

Message from the Mayor of Hiroshima

It is both my honor and pleasure to send this message on the occasion of Candle Float 2025.

On August 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb used in human history was dropped on Hiroshima. It instantly reduced our city to a scorched plain, claiming countless lives and shattering normal life. The lives of the hibakusha are still impaired by the adverse effects of radiation on their minds and bodies.

Today, the global situation is tense. Russia's protracted invasion of Ukraine and the worsening situation in the Middle East have deepened distrust and fear among nations. If nations continue to expand nuclear and other armaments to maintain superiority over others, and the public assumption that we have to rely on military force gains ground, the realization of a peaceful world will only slip further out of reach.

In these challenging times, it is essential for civil society to unite in hope and determination, taking collective action to urge policymakers to shift their policies. In the past fiscal year, over 2.26 million people from around the world have visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. This record number is evidence of unprecedented interest in the atomic-bombed city of Hiroshima and a heightened awareness of peace. The foundation of Hiroshima's will for peace is the ardent hibakusha plea that no one else should suffer as they have.

To dispel the suspicion and doubt that create conflicts, what we can do now is share, connect to, and discuss the experiences and values of others through exchange activities such as music, art, sports, and more, to foster a circle of trust and spread the sense of safety we feel in our daily lives. As such, it is profoundly meaningful that you have organized this event, in which floating lanterns down the River Avon will allow the citizens of Salisbury, together with students of Hiroshima, to remember the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and renew the shared wish for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons. For this, you have my deepest respect.

The City of Hiroshima, together with approximately 8,500 member cities of Mayors for Peace, continues to raise peace consciousness in civil society and create a world filled with the culture of peace, thus urging policymakers relying on nuclear deterrence to shift their diplomatic policies toward peaceful solutions through dialogue. I would like to ask you to act in solidarity with us to eliminate nuclear weapons and light the way toward lasting world peace.

In closing, I extend my best wishes for the great success of this event, as well as the good health and happiness of all in attendance.

August 2025

MATSUI Kazumi Mayor

The City of Hiroshima

























*Warm thanks to Roger Elliot, who took
these pictures.*

*Massive thanks to the whole Salisbury
CND team who helped make this happen.*

*We thank the students from Kyoso School
in Hiroshima who decorated and sent us 20
lanterns to float down river with our 200
candles . We so appreciate this link with
you.*

*Thanks to the Mayor of Hiroshima for his
moving and powerful letter.*

*Profound thanks to the Coventry
Hiroshima Club who did so much to help
these links grow.*