



# Mayors for Peace News Flash

March 2021 / No.135

## Mayors for Peace Member Cities

**8,019 cities**

**in 165 countries and regions**

(as of March 1, 2021)

**[Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!](#)**

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<https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace>

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## President comments on UK plans to increase nuclear warheads ceiling

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On March 16, the United Kingdom published the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, in which they announced to increase their overall nuclear warheads stockpile ceiling by over 40 percent.

In response, President of Mayors for Peace Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima released a comment expressing great concern on behalf of the global network of cities for peace composed of 8,019 member cities in 165 countries and regions. In the comment, he pointed out that such action can only result in further acceleration of the arms race, and strongly called on the UK government to commit to the realization of a world without nuclear weapons.



**Comment by President of Mayors for Peace  
in response to the UK government’s  
announcement of plans to increase its nuclear  
warheads ceiling**

The comment is available at the link below:

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/statements/calling/210318\\_statement\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/statements/calling/210318_statement_en.pdf)

Through close solidarity between member cities, Mayors for Peace will continue to urge the United Nations and national governments to act toward achieving total elimination of nuclear weapons.

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## Member city activities

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### ● Hiroshima, Japan

#### Youth Peace Volunteers shoot video introducing monuments in Peace Memorial Park

Since 2019, we have been supporting the activities of Youth Peace Volunteers—volunteer guides who take visitors from overseas for tours in Peace Memorial Park, conveying the realities of the atomic bombing in English. Total of 26 high school and university students participated in the 2020 training program. They attended a series of 7 lectures to gain knowledge and acquire skills needed to give tours.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they are unfortunately unable to conduct such tours with foreign tourists now. They instead filmed a short video in March, introducing 10 different monuments in the park, including the Cenotaph for the Atomic Bomb Victims and the Atomic Bomb Dome, in English.

The video is currently being edited and will be posted on the Mayors for Peace website once it is completed (on the [Member Cities' Activities page](#)).

We will continue to strengthen peace education programs and make efforts to nurture young people to take leadership in passing down the atomic bomb survivors' experiences and their desires for peace to future generations.

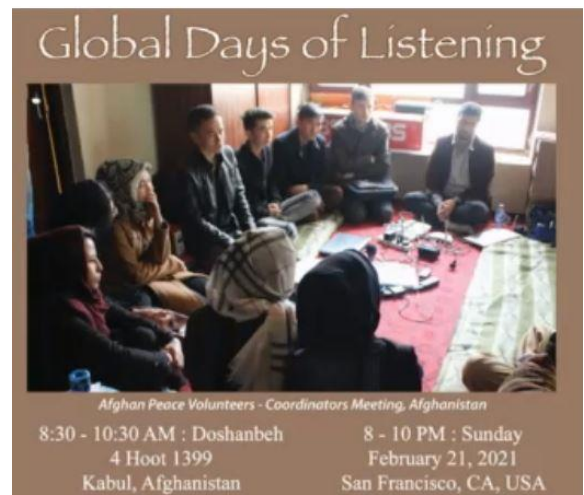


### ● Des Moines, U.S.

#### Mayors for Peace U.S. Vice-President Frank Cownie meets virtually with Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers in Kabul

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

On February 21, 2021 Mayors for Peace Vice-President Frank Cownie of Des Moines, Iowa and Mayors for Peace Executive Advisor, Jackie Cabasso of Oakland, California spoke via Zoom with a group of Afghan Peace Volunteers in Kabul and their supporters in China, India and the United States. This was a session of the Global Days of Listening project of the Afghan Peace Volunteers, peace activists who are high school, university, and graduate students working for nonviolent solutions in their war-torn country. Each month they pose a question. This month's question was: "Do 'nonviolent politics' exist today? If so, how are they being practiced, or how could they be practiced?"



