

Mayors for Peace

1. It is a privilege to be here tonight to support the motion that Salisbury City Council should join the global movement of “Mayors for Peace”
2. Salisbury CND has long standing links with the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and each year, for the last 40 years, we have organised candle floats on the river Avon, somewhat similar to the original Japanese ceremony. The intention is to remember all those who have been victims of nuclear weapons both in war and during their development and testing. In recent years, we have been lucky enough to have been sent lanterns from Hiroshima to join our own in an expression of solidarity.
3. Here is a picture from the ceremony in Hiroshima
4. This year we were sent a dozen lanterns decorated by Art Club students from Danbara Junior High School in Hiroshima
5. And they joined our candle float from Fisherton Street Bridge to Crane Street
6. As dusk sets in, some two hundred lanterns float downstream, each candle representing the loss of around one thousand lives.
7. We have been honoured to have been sent a letter from the Mayor of Hiroshima these last three years, expressing his support for our candle float and our efforts to move towards a more peaceful world, free of nuclear weapons
8. The letters are signed by Matsui Kazumi, the Mayor of Hiroshima
9. In 1982, the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki founded the global movement of “Mayors for Peace”. There are currently eight thousand two hundred and twenty two cities involved around the world.
10. There are eighty six Mayors for Peace in the UK at the moment, and here are some of the cities that have signed up in the southern half of the UK, just as examples. READ FROM SLIDE
11. The Mayor of Hiroshima has written to the Mayor of Salisbury inviting you all to join the Mayors for Peace movement

Mayors for Peace

12. You would become part of the expanding European Chapter
13. Mayors for Peace have these three objectives: to realise a world without nuclear weapons, to realise safe and resilient cities and to promote a culture of peace.
14. Mayors for Peace call for nuclear disarmament and urge all states to join the UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear weapons, known as the TPNW for short
15. On January 22nd, 2021, the TPNW entered into force and there are currently 91 countries who have signed the Treaty, 68 of whom have fully ratified it and have it as part of their domestic legislation.
16. These are some of the activities that have been pursued by cities within the Mayors for Peace movement. They include poster exhibitions, opportunities for survivors of the bombs to tell of their experiences, the sharing of seeds from trees that survived the bomb, and the exchange of information on nuclear weapons.
17. Mayors for Peace importantly provides many opportunities to raise awareness of these issues in younger people via children's art exhibitions, webinars, youth exchange and peace education.
18. And there are, of course, opportunities for collaborations with other member cities.
19. Nuclear weapons threaten the existence of all mankind. This year, the UK has increased the upper limit on the number of nuclear warheads we hold by 40%. The cost of the Trident replacement programme is estimated to be £205 billion
20. So called "tactical" nuclear weapons, a linguistic trick to suggest these weapons might be more useable, can have a yield up to ten times that of the Hiroshima bomb. The power of today's nuclear arsenal is perhaps illustrated by the prediction that the discharge of the Trident missiles on just one of our submarines, would result in a ten year nuclear winter for large swathes of the earth

Mayors for Peace

21. Both National and Salisbury CND give our full support to the City of Salisbury taking this historic and important decision to join "Mayors for Peace". Thank you very much for your attention.