

Mayors for Peace

2020 Vision Campaign



Presentation to the NFLA All-Ireland Forum

1st April 2011

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Overview

- What is Mayors for Peace?
- Why nuclear weapons concern us all
- The local government approach
- Situation in the UK and Ireland
- How to join Mayors for Peace



About Mayors for Peace

- One of the leading international organizations working for nuclear disarmament.
- Founded 1982 by Mayor of Hiroshima, Takeshi Araki, after 2nd UN Special Session on Disarmament.
- “Programme to Promote the Solidarity of Cities toward the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons”
- 4540 members in 150 countries.
- 2020 Vision Campaign launched in 2003.



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Demonstration in support of the second UN Special Session on Disarmament in New York, 1982. One million people took to the streets to protest against nuclear weapons.



Campaign objectives

- Total abolition of nuclear weapons
- Build solidarity and facilitate coordination among cities
- Give cities a voice in international arena
- Address related issues such as poverty, human rights and war



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Mayor Akiba and Mayor Dehaene

Mairead Maguire has nominated Nihon Hidankyo and Mayors for Peace, for the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize



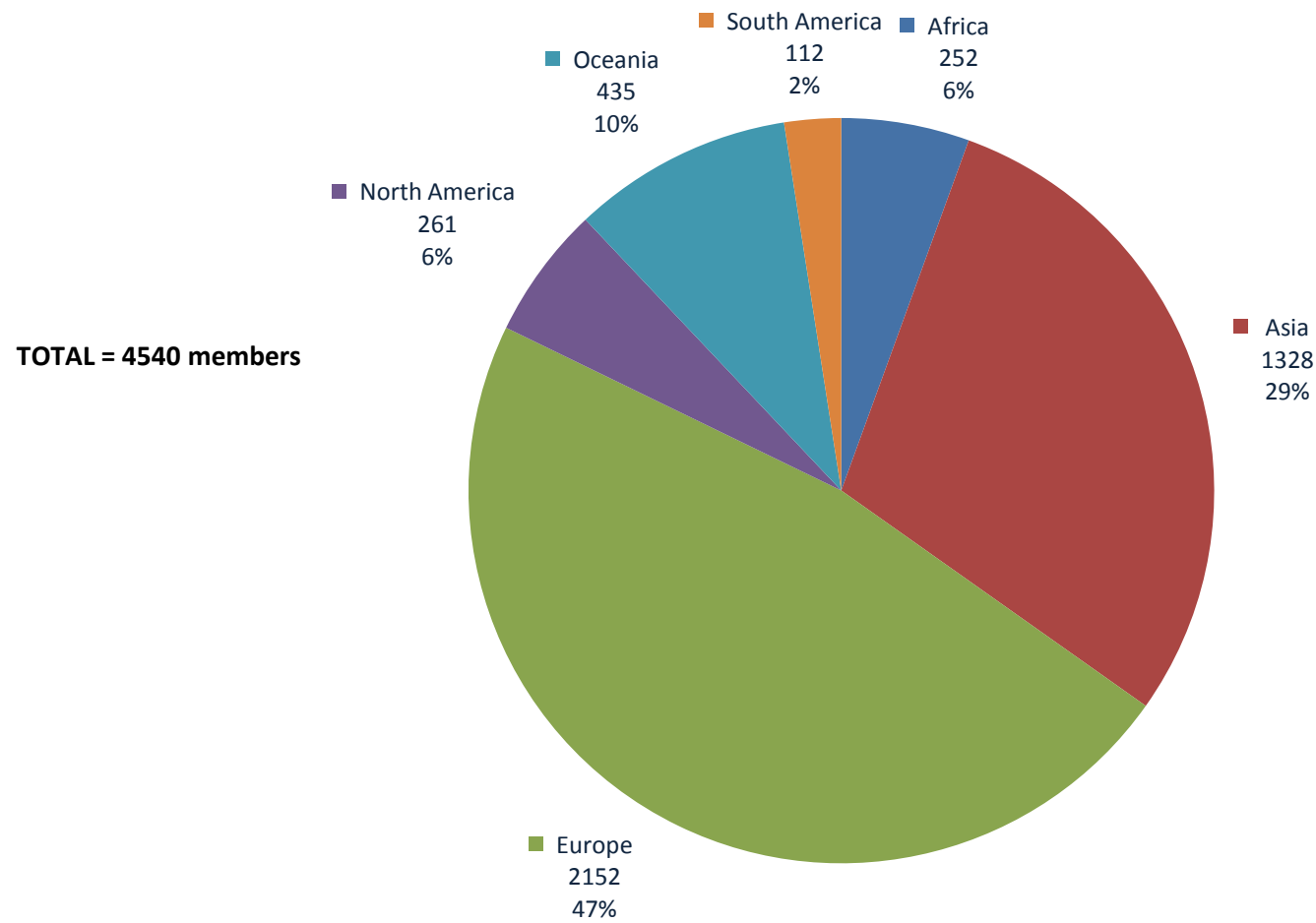


Who are our members?

