



# Information

**Mayors for Peace UK and Ireland Chapter Statement, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

## **Mayors for Peace sends its deepest sympathy and solidarity to those killed and injured in the terrorist incident in Manchester**

The UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter – the constituent chapter of the international Mayors for Peace movement – which is based in Manchester City Council, joins with Executive Members of Mayors for Peace, led by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to remember those who tragically died in Manchester in a terrorist incident on the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May.

The Chapter, which is led by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, along with all Executive Board members of Mayors for Peace, sends its sympathy and joins in solidarity with the city of Manchester after the tragic events of the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup> May, which has seen at present 22 people killed and 59 seriously injured after a terrorist attack at Manchester Arena in the city centre. (1)

The Chapter and the Executive Board members fully supports the words of the **Leader of Manchester City Council, Councillor Sir Richard Leese**, speaking outside Manchester Town Hall yesterday, when he said: "This is an absolutely horrifying incident and our thoughts are with everyone affected, especially those who have lost loved ones or been injured and traumatised.

(The) attack is a monstrous act but also a deeply futile one. Manchester is a proud, strong city and we will not allow terrorists who seek to sow fear and division to achieve their aims.

We give heartfelt thanks to our emergency services for their response and our council staff are doing all they can to support." (2)

This incident follows on from a litany of similar events that have taken place in recent years in the likes of Brussels, Paris, Nice, Istanbul, Berlin, Stockholm and London, many of whom are members of the Mayors for Peace. By attacking cities in such an indiscriminate way, the aim is to harm innocent peace-loving people. It is an attack on all of those who want to see a more peaceful world.

Manchester is a city of Peace and has been a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, led by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, since 2001. The City Council works closely with Executive Members of Mayors for Peace to achieve ways to create a more peaceful world, free of weapons of mass destruction. The Mayors for Peace Executive and UK and Ireland Chapter members also want to see our own towns and cities being beacons of peace, tolerance and understanding and these tragic events affect all of us in the UK and the Republic of Ireland, and across the world.

Our thoughts are currently with those directly affected in this incident and the people of Manchester, but they remain also with the many other people and communities across our world who live under the threat of terrorism and the scourge of urban civil war.

We stand together for peace and an end to violence in all its many forms.

## **THE UK & IRELAND CHAPTER OF MAYORS FOR PEACE**

An online book of condolence is available for anyone who wishes to make a personal statement – <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TKKJ2>

A 'We Love Mcr Emergency Fund' has been launched by Manchester City Council in partnership with the British Red Cross to support the people who have been injured or bereaved by the attack. (3) Commenting on the fund, the **Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Eddy Newman** said: "We are incredibly grateful to the huge amount of people reaching out to offer their support. This incredible response is a testament to the true spirit of the city of Manchester, which remains open for business despite this horrific attack." (4)

Manchester City Council held a special vigil event last night outside Manchester Town Hall led by the Lord Mayor of Manchester with national political leaders, the Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham, the Leaders and Mayors of the 10 Greater Manchester local authorities, faith leaders and the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, representing the emergency services.

The vigil concluded with an inspirational poem, 'This is the Place' by Manchester-born poet Tony Walsh, which summed up the solidarity, vitality and community of Manchester. It includes the words: "Because this is a place that has been through some hard times: oppressions, recessions, depressions, and dark times. But we keep fighting back with Greater Manchester spirit. Northern grit, Northern wit, and Greater Manchester's lyrics. And these hard times again, in these streets of our city, but we won't take defeat and we don't want your pity. Because this is a place where we stand strong together, with a smile on our face, greater Manchester forever." (5)

Ends

For further information contact the Chapter Secretary, Sean Morris on 00 44 (0)161 234 3244.

