bodies, and over 380 organizations including the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Read the Open Letter and full list of signatories here: Open Letter | Back from the Brink (preventnuclearwar.org)

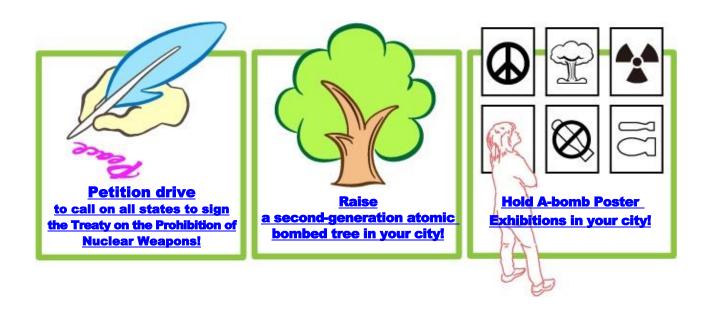
Request to implement initiatives outlined in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan

At the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held online in July this year, we adopted our new 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):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/conferences/executive/data/12th ec/PX Vision Action Plan en.pdf

Initiatives implemented under the Action Plan: http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/vision/initiatives.html



Please send us a report on your city's peace activities

Help us tell other members what you are doing! 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 'a culture of peace' are especially welcome! We look forward to receiving ones.

Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

*Please write a <u>SHORT</u> (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.

Request for Payment of the 2021 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 19 USD/16 Euro as of March 2021) 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 2021 membership fee was sent to each city by email on April 1. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

* If you want to know your city's payment status or if you have not received the email of request for payment, please contact the Secretariat.

Request for the 2021 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website): http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/aboutus/fee.html

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

Call for input: examples of initiatives to foster peace-seeking spirit

The Mayors for Peace Secretariat has been seeking examples of peace education initiatives conducted by any organization (city hall/school/NGO, etc.) in Mayors for Peace member cities that are conducive to raising peace-seeking spirit among future generations. 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 program.

Call for Input on the Mayors for Peace website: http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/vision/initiatives_examples.html

A closer look at the "World's Fissile Material Inventory" in 2021" Part 1 Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA)

In the last four issues of this newsletter, we explained the World's Nuclear Warheads Count. In the next few posts, we would like you to have a closer look at the World's Fissile Material Inventory.

Since 2015, in collaboration with the Nagasaki Council for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (PCU-NC), RECNA has released a series of posters illustrating the inventory of the materials which can be used for nuclear weapons (namely highly enriched uranium (HEU) and separated plutonium) by country and by purposes.

As of the end of 2019, there are 1,330 tons of HEU and 538 tons of separated plutonium in the world, both for military and non-military use*. In order for you to understand this situation easier, the graphs illustrate the materials are equivalent to how many of the Hiroshima- and Nagasaki-type atomic bombs. It is estimated that the Hiroshima bomb contained 64kg of HEU and that the Nagasaki bomb had 6kg of plutonium. Thus, the global fissile materials combined are equivalent to 20,820 Hiroshima bomb and 89,650 Nagasaki bomb, adding up to more than 110,000 bombs. (Given that there are many uncertainties, they are only approximate and estimated values.)



As there are about 13,130 nuclear warheads in the world, we are able to develop many times more nuclear weapons than we currently possess. Of course, given today's progress of technology, it is possible to produce an atomic bomb with a much smaller amount of nuclear material than 76 years ago. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) deems it possible to build an implosion-type nuclear weapon with 25kg of uranium-235 or 8kg of plutonium.

For more detailed information, please visit RECNA's website (https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/en-nwdata/worlds-nuclear-warheads-count).

*Military and Non-military Uranium:

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

Military and Non-military Plutonium:

Military: Plutonium used in nuclear warheads.

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

Peace news from Hiroshima

(Provided by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center of the CHUGOKU SHIMBUN)

On October 4, Fumio Kishida, a member of Japan's lower House of Representatives representing the A-bombed city of Hiroshima, was elected as Japan's 100th prime minister. The arrival of a new leader who advocates the realization of a "world without nuclear weapons" and calls nuclear disarmament his "life's work" has led to growing expectations for the future. At the same time, some have voiced their concerns about how far Mr. Kishida can achieve concrete progress under the current circumstances in which Japan adheres firmly to a policy of reliance on nuclear deterrence for security.

The first touchstone is the momentous first meeting of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), scheduled to be held in March next year. Japan's national government did not participate in meetings to negotiate the treaty's establishment in 2017. At the time, Mr. Kishida was the Japan minister for foreign affairs. Even after TPNW's entry into force in January this year, the Japanese government did not change its stance of refusing to sign and ratify the treaty. In the A-bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, there are forceful calls for the government to participate in some capacity in the meeting, because non-signatory nations also have the right to attend the meeting as "observers." Setsuko Thurlow, an A-bomb survivor living in Canada, and Beatrice Fihn, executive director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), have respectively sent Mr. Kishida a letter to the effect that they are looking forward to meeting him at the meeting's conference hall in Vienna, Austria. Switzerland and Sweden, non-participants in the treaty for the time being, are said to have expressed their intent to attend the meeting as observers. We will continue to keep our eyes focused on the actions of "the only nation in the world to have experienced nuclear attacks in wartime."

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

Hiroshima's Prime Minister Kishida will be watched carefully—ICAN anticipates his leadership; survivors want him to make his presence felt

https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=110764

Kinue Oshima to livestream bonfire-lit Noh requiem performance from hypocenter on YouTube on November 15 https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=110760

Ripple patterns in sand—designed by A-bomb survivor Toshiko Tanaka as symbol of peace at 14 U.S. Japanese gardens—are captured in video scheduled for release September 21 https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=110786

Regis Savioz, ICRC Head of Delegation in Japan, visits Hiroshima and interacts with A-bomb survivor Chieko Kiriake

https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=110824

Three Hiroshima university students create documentary on "black rain" victims in Yuki-cho to prompt young people to consider war and A-bombings

https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=110826

Toward opening of doors in spring next year, Hiroshima City begins construction on facilities in Peace Memorial Park for exhibit of A-bombed structural remains https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=110762

Mayors for Peace Official Social Media Accounts





https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace



(Facebook)



https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace



The latest and archived issues of Mayors for Peace News Flash are available at: http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/statements/newsflash.html

If you have any comments or questions, please contact us at:

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