



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 25th September 2014

As the first International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons approaches, the NFLA supports a major commemorative event at the UN in Geneva

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) welcomes the first International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, and is proud to be one of the co-sponsoring organisations of one of the major events of the day, taking place at the United Nations Buildings in Geneva. (1)

Under the auspices of the new coalition group Unfold Zero (2), which is providing a platform to promote nuclear disarmament through the United Nations, events are being held during the week of the UN General Assembly to commemorate the September 26th anniversary, which was decided upon by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/32 in 2013.

The NFLA is one of 75 international disarmament groups that are co-sponsoring the Geneva meeting, along with the permanent missions to the UN of Indonesia, Kazakhstan and New Zealand. Other co-sponsors include the Mayors for Peace's 2020 Vision Campaign (3), CND Scotland and Medact UK.

The Geneva meeting is being chaired by the Director General of the UN in Geneva and includes speeches from the UN Permanent Representatives of Indonesia, Kazakhstan and New Zealand. Presentations will also be given by the Mayors for Peace, the Inter Parliamentary Union and Unfold Zero. A film, 'The Man who Saved the World', will be shown highlighting a Cold War incident in 1983 when a nuclear weapons exchange came close to taking place.

The NFLA was established in November 1980 to call for a nuclear weapons free world and remains active in campaigning for that goal. We work closely with the Mayors for Peace and national and international disarmament NGOs for that aim. We are delighted that this International Day has been established and plans to commemorate it each year with events. On October 3rd, the NFLA Steering Committee will meet to consider its strategy for dealing with nuclear weapons in a year that will include the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and the 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings. On October 3rd a special meeting of the UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group will also meet to discuss developing a national chapter and taking this group forward to work in solidarity with Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the 6,200+ other towns and cities that have joined Mayors for Peace.

On September 26th major events are taking place around the world in countries as diverse as Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, New Zealand and the United States. We have no doubt the number of these events will increase as knowledge of this international anniversary gets more widely known.

NFLA Chair, Councillor Mark Hackett said:

"I am delighted that the NFLA was asked to be a co-sponsoring organisation in support of a major event for the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. NFLA is made up of some of the UK and Ireland's largest cities, along with smaller island communities and towns which are all united around the urgent need for total nuclear weapons abolition. Over the next year, we will work with other groups to challenge all our political parties to not renew the Trident nuclear weapons programme. They should rather be more proactive in calling for the reduction and elimination of all our 200 or so nuclear weapons. I hope this anniversary, like other events over the coming year, will show the vast majority of the world supports this objective. It is time for all UK political parties to go nuclear weapons free."

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES



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For more information please contact Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary on 0161 234 3244.

Notes for editors:

- (1) Unfold Zero, 'UN in Geneva to hold commemorative event on September 25th', <http://www.unfoldzero.org/un-geneva-hold-commemorative-event-september-25>
- (2) For further information on Unfold Zero and some of the international events taking place go to: <http://www.unfoldzero.org>
- (3) Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign <http://www.2020visioncampaign.org>

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