# Mayors for Peace News Flash

### **Mayors for Peace Member Cities**

Mayors for Peace

**8,472** cities in **166** countries and regions (as of February 1, 2025)

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

Check our website and follow us on social media:

February 2025 / No.182

Website <u>https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/</u>

Facebook () https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace

X (Twitter) X https://x.com/Mayors4Peace

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

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#### Holds the Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" Award-Winning Works Exhibition in the UN Headquarters

To enhance the Mayors for Peace initiatives to many people as well as to provide an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of peace education, we held the Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" Award-Winning Works Exhibition in the UN Headquarters for 14 days from January 18 to the end of January, 2025.



Exhibition in the UN Headquarters (above)

Under Secretary-General Nakamitsu (left) and Ambassador Yamazaki to the United Nations (right)



#### Mayors for Peace hosts Peace Education Webinar: Recording now available online!

To foster youth-led peace activities in member cities, Mayors for Peace hosted and livestreamed a Peace Education Webinar on February 18. The event provided a platform for young leaders engaged in peace activities to share their experiences and engage in dialogue.

This year's webinar featured passionate young peace advocates from around the world, who presented their activities and engaged in dynamic discussions on the challenges they face and their visions for future initiatives.



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Scene from the Webinar



Message from Toshiyuki Mimaki, co-chair of Nihon Hidankyo

The recording of the webinar is available on Mayors for Peace YouTube Channel: [URL] https://youtube.com/live/dDDlSbJozBE

#### [Webinar Outline]

- Program:
  - > Opening Remarks by Kazumi Matsui, President of Mayors for Peace and Mayor of Hiroshima
  - Message from Toshiyuki Mimaki, co-chair of Nihon Hidankyo, a Japanese organization advocating for nuclear disarmament
  - Overview
  - Presentations by Youths
  - Discussion
  - Summary and Closing Remarks by Facilitator
- Facilitator: Ms. Keiko Nakamura (Associate Professor, Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University)

#### • Presenters (in the order of presentation):

Organization / Title	Name	Participating from
Mayors for Peace Youth	Mr. Ren Okada	Japan
Granollers City Council	Ms. Núria Garcia Prieto	Spain
Teens4Disarmament	Ms. Kanon Iwata Ms. Manon Iwata	US
University of Manchester	Ms. Iris Butler	UK
Nagasaki Youth Delegation	Ms. Kaede Fukunaga	Japan
ICAN	Ms. Paulina Chan Canada	
Members of the first-ever cohort of the Youth Leader Fund for a World Without Nuclear Weapons, UNODA	Mr. Khalid Ibrahim	Somalia

## Request for Payment of the 2025 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 will kindly ask each member city to pay a fee of 2,000 Japanese yen per city by email in April. The collected Membership Fees will be allocated toward new and existing projects listed on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan.

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/

#### Mayors for Peace Secretariat Hosts Online Meetings for New Member Cities



To inform new members about our initiatives and strengthen ties with member cities, we have been organizing Zoom meetings since June 2024. We are also happy to accommodate these meetings for existing members. In January, we had the pleasure of connecting with representatives from two member cities. These meetings provide invaluable opportunities, not only to share information about our initiatives but also to learn about the unique efforts of each member city.

Meeting Agenda:

- Introduction of yourself and your municipality
- Overview of Mayors for Peace initiatives available to member cities
- Q&A Session





With Mayor Dallasta and Councilor Lombardi (top left) of Guastalla, Italy; Mayor Duro (top right) and Mr. Kutorilli (bottom right) from Devoll, Albania; and Mr. Abdifatah (bottom left) from Berbera, Somaliland With Mayor Norton (bottom) of Rochester (MN), US, and Ms. Cabasso (top left), Executive Advisor

We sincerely thank you for being a part of Mayors for Peace. We are delighted and grateful for your city's solidarity in striving for a better world. Let's continue working together for a peaceful future. If you have any questions or are interested in our initiatives, please don't hesitate to contact us at any time. We are always happy to hear from you!



# The 11th General Conference of Mayors for Peace is scheduled to be held in Nagasaki in August 2025 (with some updates)

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:

[Host City] Nagasaki

[Name] The 11th General Conference of Mayors for Peace Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing

[Dates]

From the afternoon of Thursday, August 7, to the morning of Sunday, August 10, 2025.

