3. Previous Leeds Peace Lecturers

The lectures officially began early in 1987 and have taken place in Leeds Civic

Date: 31st October 2017

Subject: ICAN awarded the Nobel Peace Prize; UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace events in October; European developments and planned Chapter meeting in December

1. Introduction

This report by the Chapter Secretary provides progress with the work of Mayors for Peace since its recent August General Conference. It particularly welcomes the decision by the Nobel Committee to award the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). There have also been three important Chapter events held in October relating to the work of Mayors for Peace in Manchester of national / international interest – a re-dedication of a memorial stone to the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association (BNTVA), a reception to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Mines Advisory Group being a co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, and a ‘Project G’ schools peace education event relating to Hiroshima peace seeds donated to Manchester.

The report also provides an update of European Mayors for Peace developments and progress and plans for a significant UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace seminar in Manchester on the 1st December.

2. ICAN is awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize

On the 6th October 2017 the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to ICAN for what the Nobel Committee called its “ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons”.

Berit Reiss-Andersen, the Nobel committee chair, said: "We live in a world where the risk of nuclear weapons being used is greater than it has been for a long time." Concerns over the crisis over North Korea’s nuclear weapons programme was noted, as was ICAN’s positive role that helped lead to agreement by two thirds of UN members to support the International Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons. (1)

ICAN is a unique coalition of 468 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from 101 countries that was established in 2007. It is based in Geneva, Switzerland. Its small budget will be greatly enhanced by the Peace Award, which includes a prize of nine million Swedish kronor ($1.1 million, £846,000), the famous gold medal and a diploma. The ceremony will be held in Oslo on the 10th December. (2)

Mayors for Peace has closely interacted with ICAN since it was established in 2007 and has cooperated with it at meetings of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conferences and in the ‘Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons’ conferences and negotiation that led in July to the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty. The Secretary General of Mayors for Peace, Yasuyoshi Komizo, met with the Executive Director of ICAN, Beatrice Fihn, at their offices in Geneva to present ICAN with a letter of congratulations and thanks from the President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor Kazumi Matsui of Hiroshima. (3) The letter is attached below at Appendix 1.

THE UK & IRELAND CHAPTER OF MAYORS FOR PEACE

c/o Nuclear Policy, City Policy Section, Level 3, Town Hall Extension, Manchester, M60 3NY
Tel: 0161 234 3244   E-Mail: s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk   Website: http://www.mayorsforpeace.org
The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to ICAN is both timely and well deserved. The alarming conflagration and ‘war of words’ between North Korea and the United States has brought the very real prospect of conflict in North East Asia. Similarly, President Trump’s decision not to certify the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to Iran’s nuclear programme potentially brings another sensitive nuclear proliferation issue back into focus. As ICAN noted on President Trump’s decision: “The JCPOA, like the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, reflects the urgent global imperative to eliminate nuclear weapons and the grave threat they pose. President Trump’s attempt to disrupt the Iran deal, despite the fact that the IAEA has repeatedly certified that Iran is complying with its terms, is a jarring reminder of the immense nuclear danger now facing the world and the urgent need to eliminate these weapons.” (4)

Amidst this real sense of tension, the agreement of 122 countries to an International Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons is all the more important. The Nobel Prize Committee has a number of times sought to celebrate positive moves towards steps to bring about multilateral nuclear weapons disarmament, most recently when President Obama was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2009 for his Prague Speech and wider initiatives on arms control and nuclear security.

The UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter warmly welcomes ICAN receiving the Nobel Peace Prize and congratulates the dedication of the staff who have worked so effectively with a number of UN members (like Ireland, Austria, South Africa) to deliver broad majority support for the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty. As ICAN said in its statement thanking the Nobel Committee (the full text is attached below as Appendix 2), the award “shines a (much) needed light on the path the ban treaty provides towards a world free of nuclear weapons. Before it is too late we must take that path.” (5)

3. **The Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony and associated events**

The ceremony to confer the Nobel Peace Prize will take place on Sunday December 10th in Oslo City Hall. A substantial number of representatives from the coalition groups that make up ICAN will be in attendance.

There are initial plans as well to hold a number of associated events over the weekend of 9th – 11th December to bring the issues around nuclear weapons to as wide an audience as possible, both in Oslo and around the world. For example, the German Mayors for Peace Chapter is working with German NGOs to stream the coverage in Oslo to city and town halls around the country and to special parties celebrating ICAN’s prize. ICAN groups in the UK are meeting shortly to discuss local events they may organise.

It has been confirmed by ICAN that the Hiroshima survivor Satsuko Thirlow (who lives in Canada) will receive the prize with the ICAN Executive Director Beatrice Fihn and make a joint address. The Chapter Secretariat encourages UK and Ireland members of Mayors for Peace to issue statements of support to ICAN and Mayors for Peace prior to the December 10th ceremony and cooperate with local groups to support appropriate events. Once there is more clarification on the plans for the ceremony and associated events, the Secretariat will seek to provide more information to its members.