Mayor Cownie explained that as we look to make decisions at the local level, politics are out of it, race and gender are out of it, religion is out of it. "We serve all the people all the time at the local level." Mayor Cownie underscored that whether it's war and peace, nuclear disarmament, or nuclear test bans, national leadership needs to hear from local governments, because the consequences of national actions or inactions often take place in the cities. "Just think of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Just ask those mayors if local government isn't affected by the decisions made at other levels of government.

 Read the full report:

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activities/2021\\_desmoine\\_ypv.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activities/2021_desmoine_ypv.html)

## ● Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

### Sarajevo works on the *White Room* project

Report by Ms. Azra Genjac, the City of Sarajevo

The City of Sarajevo, in cooperation with its partners, is currently working on the *White Room* project. The idea for this project came from parents gathered in the *Association of Murdered Children in Besieged Sarajevo in 1992-1995*, during which around 1,600 children were killed. This memorial room will be located near the *Monument to the Murdered Children of Besieged Sarajevo*, forming a whole, and it is a unique example of museum practice in the world.

The memorial *White Room* will be decorated as a children's room filled with objects, toys and other exhibits donated by the parents of the murdered children (pictured right). It will have its permanent exhibition, but also a historical part about the siege of Sarajevo.

Many difficult stories are contained in the objects that are collected and which will find their place in the *White Room*. Children's drawings are a special story, created in the war and talk about how much art helped them cope with everyday trauma.

This room, designed to show a sudden cessation of childhood, will convey strong message that indicates what the parents have gone through by losing their loved ones during the siege of Sarajevo. This room will serve as a reminder of what happened and be a warning to everyone that no child should be killed again.



Photos: Courtesy of the City of Sarajevo

## ● Tehran, Iran

### The 5th edition of Tehran Golden Adobe Global Award

Report by Ms. Sahar Seyed Tafreshiha, Tehran Municipality

Tehran Golden Adobe Global Award (TGAGA) is an international award to conglomerate projects and practices from cities, regions and local communities worldwide with the objective of gathering successful experiences leading towards the recognition of the extreme importance of local governance and urban management in promoting the socio-economic environment, sustainability, and encompassing peace and health, that is the main focal point in the well-being of the citizens. The award has been held since 2014 and is co-organized by the Communications and International Affairs Center of Tehran Municipality, the World Association of Major Metropolises (Metropolis) and UN-Habitat.

On 26th January 2021, a prestigious closing ceremony was organized in Milad Tower Conference Hall to not only announce the winners of the 5th edition of the Tehran Golden Adobe Global Award but to bring high officials of different nations under one roof to yet again dissipate the message of global unity.

The long list of keynote speakers included the Mayor of Tehran, Iranian government officials, UNDP Resident Representative in Iran and many more. Moreover, the video message of the Executive Director of the UN-Habitat, President of UCLG-MEWA, Secretary General of UCLG, and the CEO of Metropolis was presented to the audience. The written message of the President of Mayors for Peace and Mayor of Hiroshima was also read and published on the [award's website](#).

A total of 541 projects from all around the world had participated in the award. Among all, there were 296 international projects, 58 countries and 194 cities. The submitted projects were evaluated and the best candidates were selected and announced. In total, 21 projects were selected of which 7 projects received the Tehran Golden Adobe Global Award memento and 14 projects received commendations.



- **Oświęcim, Poland**

### **International art competition for children and youth "Let's Give Peace to the World"**

The City of Oświęcim, Poland, which is known for being the site of the Auschwitz concentration camp, has been a member city of Mayors for Peace since 1993. The City supports the annual international art competition: "Let's Give Peace to the World." For the 20th competition, children and youth aged 7-19 are invited to submit artworks that present the surrounding reality in an artistic way, expressing the right to live in a world free of wars. The submission deadline is June 30, 2021.