- Mayors, local authorities and city leaders around the world.
- Membership constantly growing; 1000 cities joined in 2010.
- Almost a billion citizens worldwide
- Half of world's capital cities
- Links with organisations such as U.S Conference of Mayors (UCSM), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and Sister Cities International (SCI)



Membership by continent





What do we do?

- Lobby national governments and parliamentarians
- Raise awareness about need for nuclear disarmament
- Campaign in the international arena
- Organise appeals and petitions
- Consultative status at United Nations
- Recruit new cities
- General Conference every 4 years



International campaigning



Mayors for Peace Delegation in the
2nd NPT Preparatory Committee
Meeting, Geneva, 2009

- May 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference at United Nations in New York
- Mayors for Peace panel event at International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) World Congress in Basel, August 2010
- Address to Conference on Disarmament in Geneva



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Mayors for Peace delegation at the New York Peace Rally in May 2010



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Lobbying and raising awareness

- May 2010: 17 councils around Australia passed resolutions calling on the Prime Minister to support a Nuclear Weapons Convention.
- October 2010: public exhibition and meeting in Fragneto Monforte, Italy attended by citizens and local mayors.
- February 2011: 40 new members recruited at World Social Forum in Senegal





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Million-signature petition to end nuclear weapons goes on display at UN Headquarters



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon greets Japanese atomic bomb survivors at opening of exhibition

24 March 2011 – A one-million signature petition from cities around the world demanding the abolition of nuclear weapons went on exhibition at United Nations Headquarters in New York today in a ceremony attended by Japanese survivors of the first and only use of the devastating bombs.

Organized by Mayors for Peace, which was founded in 1982 by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the two cities laid waste by atomic bombs in 1945, and now counts 4,540 cities in 150 countries, the exhibition underscores the goal of transcending national borders to fight for nuclear **disarmament** in what **Secretary General** Ban Ki-moon called a "landmark occasion" that helps to build international



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Why do we need to ban nuclear weapons?

- Moral and humanitarian perspective
- Continuing danger
- Massive cost
- Legal obligation to disarm





Hibakusha testimonies

- “I pray that there never be another nuclear war like that. It was a living hell.” *Tsutaichi Matsuzaka*
- “The atomic bomb does not discriminate. The atomic bomb kills everyone from little babies to old people. And it's not an easy death. It's a very cruel and very painful way to die. I think that this cannot be allowed to happen again anywhere in the world. I don't say this just because I'm a Japanese atomic bomb survivor. I feel that people all over the world must speak out.” *Isao Kita*



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The continuing danger



- 23,000 nuclear weapons
- 4000 on high alert
- 480 000 times power of Hiroshima bomb
- 'Small exchange' of 50 nuclear weapons could cause 'largest climate change in recorded human history'
- 'The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons' NPT Review Conference



Expensive and useless

- 'Nuclear weapons have shown themselves to be completely useless as a deterrent to the threats and scale of violence we currently, or are likely to, face' Field Marshal Lord Bramall, General Lord Ramsbotham, General Sir Hugh Beach, Jan 2009.
- 9 NWS spend US\$90 billion/year on nuclear forces – enough to halve extreme poverty by 2015.
- £97 billion on Trident replacement



Legal obligation to disarm

- ICJ, 1996 - 'the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, and in particular the principles and rules of humanitarian law' (para 2E)
- Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty - 189 signatories including UK and Republic of Ireland
- Article IV; 'pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.'



A decisive moment for change?

- 2020: 75th anniversary of A-bomb attacks
- New political will for disarmament
- Recent progress; START, NPT Review Conference resolution
- Decision time for Trident replacement
- Resurgence of civil society movements



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“Nuclear disarmament is
my top priority”
UN SG Ban Ki-Moon

“I state clearly and with
conviction America's
commitment to seek the
peace and security of a world
without nuclear weapons.”
President Barack Obama





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Disarmament is an achievable goal!