4. **Future developments at the United Nations with nuclear weapon disarmament talks**

The main priority for Mayors for Peace, ICAN and other international groupings seeking multilateral nuclear disarmament is to encourage those states that supported the development of the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty at the United Nations to ratify it in their national Parliaments. An international treaty needs a minimum of 50 states to ratify it into their own national law for it to then become part of international law.

The Mayors for Peace International Secretariat has written to all UN members urging them to ratify the Treaty as soon as possible. A number of states did so as early as the UN General Assembly session in September, but it is hoped, and expected, the goal to reach the minimum number of 50 ratified states could be achieved by mid-2018.

Obviously linked to this initiative is finding ways to encourage Nuclear Weapon States, NATO members and states under the ‘nuclear weapons umbrella’ like Australia and Japan to reverse
their opposition to joining the Treaty. One way to try to create some momentum is seeking engagement with attending the 2018 United Nations High-level Conference (UNHLC) for Nuclear Disarmament.

As the group Unfold Zero has noted, the Non-Aligned Movement of states at the UN has submitted a draft resolution to the UN General Assembly laying out the general mandate and dates for the 2018 United Nations High-Level Conference for Nuclear Disarmament. The vote at the United Nations General Assembly will take place between October 26th and November 2nd 2017.

A joint letter between UK based disarmament is being developed among ICAN UK members urging the United Kingdom government to vote in favour of the resolution (or at least to abstain). As Unfold Zero have noted, recent UNHLCs on sustainable development, climate change, oceans and refugees have all been successful, despite what have often been quite difficult political environments.

An UNHLC on Nuclear Disarmament has the authority to call for ‘effective nuclear disarmament measures’ to pave the way for a nuclear weapons convention (a global treaty which would include the nuclear-armed States and would prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons). Such measures could include:

• comprehensive measures like the ban treaty which is currently only supported by non-nuclear states (a goal is to get 100 countries signing by the end of the UNHLC);
• regional measures, such as the creation of nuclear weapon free zones in the Middle East and North-East Asia;
• incremental measures like de-alerting, no-first-use and stockpile reductions that could be supported by the nuclear-armed States, and could reduce the risks of nuclear war occurring by accident, miscalculation or intent.

Unfold Zero notes that three nuclear-armed States have to date supported the draft resolution, along with over 120 non-nuclear countries. The UK Government, in answers to questions in the UK parliament from MPs who are members of Parliamentarians for Non-proliferation and Nuclear Disarmament (PNND), has indicated that they are undecided on whether to attend the UNHLC.

Unfold Zero also noted that the UK Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, Ambassador Matthew Rowland, participated as a speaker in a roundtable event organised by the NGO in Geneva in September. Although Ambassador Rowland was critical of the ban treaty within this event, he gave suggestions on how the 2018 UNHLC could be useful to make progress on incremental measures, and affirmed that the UK is still open to the possibility of attending. (6)

The Chapter Secretariat sees this as one of the various strategies that will need to be used to continue the momentum of disarmament talks created by the Prohibition Treaty discussion. The Nobel ceremony will also allow the opportunity to look at ways to engage with NATO states to emphasise that it is possible to support the Prohibition Treaty without straying from their roles as a NATO member.

5. UK and Ireland Chapter events – British nuclear test veterans

In October, Mayors for Peace Vice President and Lead City Manchester Council hosted three significant events which link in to its support for the wider remit of the organisation to support a nuclear weapons free and more peaceful world. These events have a resonance for members across the Chapter and further afield.

The first of these was held on the 5th October by the Cenotaph in St Peter’s Square, Manchester, just behind Manchester Town Hall. The Cenotaph complex now includes a memorial stone to local members of the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association (BNTVA). The stone used to be part of the Manchester Peace Gardens complex (a new site for the Peace Gardens is being looked for due to a major expansion of the tram network to accommodate a new line) in St
Peter’s Square, and it was on the request of the BNTVA that the Council has agreed to place the refurbished memorial stone on a plinth in the new Cenotaph complex.

The 5th October ceremony was led by the Chaplain to the BNTVA, the Very Revd Nicholas Frayling, and was hosted by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Eddy Newman. Amongst the attendees to the ceremony were local multi-faith leaders, the Leader of Manchester City Council, Sir Richard Leese, and senior councillors from the political groups on the Council, the Chair, Vice Chair, Trustees and members of the BNTVA (and their families), the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, members of local British Legion branches, and members of the Friends of Manchester Peace Gardens group.

The ceremony also included a civic reception at which the Lord Mayor of Manchester and the Lead Member for Veterans, Councillor Tommy Judge, talked of the Council’s unanimous support for the BNTVA and its ongoing campaign for justice and compensation for illnesses it believes have occurred due to radiation exposure from the tests.