\* Attending the Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony on Saturday, August 9



The 10th General Conference held in Hiroshima in October 2022

[Venue]

Conference: Dejima Messe Nagasaki (4-1 Onouemachi, Nagasaki City) <u>https://dejima-messe.jp/en</u> Welcome Reception: Hotel New Nagasaki (14-5 Daikoku-machi, Nagasaki City) <u>https://www.newnaga.com/en/</u>

[Keynote Theme] Toward a World without Nuclear Weapons - Envisioning a Peaceful Future as Global Citizens-

[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.

[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 next month.

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.

#### 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/pos ter/



#### **Member cities activities**

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#### Cervia, Italy Cervia Hosts an Online Meeting with a *Hibakusha* from Hiroshima for Students of M. Buonarroti Primary School

Ms. Bruna Rondoni, the City of Cervia

On the 4th anniversary of the entry into force of the TPNW, the fifth-grade students of the "M. Buonarroti" school in Cervia, in collaboration with the Municipality of Cervia and Mayors for Peace, connected with Ms. Teruko Yahata, a survivor of the atomic explosion in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945.

For many years, Ms. Yahata, a *hibakusha* (a survivor of atomic radiation), has tirelessly worked as a volunteer to share her experience, especially with future generations, hoping that they will pass it on to their families, friends, and acquaintances. With great energy and courage, she continues to tell what happened during the explosion of the atomic bomb and in the days that



followed, the strength she had to summon to help other people affected by the terrible radiation, and the *hibakusha*'s wish: "no one else should suffer as we have".



Here are the messages from the students after her testimony: "The connection was very moving for how she told her experience as a survivor. Teruko Yahata sent us her message of peace that will certainly never be forgotten by us students. Nuclear weapons must not be used, it is necessary to create and transmit peace, because it is within us, that is, in the hearts of all men. We in Montaletto will work to ensure that Italy ratifies the treaty against nuclear weapons"

Also present at the meeting was Councilor for Peace Michela Brunelli, who declared: << We are very proud to see how strong the desire is in the students to know and study the themes of peace and non-violence. It is essential to always keep attention high to ensure that the tragedy of the atomic bomb is never forgotten and never happens again, renewing the commitment to create a world

of peace free from nuclear weapons. We thank the students, the teachers of the Montaletto school, the Headmistress of IC Cervia2 Barbara Calcagno, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and in particular Mrs.

*Teruko Yahata, who with her words moved us and touched us deeply. A great lesson that we take to heart and that we must never forget>>.* 

#### Cervia Commemorates the TPNW Anniversary with Events for Peace

Ms. Bruna Rondoni, the City of Cervia

On January 22, 2025, the 4th anniversary of the entry into force of the TPNW, the Municipality of Cervia marked the occasion with the ringing of bells of the municipality building, the Cathedral and the other parishes in the area, in addition to the online testimony from a *hibakusha*.



The origami workshop "The 1000 Cranes of Hiroshima" was also organized in the public library by Caterina Comandini, who recalled the story



of Sasaki Sadako. The event was very touching, exciting, and wellattended.

Additionally, until January 31, the public library featured the "Showcase of Readings", a series of books on disarmament, peace, and human rights.

## Cotignola, Italy *Hibakusha*'s witness in Cotignola, the Righteous Among the Nations' city

Ms. Laura Monti, Vice Mayor of Cotignola, Italy

On Tuesday, January 15, the boys and girls of the second classes of the Cotignola middle school had the opportunity to listen to the precious testimony of Ms. Sadae Kasaoka.

Sadae is a so-called *hibakusha*, a Japanese name used to identify a person who survived the atomic bomb, which was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945.

In remote connection, Sadae told the students, gathered in the auditorium, that she was only 12 years old when the bomb exploded and her house was located only 3.5 km from the hypocenter.



During the meeting, Ms. Kasaoka described with brutal reality the effects and consequences of the atomic bomb on herself, her family and friends. The emotional involvement of the students in the meeting was high and they asked her several questions about the catastrophic event that occurred in 1945.

This significant meeting was possible thanks to the work conducted by Mayor for Peace, an NGO association based in Hiroshima, with whom the Municipality of Cotignola collaborates to promote Peace, defend human rights and promote the nuclear disarmament of the territories.