For more information including submission details, see the flyer:

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activities/data/2021/oswiecim\\_competition\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activities/data/2021/oswiecim_competition_flyer.pdf)

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## **Regional chapter activities**

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- **UK and Ireland Chapter**

### **Roundtable meeting introducing the Disarmament Parliamentary handbook to UK Parliamentarians**

Report by Mr. Sean Morris, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary

The UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary was one of the invited expert guests to a special UK Parliament roundtable event organised by PNND and the IPU British Group on the 9th of March. The roundtable meeting allowed for publication and discussion of the PNND Disarmament Parliamentary handbook to UK Parliamentarians. The handbook provides Parliamentarians with assistance and best practice guidance in promoting disarmament from all types of explosive weapons and weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. Speaking at the meeting was the former UK Ambassador to the United Nations Lord Hannay, the Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Explosive Threats Matthew Offord MP, and PNND Co-ordinator Alyn Ware.

The web-based meeting welcomed the publication of the handbook and discussed some of the key future risks and opportunities in the national and international debates on disarmament. The handbook also summarises for MPs the core issues from the United Nations Secretary General's Common Future agenda looking at all weapons of mass destruction, conventional weapons and new, emerging weapons. The handbook has been developed after positive discussion with the United Nations in consultation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and the World Futures Council. The roundtable included a wide cross-party of UK MPs and security and disarmament experts. The UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter welcome the handbook and the opportunity to understand more about it.



Weblink to the handbook:

<https://disarmamenthandbook.org>

- **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 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 'culture of peace' are especially welcome! We look forward to receiving ones.

Email: [mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto: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.

- **Notice from the Secretariat**

It has come to our attention that a person associated with a member city has sent out messages and released documents at an international conference as a representative of Mayors for Peace without the prior consent of the Secretariat.

If your city intends to make a public announcement or release information and document as the organization Mayors for Peace (not as a member city or a chapter of Mayors for Peace), please contact and consult with the Secretariat in advance.

● **Please update your city's information on our information system**

We are now updating the member cities' information registered on our database. Please log-in to the Mayors for Peace Information System (link below), and update your city's information.

<https://www.mfpinfosys.org/>

If your city has trouble logging-in, please contact the Mayors for Peace Secretariat at:

[mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto:mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

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**Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" 2020:  
Award ceremonies held in member cities**

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Since 2018, Mayors for Peace has held the annual Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns," in order to further promote peace education in member cities around the world.

For the 2020 competition, its third iteration, a total of 3,122 artworks were submitted to 99 member cities in 19 countries. The artworks went through a screening process handled by their respective member cities, after which a total of 466 works were sent to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat in Hiroshima. The final screening was conducted by the Secretariat, and 12 artworks were awarded prizes.

Recently, award ceremonies were held in member cities, where mayors of winners' cities of residence presented them with certificates and commemorative gifts.



Isahaya, Japan



Herzogenaurach, Germany




Kokubunji, Japan



Akita, Japan

We sincerely hope that this competition provides opportunities for children around the world to think about peace through creating art. We plan to hold the competition again this year, once more inviting children of member cities to participate.

 Click the link below to see the prize-winning artworks:

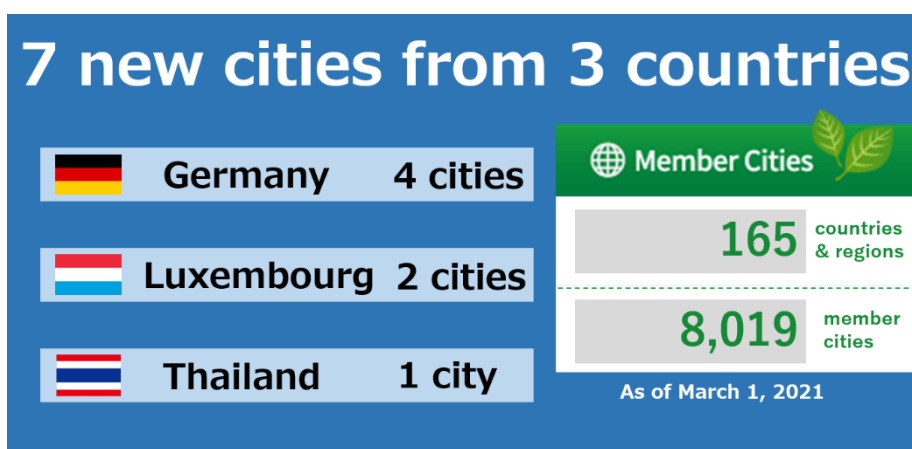
[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/vision/initiatives/2020\\_Art\\_Competition\\_result.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/vision/initiatives/2020_Art_Competition_result.html)