The ceremony was held on the 5th October as it coincided with the 65th anniversary of the first test of a British nuclear weapon. These tests took place at Maralinga in Australia, as well as at Emu Field, Christmas Island and the Malden Islands. Thousands of military personnel and merchant seamen took part in the tests. The UK is the only one of the nuclear weapon states (as well as a number of Commonwealth countries), who has not given specific compensation to its nuclear test veterans for illnesses they believe is due to radiation exposure. (7)

The BNTVA are seeking to re-dedicate other memorial stones to their members in the following locations:
- Portsmouth - Cathedral Gardens of Remembrance
- Risca (South Wales) - Cenotaph Grounds
- Leicester - St James the Great Church, Peace walk
- Birmingham - St Thomas Peace Gardens
- Newcastle-upon-Tyne - St Thomas the Martyr Chapel Grounds
- Manchester - Town Hall, the Cenotaph Grounds
- London, West Ham - All Saints Church, Church Street. E15
- Liverpool - Garden of Peace, St John's Gardens
- Leeds – Leeds Minster, Garden of Remembrance
- Billingham, Middlesbrough
- Spalding - Peace Gardens
- Paisley, Renfrewshire – Outside Renfrewshire Council offices, opposite Paisley Abbey

UK and Ireland members of Mayors for Peace are asked to contact Nigel Heaps, BNTVA – nheaps@bnassociates.ltd about supporting such events or considering placing a memorial stone to the veterans in your own Council’s area.

Photos from the ceremony are attached as Appendix 3.

6. Chapter events – Mines Advisory Group and the Nobel Peace Prize
On the 12th October, a special civic reception was held in Manchester Town Hall to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Manchester-based Mines Advisory Group (MAG) being a co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

The 2007 Nobel Peace Prize was given to a coalition of groups involved in landmine clearance and education, including MAG, for the work they did to encourage support and ratification for an International Treaty to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munitions. This campaign brought together a large coalition of groups and prominent personalities who lobbied states at the UN to develop what became the International Treaty to Prohibit Landmines and Cluster Munitions. Since its inception, despite initial opposition from many of the same states that opposed the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty, it has now been fully ratified by the vast majority of UN members. This movement provided some of the inspiration for ICAN and other groups to develop a similar strategy on the nuclear weapons issue.
MAG works in countries around the world where landmines require clearance after conflict and / or civil war. They also develop education programmes to educate young people and communities of the dangers of landmines and cluster munitions and produce exhibitions to show the dangers of such weapons. MAG was Manchester’s first Nobel Peace Laureate and it remains delighted that the group’s international headquarters is in the city.

The civic reception allowed the Council to note that MAG’s presence in Manchester is part of the rich tapestry of organisations and individuals that have contributed to its radical history of movements who have promoted peace and social justice. MAG has provided an active support for the Manchester City Centre Peace Trail (see http://www.discoverpeace.eu) and wish to encourage other humanitarian organisations to consider the city as a place to hold their own headquarters.

At the civic reception the Lord Mayor of Manchester urged MAG to continue to spread their positive work around the world. The CEO of MAG, Jane Cocking, welcomed the strong support provided by Manchester City Council and other prominent supporters and outlined the scale of the work of groups like MAG to remove the huge number of such weapons that remain around the world. She also noted that MAG has recently been successful in winning a UK Aid Match scheme run by the Department for International Development, bringing charities, the British public and the UK government together to collectively change the lives of some of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people. As part of this for every £1 donated to MAG’s ‘Walk without Fear’ appeal from 24th September to Christmas Eve, the government will contribute £1 of UK aid to enable the charity to go further in changing and saving lives, up to a total of £5 million. (8)

Amongst the prominent attendees to the reception were the founders of MAG, Rae and Lou McGrath, and MAG Global Ambassadors Sir Bobby Charlton and Spar CEO Debbie Robinson. Pictures from the civic reception are attached as Appendix 4.

7. Chapter events – Project G schools event and the Hiroshima seeds initiative

On the 18th October, the third prominent Mayors for Peace event held in Manchester took place at Manchester Museum, which is part of the University of Manchester.

In 2015, Manchester received from Hiroshima a number of seedlings that derive from a gingko tree damaged by the atomic bombing of the city, which grew buds again the following year. The tree is seen as a powerful symbol of rebirth after a disaster (it was thought nothing may grow again in Hiroshima for at least 75 years) and of peace.