#### **Regional chapter activity**

#### French Chapter A Mayors for Peace France Delegation Meets the Nobel Peace Prize-Winning Nihon Hidankyo Delegation in Paris

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

A delegation of elected officials from Mayors for Peace France met with a representative delegation from the Japanese association Hidankyo, Nobel Peace Prize laureates of 2024, led by its Vice President, Shigemitsu Tanaka, Nobel Prize recipient in Oslo. The Peace Movement and the CGT Confederation, with the support of the National Collective for Peace Marches, organized the reception of the delegation at the CGT headquarters in Montreuil on Thursday, January 23, 2025.

This gathering, chaired by Sophie Binet, General Secretary of the CGT, began with speeches at the podium from Boris Plazzi, head of international relations at the CGT; Mr. Shigemitsu Tanaka, representative of the Nobel Peace Prize;



Yayoi Tsuchida from Gensuikyo; Mr. Ishikawa, Vice President of the National Confederation of Trade Unions and Roland Nivet, national spokesperson for the Peace Movement. Sylvain Goldstein, head of the Asia sector at the CGT, was also present.



There were also speeches from representatives of NGOs that have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, namely the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW, 1985), Pugwash (scientists' association, 1995), and ICAN (2027).

On the morning of Friday, January 24, a working meeting took place at the National Assembly with the Nihon Hidankyo delegation and about ten parliamentarians, initiated by MP Jean-Paul Lecoq, author of a report on nuclear disarmament in Parliament. Around forty people attended, including activists, parliamentary attachés, and local mayors and elected officials from Mayors for Peace France (Grigny, Malakoff, Vitry-sur-Seine, etc.), reaffirming their support for nuclear disarmament.

#### 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: <u>mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp</u>

\* 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.

#### **Report from the Executive Advisor**

**New York State Bar Association Hosts Meeting on Nuclear Weapons and International Law** Dr. Randy Rydell, Executive Advisor of Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation

On 30 January, the New York State Bar Association hosted a <u>meeting</u> on "Nuclear Weapons and International Law 2025: Nuclear Risks through a Legal Lens." Over 300 people registered, including government and private sector lawyers, military advisors, scholars, and disarmament activists. The 8 co-sponsors included 3 law schools, the American Bar Association, the US Air Force Academy, and several disarmament NGOs.

A key theme was how the norms of international humanitarian law ("law of war") have been incorporated in US nuclear plans, including military field manuals. One of the co-organizers, Charles Moxley, had just completed a two-volume, <u>1000+ page book</u> on nuclear weapons and international law, which also addressed this theme. (Rydell spoke at this event and will soon publish a review of Moxley's book in the journal <u>Nonproliferation</u> <u>Review</u>.)

A key conclusion of that book (and the conference) was that the effects of using nuclear weapons, and the risks from their threat of use (including via the doctrine of nuclear deterrence), render any such activity illegal under international law.

A future issue of Georgetown University's *Journal of International Law* will contain a Proceedings of this conference, and the organizers are planning a website with further details.

# Mayors for Peace member cities: 8,472 cities in 166 countries/regions

On February 1, we gained 6 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,472. 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
Cambodia	Battambang	4	
France	Saint-Martin de Valgalgues	179	Thanks to efforts by Malakoff, a Vice President and Lead City.
Germany	Melle	904	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
Italy	Colleferro	527	
Portugal	Montijo	58	Thanks to efforts by Evora, an Executive City and Lead City.
UK	Nottingham	89	Thanks to efforts by Manchester, a Vice President and Lead City.



#### List of new members (PDF):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/file-2501-newmembers2502\_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 in 12 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 <u>https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/about-us/resources/#recruit</u>

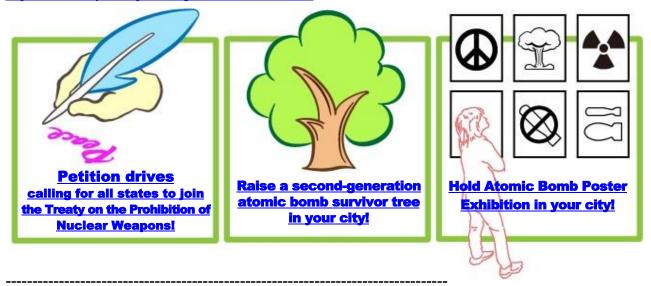
Your continued cooperation is highly appreciated!

