



Tackling conflict
globally and locally

UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group

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MAYORS FOR PEACE SUPPORTS BIKE FOR PEACE TOUR AROUND SCOTLAND; FOR A JOINT CAMPAIGN TO CALL FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOLITION

The UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group is fully supporting the Norwegian group 'Bike for Peace' by bringing Norwegian Mayors together with Scottish Provosts for a joint campaign to support the call for the reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons. Bike for Peace will be travelling through Central Scotland this week with civic events planned in Edinburgh, Dundee, Perth, Stirling, Paisley and Glasgow, and a visit to see the Faslane nuclear weapons base. (1)

Mayors for Peace is a global organisation led by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that campaigns for the reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons in the world. (2) It has 6,127 members in 158 countries, making it one of the largest local authority groupings in the world. One of its Vice President Executive Cities is Manchester, whilst Glasgow City Council is an Associate Member of the Board of the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association. (3)

Bike for Peace is a Norwegian group founded by Tore Naerland in 1978, which seeks to promote peace between divided communities and calls for better environmental stewardship around the world. To date, the group has visited 104 countries bringing people together in troubled communities such as in Northern Ireland, east-west groups during the Cold War, Israel and the Palestinian Authority and Burma / Myanmar. In 2014 it is formally supporting the work of the Mayors for Peace. (4)

Earlier in March 2014, Bike for Peace launched its annual World Tour in Manchester at an event which included the former Prime Minister of Norway, Kjell-Magne Bondevik. The UK part of this tour also took in civic visits in Coventry and a meeting with MPs at the Westminster Parliament. The world tour also took in visits to France, Italy, China, Japan, the United States and Norway. Highlights of the Tour included a meeting with Pope Francis in Rome, a meeting with the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon in New York and a visit to meet the Mayors for Peace Secretariat in Hiroshima. The tour was organised jointly between Bike for Peace and Mayors for Peace to highlight the positive work of both groups around the world.

The Scottish tour commences a new phase of national tours by Bike for Peace to continue to promote the Mayors for Peace's campaign for a nuclear weapons free world. Tours of Iran and hopefully Pakistan later this year are also being planned. In 2015 a full cycle from London to Glasgow is also being planned.

Manchester's Mayors for Peace nominated representative, Councillor Mark Hackett, said:

"I am delighted that Bike for Peace is highlighting their support for the Mayors for Peace again during this week's tour around Scotland. I am sure they will get a warm welcome by Provosts, councillors and CND Scotland groups in all the towns and cities they will visit. It will also allow for a celebration of Glasgow's hosting of the 20th Commonwealth Games. I wish them well in their endeavours and for supporting the desire of Mayors for Peace in its call for a nuclear weapons free world."

Bike for Peace founder Tore Naerland said:

"When Bike for Peace was in England earlier this year we had a fantastic and warm reception in Manchester, Coventry and London. I was keen to bring our group back as soon as possible and particularly visit Scotland to support its many Mayors for Peace members, see for myself the

Faslane nuclear submarines base and bike across Scotland. We very much look forward to meeting Provosts, councillors and local peace activists during our tour and bringing our Norwegian Mayors to visit their Scottish counterparts.”

Ends

Further information: Sean Morris, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group Secretary 07771 930196 or Tore Naerland, Bike for Peace founder on +00 47 51487777.

(1) ***The Bike for Peace Scotland tour itinerary, July 16th – 19th 2014***

July 16th – Edinburgh – Dundee:

9.15am - Launch of tour in the Diamond Jubilee Room, Edinburgh City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh and then across the cycle paths of the city to the Forth Road Bridge.

4.30pm – Civic reception with the Depute Lord Provost of Dundee, Dundee City Chambers, City Square, Dundee.

July 17th – Dundee – Perth – Stirling:

12.00pm – Civic reception with the Provost of Perth in Perth & Kinross Council Offices, 2 High Street, Perth.

4.00pm – Civic reception with Bailie Mark Ruskell in the Wallace Room, Stirling Council Offices, Old Viewforth, Stirling.

July 18th – Stirling – Helensburgh / Faslane – Paisley, Glasgow:

2.30pm – Civic reception with the Provost of Renfrewshire at Paisley Abbey, Abbey Close, Paisley.

4.30pm – Civic reception with the Lord Provost of Glasgow in the Lord Provost's Dining Room, Glasgow City Chambers, George Square, Glasgow.

The Bike for Peace delegation will be led by Mayor Svein Arne Jerstad, Mayor of Kveinsdal and Tore Naerland, founder of Bike for Peace.

- (2) Further information on Mayors for Peace – <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>
- (3) Further information on the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign – <http://www.2020visioncampaign.org>
- (4) Bike for Peace Facebook page – <http://www.facebook.com/bikeforpeacenow>