## Mayors for Peace member cities - 8,019 cities in 165 countries/regions

On March 1, we gained 7 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,019. We thank all involved in promoting expanded membership for their invaluable support. Below is the breakdown of the new members.

| Country    | New Members | Total | Remarks  |
|------------|-------------|-------|--|
| Germany    | 4           | 709   | Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.   |
| Luxembourg | 2           | 58    | Continuing from February, new cities joined.   |
| Thailand   | 1           | 17    | Thanks to efforts by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand in response to a request by the Ambassador of the Royal Thai Embassy who met the Secretary General of Mayors for Peace last November. |

Last [October](#) and [November](#), Secretary General Koizumi visited 8 embassies in Tokyo, and requested their support in recruiting member cities in their countries. In response, the embassies asked their foreign ministries and local government-related organizations in their countries to offer support in recruiting member cities. As a result, 1 city from Argentina and 3 cities from New Zealand joined in February, and 1 city from Thailand joined this month. In total, 5 cities joined in response to Secretary General's visits to the embassies to date. We will continue to request embassies' support, while remaining alert to the COVID-19 pandemic situation.



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



[🔗](#) List of new members (PDF):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/03\\_newmembers/2021/newmembers2103\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/03_newmembers/2021/newmembers2103_en.pdf)

[🔗](#) Membership by country (PDF):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/01\\_monthly Updating/07\\_membership\\_by\\_country\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/01_monthly Updating/07_membership_by_country_en.pdf)

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## Reports by Executive Advisors

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### ● Webinar: The International Nuclear Disarmament Agenda; Civil Society Perspectives from Seven Key States

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

With the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists'* Doomsday Clock set at 100 seconds to midnight, and the world's nuclear powers upgrading their nuclear arsenals and dangerously engaging in provocative military "exercises", activists and advocates around the world are working to prevent nuclear war and build a nuclear weapons free world.

In the runup to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference scheduled for this August at the United Nations, the international Peace & Planet Network, a project of Abolition 2000, seeks to hold the nuclear weapons states accountable to their NPT Article VI commitment to engage in good faith negotiations for the complete elimination of their nuclear arsenals. The first in a series of in-depth webinars, bringing together NGO experts and activists from five nuclear-armed states and Iran, took place on February 23, 2021.



#### Speakers:

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Oleg Bodrov    | Public Council of the South Coast of the Gulf of Finland (Russia) |
| Jackie Cabasso | Western States Legal Foundation (US)                              |
| Sharon Dolev   | Middle East Treaty Organization (Israel)                          |
| Kate Hudson    | Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (UK)                             |
| Daryl Kimball  | Arms Control Association (US)                                     |
| Emad Kiyaei    | Middle East Treaty Organization (Iran)                            |
| Zhau Tong      | Tsinghua University (China)                                       |

Watch the webinar at [2021 Toward August's NPT Review Conference – Campaign For Peace, Disarmament & Common Security \(cpdcs.org\)](https://www.cpdcs.org/2021-Toward-Augusts-NPT-Review-Conference-Campaign-For-Peace-Disarmament-Common-Security).

### ● Webinar on “Let’s Talk Nuclear Disarmament: Why You Should Care”

Report by Mr. Randy Rydell, the Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace

On 27 February, the UN Youth Association of Denmark hosted a webinar on youths and disarmament (video at <https://www.facebook.com/UNYADK/videos/166117645185016/>).

Maria Fernanda Espinosa (Ex-Foreign Minister of Ecuador) urged youths to promote disarmament, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and development.