#### **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

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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: <u>https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/edu-examples/</u>

#### A closer look at the "World's Nuclear Warheads Count in 2024" Part 4: Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA)

Following up from the previous issue, I would like to answer some frequently asked questions related to the poster.

# Q What do we mean when we say, "reducing nuclear weapons"?

Nuclear weapons are, in a sense, precision machinery. The first step in dealing with them is to dismantle and dispose of them to ensure they can never be used. Just as with their manufacture, the dismantling process requires extremely careful handling to prevent the leakage of design information or fissile materials.

The dismantling, however, is just the beginning. The next issue is the fissile materials themselves, which do not simply disappear. Steps must be taken to ensure that these materials will never be reused in nuclear weapons. This can involve converting them into fuel for nuclear power plants (in the case of highly enriched uranium) or disposing of them as nuclear waste deep underground (in the case of plutonium). These are extremely challenging tasks that require international oversight. And in spite of the efforts so far taken, the amount of nuclear material in the world continues to increase.



#### Q How much does it cost to build a single nuclear weapon?

Calculating the cost of producing a single nuclear weapon is far from straightforward. The cost can vary significantly depending on whether a country already possesses many nuclear weapons or is starting development from scratch. Also important are the technological capabilities of the country, as well as the various types and capabilities of the nuclear weapons that can be built. Altogether, these factors make it difficult to come up with a general estimate on cost.

For reference, the U.S. atomic bomb development program, the Manhattan Project, involved an enormous expenditure of approximately \$2 billion between 1942 and 1945. When adjusted to today's currency value, this amount easily exceeds \$30 billion.

#### Q What can be done to prevent the use of nuclear weapons?

To prevent the use of nuclear weapons, it will be essential to encourage and facilitate dialogue among countries, rebuild bilateral and multilateral arms control and disarmament frameworks, and halt the further acceleration of the nuclear arms race.

The rise in the number of "deployable nuclear warheads" since the February 2018 deadline for the implementation of the New START underscores the urgent need to establish a new arms control and disarmament framework to succeed the New START. And future U.S.-Russia negotiations will have to address not only reductions in nuclear warheads and delivery systems, but also "qualitative" disarmament issues such as the development of new nuclear weapons.

As we continue our work to avoid these immediate dangers, we must also remember that the only sure way to prevent the further use of nuclear weapons is to eliminate them completely. As long as nuclear weapons exist, the risk of their use, including the risk of nuclear accidents, remains. Once a nuclear weapon is used, there is a potential for escalation into a nuclear war that could lead to the extinction of humanity. (To be continued)

#### Peace-related news from Hiroshima

(provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

On February 1, the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo), the recipient of last year's Nobel Peace Prize, held a briefing session in Tokyo to report on the award ceremony that had been held in Oslo, Norway. Terumi Tanaka, co-chair of Nihon Hidankyo, reflected on the acceptance speech he delivered at the ceremony and called on the audience to act for the abolition of nuclear weapons. "I hope people won't just be impressed but take my speech as what they should do," said Mr. Tanaka.

The third meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons will take place at the United Nations headquarters in New York over a period of five days, starting March 3. Japan's government has been requested by hibakusha (A-bomb survivors) and citizens to "participate as an observer" in the meeting, but it has decided not to attend. There is still deep division between the government and the public on this issue. Nonetheless, we must never give up. Instead of "just being impressed," we hope to renew our recognition that we "should" continue calling on the government.

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

Nihon Hidankyo holds report session in Tokyo, saying, "I hope people won't just be impressed" https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=149109

Female student's monpe work pants: Mother would embrace the pants when sleeping every night https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=149417

Documenting Hiroshima 80 years after A-bombing: Newly discovered manuscript of 'Chronicle of the disaster,' written by Ichiro Moritaki https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=149421

Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima — Recreating cityscapes: Photographer's record of changes taken from citizen's viewpoint donated to Peace Memorial Museum by bereaved family https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=149035

Documenting Hiroshima of 1945: In December, Hiroshima tragedy recorded in order to memorialize mother and others

https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=149242

#### **Mayors for Peace Official Social Media Accounts**

 $\langle X (Twitter) \rangle$  (*a*) Mayors 4 Peace https://x.com/Mayors4Peace







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