- South Africa, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Ukraine have given up nuclear weapons
- Chemical and biological weapons, landmines, cluster munitions all outlawed by international community
- 119/195 states belong to nuclear-free zones
- Recent survey: 76% favour agreement to eliminate nuclear weapons



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“Some governments tell us that a nuclear weapons convention is premature and unlikely. Don’t believe them. They told us the same thing about a mine ban treaty.”

Jody Williams, Nobel Prize Winner, 1997



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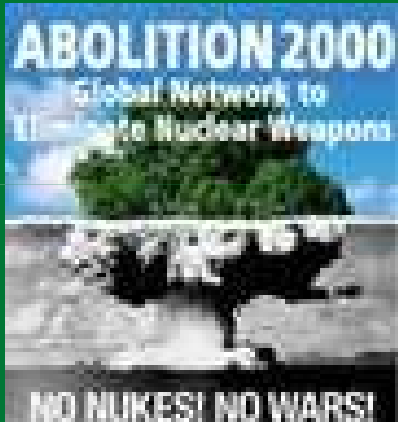


i can

international campaign
to abolish nuclear weapons



PARLIAMENTARIANS
FOR NUCLEAR
NON-PROLIFERATION
AND DISARMAMENT



ines

International Network of Engineers
and Scientists for Global Responsibility



WMD Awareness Program

TWO
FUTURES
PROJECT



CND



Reaching Critical Will

Reaching for a Critical Mass of Political Will for Nuclear Disarmament



GLOBAL ZERO

A WORLD WITHOUT
NUCLEAR WEAPONS

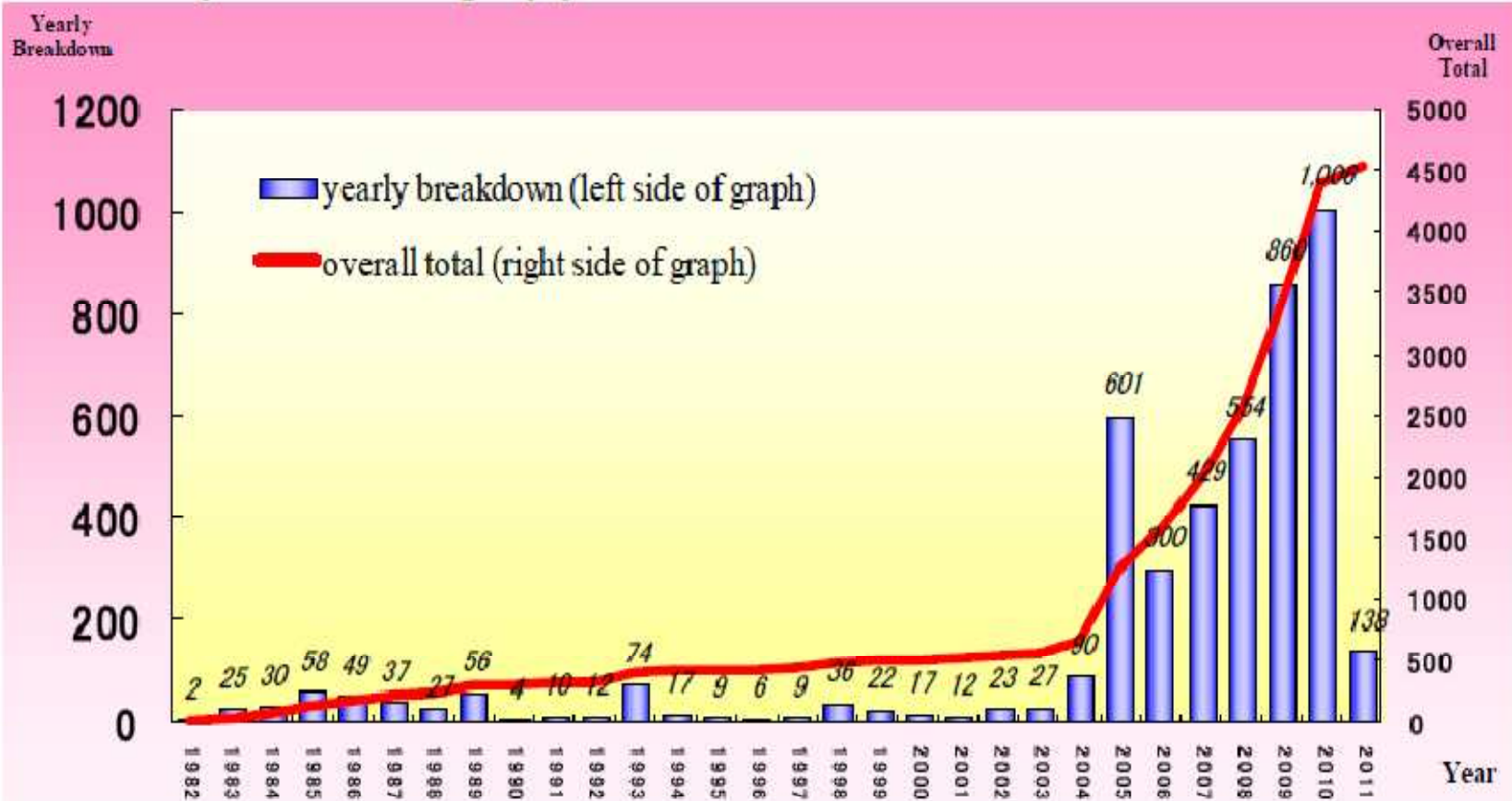




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Growth of Mayors for Peace membership

1 New city membership by year





Nuclear weapons and local government

- “Nuclear weapons are the enemy of humanity” (US General Lee Butler) i.e. they affect everyone
- Nuclear weapons specifically target civilian populations
- Nuclear weapons divert funds from local services



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Cities are not targets!

“As Mayors responsible for protecting our citizens, we are standing up to declare that we will no longer be held hostage, and we reject the right of any nation to destroy this planet’s ecosystem for any reason whatsoever. Cities are not targets!”

Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima,
President of Mayors for Peace





The local government approach

- Grassroots democracy
- Build international solidarity and consensus
- Largest direct-membership local govt. org.
- Giving cities a voice in the international arena
- Foster dialogue and cross-cultural co-operation



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“Building a more peaceful world does not start in meeting rooms in New York or Geneva. It starts from the ground up, in neighbourhoods, in communities. It starts with enlightened leaders in cities and towns around the world.”

Ban Ki-moon, May 2010, New York



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Mayors for Peace in UK and Ireland