Notes:

- (1) The statement of support and solidarity was agreed by members of the Mayors for Peace Executive Board and supported by the Chapter. Members of the Mayors for Peace Executive Board include the cities of Manchester, Hiroshima (Japan), Nagasaki (Japan), Halabja (Iraq), Granollers (Spain), Malakoff (France), Hannover (Germany), Ypres (Belgium), Malakoff (France), Biograd na Moru (Croatia), Frogn (Norway), Brussels (Belgium), Sarajevo (Bosnia and Hercegovina), Volgograd (Russia), Muntinlupa (Philippines), Fongo-Tongo (Cameroon), Mexico City (Mexico), Bangkok (Thailand), Fremantle (Australia), Semey (Kazakhstan), Cochin (India), Montreal (Canada), Wellington (New Zealand), Santos (Brazil), Cartago (Costa Rica), Bogota (Colombia), Des Moines (USA) and Tehran (Iran).
- (2) Manchester City Council media release, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017  
[http://www.manchester.gov.uk/news/article/7686/incident\\_at\\_manchester\\_arena](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/news/article/7686/incident_at_manchester_arena)
- (3) We Love Mcr Emergency Fund for those affected by the attack of the 22<sup>nd</sup> May – donate at <http://www.redcross.org/manchester>, call 0300 456 4999 or through any British Red Cross shops.
- (4) Manchester City Council media release, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017  
[http://www.manchester.gov.uk/news/article/7688/the\\_we\\_love\\_manchester\\_emergency\\_fund\\_launched\\_in\\_partnership\\_with\\_the\\_british\\_red\\_cross](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/news/article/7688/the_we_love_manchester_emergency_fund_launched_in_partnership_with_the_british_red_cross)
- (5) Text from 'This is the Place' by Manchester poet Tony Walsh:

*This is the place*

*In the north-west of England. It's ace, it's the best*

*And the songs that we sing from the stands, from our bands*

*Set the whole planet shaking.*

*Our inventions are legends. There's nowt we can't make, and so we make brilliant music*

*We make brilliant bands*

*We make goals that make souls leap from seats in the stands*

*And we make things from steel*

*And we make things from cotton*

*And we make people laugh, take the mick summat rotten*

*And we make you at home*

*And we make you feel welcome and we make summat happen*

*And we can't seem to help it*

*And if you're looking from history, then yeah we've a wealth*

*But the Manchester way is to make it yourself.*

*And make us a record, a new number one*

*And make us a brew while you're up, love, go on*

*And make us feel proud that you're winning the league*

*And make us sing louder and make us believe that this is the place that has helped shape the world*

*And this is the place where a Manchester girl named Emmeline Pankhurst from the streets of Moss Side led a suffragette city with sisterhood pride*

*And this is the place with appliance of science, we're on it, atomic, we struck with defiance, and in the face of a challenge, we always stand tall, Mancunians, in union, delivered it all*

*Such as housing and libraries and health, education and unions and co-ops and first railway stations*

*So we're sorry, bear with us, we invented commuters. But we hope you forgive us, we invented computers.*

*And this is the place Henry Rice strolled with rolls, and we've rocked and we've rolled with our own northern soul*

*And so this is the place to do business then dance, where go-getters and goal-setters know they've a chance*

*And this is the place where we first played as kids. And me mum, lived and died here, she loved it, she did.*

*And this is the place where our folks came to work, where they struggled in puddles, they hurt in the dirt and they built us a city, they built us these towns and they coughed on the cobbles to the deafening sound to the steaming machines and the screaming of slaves, they were scheming for greatness, they dreamed to their graves.*

*And they left us a spirit. They left us a vibe. That Mancunian way to survive and to thrive and to work and to build, to connect, and create and Greater Manchester's greatness is keeping it great.*

*And so this is the place now with kids of our own. Some are born here, some drawn here, but they all call it home.*

*And they've covered the cobbles, but they'll never defeat, all the dreamers and schemers who still teem through these streets.*

*Because this is a place that has been through some hard times: oppressions, recessions, depressions, and dark times.*

*But we keep fighting back with Greater Manchester spirit. Northern grit, Northern wit, and Greater Manchester's lyrics.*

*And these hard times again, in these streets of our city, but we won't take defeat and we don't want your pity.*

*Because this is a place where we stand strong together, with a smile on our face, greater Manchester forever.*

*And we've got this place where a team with a dream can get funding and something to help with a scheme.*

*Because this is a place that understands your grand plans. We don't do "no can do" we just stress "yes we can"*

*Forever Manchester's a charity for people round here, you can fundraise, donate, you can be a volunteer. You can live local, give local, we can honestly say, we do charity different, that Mancunian way.*

*And we fund local kids, and we fund local teams. We support local dreamers to work for their dreams. We support local groups and the great work they do. So can you help us, help local people like you?*

*Because this is the place in our hearts, in our homes, because this is the place that's a part of our bones.*