Tarja Cronberg (SIPRI) urged women and youths to change Danish disarmament policy.

John Kieruff (ex-Danish diplomat) welcomed the TPNW and the extension of the New START treaty. He urged youths to encourage NATO to support the TPNW, “no first use”, and Denmark’s withdraw from NATO’s nuclear planning group.

Alyn Ware (PNND) identified opportunities for women and youths to advance disarmament. He urged youths to support “no first use”, a disarmament timetable, the Reagan/Gorbachev joint statement against using nuclear weapons, and an Arctic nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Michaela Higgins Sorenson (PNND) saw the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women as a focus for youths to encourage a greater role for Denmark in disarmament.

Ian Anderson (lawyer) discussed the environmental effects of the 1968 crash in Greenland of a US bomber with four nuclear weapons. He hopes the Danish public will support the testing of chromosomes of women of child-bearing age who bear the highest risks.

## ● Webinar on “World Future Day: Launch of Youth Fusion Elders”

Report by Mr. Randy Rydell, the Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace

On 1 March, “Youth Fusion” (with 116 participants) held a webinar to launch a “Youth Fusion Elders” initiative. [Youth Fusion](#) is a youth network of [Abolition 2000](#) to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Its Elders initiative encourages intergenerational dialogue on disarmament, peace, climate, development and the pandemic.

Uta Zapf (German Bundestag 1990-2013) described existing challenges and urged persistent youth advocacy for step-by-step progress in achieving disarmament goals.

Mogens Lykketoft (former Danish foreign minister, speaker of parliament, and president of the UN General Assembly) traced the history of disarmament to the present disappointing period. In seeking nuclear disarmament, he urged youth groups also to seek cuts in military spending.

Anna Maria Cetto (Professor, Institute of Physics, National University of Mexico) encouraged youths to pursue careers in science, which will help to advance disarmament goals.

Bruce Kent (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, UK) focused on the immorality of nuclear weapons as grounds for youth activism; he stressed both the horrific effects and the high cost of these weapons. His message to youths: 1) persistence; 2) avoid self-promotion; and 3) cooperate with others who share your commitment.

For information on Youth Fusion Elders, see:

<https://www.youth-fusion.org/youth-fusion-elders/>

The webinar video is at:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/2N8wOaUWHW\\_AHSiB-73Za7ywjpeOxlaUd0cPzA2IoR-TO6b4iE0dThCD1\\_MTibZLG\\_6ST68vJk8s9cSx](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/2N8wOaUWHW_AHSiB-73Za7ywjpeOxlaUd0cPzA2IoR-TO6b4iE0dThCD1_MTibZLG_6ST68vJk8s9cSx).

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## Request to promote various measures based on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan

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At the 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace held in Nagasaki in August 2017, we developed our Action Plan (2017-2020\*), aiming for lasting world peace. Together, we hope to make significant strides toward realizing this goal. Please promote all appropriate measures based on the Action Plan within your own municipality or regional group.