- 11 members in Republic of Ireland (Dublin, Kilkenny,...)
- 54 members in UK (London, Manchester, ...)
- London first Capital City of a Nuclear Weapon State who registered support by signing the Cities Appeal.
- Active support and partnership with Nuclear Free Local Authorities
- UK working Group



Republic of Ireland

The NPT

- Pioneering role (Frank Aiken)
- Aiken: "a practical and vital step away from war and towards a peaceful and co-operative world which all reasonable men desire"
- Cornerstone of Irish foreign policy
- Under pressure (India, Pakistan, Israel, N-Korea)
- Time to set the clock back (now: 6 minutes, 1991: 17 minutes)



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Republic of Ireland

- Neutral country, not member of NATO > strong independent position
- No nuclear activity in Ireland today whatsoever
- Nuclear danger:
 - Radioactive pollution in Ireland due to Sellafield (Windscale) (1957)
 - Environmental pollution
 - Irish government wants to close it
 - Think of Japan today, it can happen anywhere



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UK

Trident

- 200-250 warheads in UK
- 4 nuclear submarines
- £97bn for replacement
- Commission: This is the first time in a very long time that we have had a wholesale review of nuclear weapons policy.
- Delayed twice
- The time is now!



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UK

Trident

- Crossparty support and growing consensus SO why Trident replacement?
- Robert Green (Former Royal Navy Commander): “The UK would gain a global role it has not enjoyed since the British Empire was at its zenith. This time, however, its influence and prestige would be welcomed as truly a ‘force for good’.”



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What can we do

- The only way to stop proliferation is elimination
- Press for publication and clarity what is happening now
- Build up solidarity among cities
- Raise awareness of the need for abolition



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HOW TO JOIN MAYORS FOR PEACE

- Membership is completely free
- Approval of council/mayor
- Fill in a registration form and return it to the International Secretariat in Hiroshima:

Mayors for Peace Secretariat
1-5 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku,
Hiroshima 730-0811
JAPAN



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Find out more

- Visit www.2020vc.org or www.mayorsforpeace.org
- Contact us:

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