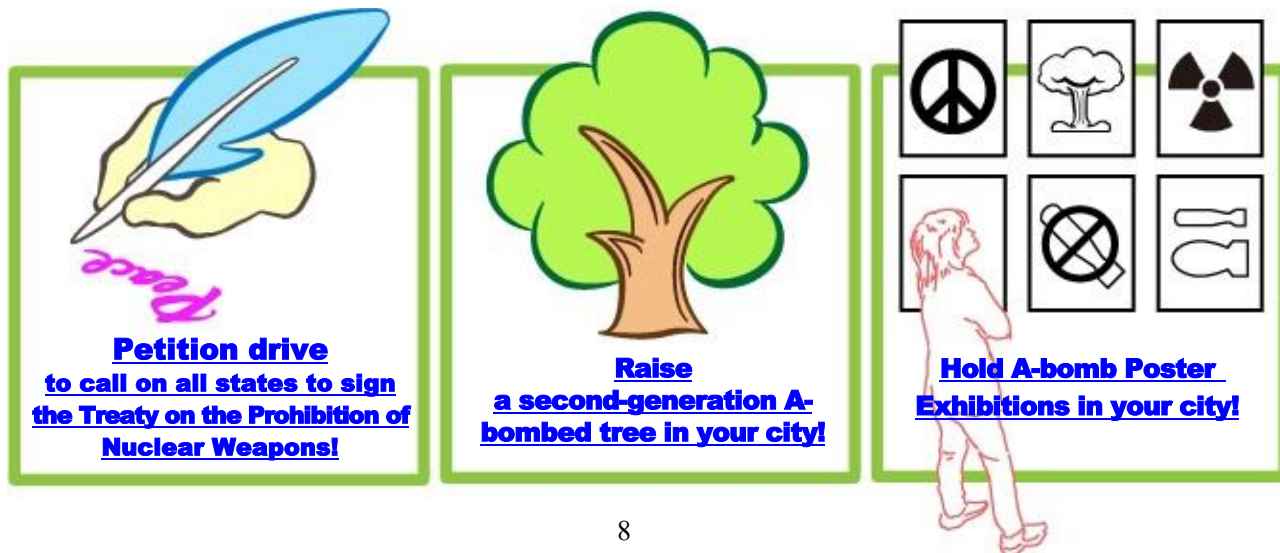
\*A new Action Plan is to be developed and adopted at the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, which was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and is now planned to be held around August 2021. The current Action Plan will temporarily remain effective until then, and initiatives and activities based on it continue to be implemented.

🔗 Mayors for Peace Action Plan (PDF):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/conferences/general/data/9th\\_gc/9th\\_gc\\_Action\\_Plan\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/conferences/general/data/9th_gc/9th_gc_Action_Plan_en.pdf)

🔗 Initiatives implemented under the Action Plan:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/vision/initiatives.html>





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

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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.html#section10>

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## Peace news from Hiroshima

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

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March 11, 2021, marked the 10th anniversary of the massive earthquake and *tsunami* that struck northeastern Japan and triggered the accident at the Fukushima No. 1 (Daiichi) nuclear power plant operated by the Tokyo Electric Power Company. Residents of Hiroshima and those who had evacuated to the city from the disaster area placed their hands together in prayer that day at 2:46 p.m., the exact time of the earthquake 10 years ago. When evening came, members of citizens groups assembled at the open riverside area Shinsui Terrace across from the Atomic Bomb Dome. They used paper lanterns to illuminate the numerals “3.11” and prayed for the repose of the souls of victims.

At the time of the earthquake, when A-bomb survivors witnessed communities devastated by the tsunami and learned of yet another nuclear disaster in Japan happening in Fukushima, many felt they had been transported back in time to the atomic bombings.

The nuclear accident made us all realize that, once out of control, nuclear power is impossible for humans to contain even with state-of-the-art technologies. Though reduced in area, the zones deemed as being difficult for people to return in the areas surrounding the power plant still exist today, and there is still a long way to go before the power plant is decommissioned. To therefore call the past 10 years a juncture and to treat the anniversary as a turning point seems a bridge too far. How should we pass on the negative lessons of nuclear power to future generations? For those of us living in Hiroshima, this is a serious question indeed.

Please see the following for more peace-related news.

HICARE has contributed to healthcare of radiation-exposed for 30 years

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=104124>

Peace Museum on Ninoshima Island to open in April for preservation, exhibition of war remains

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=103960>

Thoughts from Hiroshima: “Survivors wherever they are” Brazil A-bomb survivors association disbands after 36 years

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=103976>

Setsuko Thurlow film attracts large audiences, will be put on screens nationwide starting in April

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=103820>

Drawings by survivor of Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-bombings unique among 5,000 pieces of art stored at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=103978>

Prayers and promises—After 10 years of hardship, Ms. Watabe still thinks of her hometown after moving to Hiroshima prefecture’s town of Saka-cho

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=104122>

**Mayors for Peace Official Social Media Accounts**

<Twitter>   
<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>

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

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