Manchester has been growing its seeds at the National Trust owned Dunham Massey estate, which is close to Manchester Airport (9). As part of this initiative, which it has called ‘Project G’ (for gingko), it has cooperated with six Manchester primary schools and children between the ages of 7 – 9. In 2015, children from these schools (Webster Primary School, St Margaret Mary’s RC Primary School, Heald Place Primary School, Manley Park Primary School, St Bernard’s RC Primary School and Birchfields Primary School) painted posters and wrote poems reflecting on the Hiroshima bomb attack and the role of nature in recovering from terrible disaster. Hiroshima was so impressed with this project that the Mayor of Hiroshima joined with the Lord Mayor of Manchester to meet some of the schoolchildren at a special reception held in the Rutherford Institute in Manchester University, the location where the atom was first split.

The artwork and the project was also profiled at the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Hiroshima and Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremonies held by Manchester City Council at Manchester Museum. Within each of these ceremonies, paper crane making workshops were held for children. In April 2017, as part of a national tour, two hibakushas or survivors of the Hiroshima bomb also spoke of their experiences to children from Manley Park Primary School and took questions from the highly engaged children (see Mayors for Peace Briefing 10).

This event in October replicated a similar event held within the 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace held recently in Nagasaki, at which Hiroshima and Nagasaki schoolchildren worked on school peace plans with Mayors for Peace staff to promote the work of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and other Mayors for Peace Lead Cities. (10)
After an opening speech to the children from the Lord Mayor of Manchester, two Manchester students who had recently been to Hiroshima on Mayors for Peace exchange visits, Rachel Kean and Chris Moss, talked about the Japanese city and their own experience to the children.

The schoolchildren, with their teachers, then worked through a series of questions of what peace and conflict meant to them at their school, city and the wider world. They then put posters together of the work their school would do to promote peace within a School Peace Plan. Emily Chandler from Dunham Massey, and the Council’s Biodiversity Officer Dave Barlow also talked to the children about the importance of trees and it was announced that the six original participating schools would receive their gingko trees (which are now large enough to be planted outside) at the end of November. It is planned to hold a follow-up event at which the children can present their Peace Plans to the Lord Mayor and University Chancellor Lemn Sissay in the near future. Photos from the event are attached at Appendix 5. An excellent report on the event, including video interviews with some of the children is on the ITV ‘Granada Reports’ webpages at this link - https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2017-10-26/watch-manchester-primary-school-pupils-talk-about-the-importance-of-peace/.

The Hiroshima seeds initiative has seen gingko peace trees being planted all over the world – last week for example the Mayors for Peace Secretary General went to see the gingko trees planted in Geneva at the UN buildings. In the UK and Ireland, gingko tree projects are being developed in Edinburgh, the Shetland Islands, Hull and Oldham. It is hoped to send some seeds shortly to Sheffield and to other members. Should members wish to receive gingko tree seeds please contact the Chapter Secretary, Sean Morris – s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk.

Manchester is currently deciding the locations for its other 9 gingko peace trees, with one of them already allocated for Manchester Children's Hospital. The city was also recently honoured to be a recipient of a sapling tree from New York, which derives from a tree damaged in the September 11th 2001 terrorist attack, which was saved from the site and then regrown. This tree is a symbol of solidarity between the 9/11 Museum and New York City and the City of Manchester after the terrorist attack at Manchester Arena on the 22nd May 2017. (11)

8. European Mayors for Peace developments
At the Executive meeting of Mayors for Peace held recently in Nagasaki, it was agreed that the organisation would develop a dual campaign approach – the principal international campaign of a world free from nuclear weapons and Chapter-led campaigns to promote relevant peace issues such as tackling the refugee and climate change crises, the increased levels of terrorism affecting many towns and cities, and the growth of violence in general.

Such a wider level of issues is of real interest to European lead cities. A conference call was held in October to discuss how to take these issues forward, as well as participating in some way with the Nobel Peace ceremony in December. It was agreed that the development of a more coordinated European structure and a Mayors for Peace Advisor to lead on such matters should be pursued in close cooperation with Hiroshima. It was also agreed that there was a real need to develop Lead Cities of Mayors for Peace in eastern Europe (at present Volgograd and Sarajevo are Lead Cities) to complement those in western and central Europe (such as Manchester, Hanover, Malakoff, Ypres, Frogn, Biograd na Moru and Granollers).

It is hoped to develop such measures further for discussion and agreement at the next Mayors for Peace Executive meeting being held in Geneva (as part of the NPT Preparatory Conference) in May 2018 and to be actively in place and full operation going into the 2019 Mayors for Peace Executive Conference, being proposed for Hanover.

9. UK & Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter meeting in Manchester
The UK and Ireland Chapter meets twice a year at present. It was felt for the upcoming meeting on the 1st December at the LEAF Centre, 113 – 115 Portland Street, Manchester that it should be in the form of an informative seminar of expert speakers. A draft flyer is being developed for it with speakers who will talk about the Nobel Peace Prize and the international nuclear weapons debate, the UK debate and the work that the Manchester ‘We Stand Together’ campaign is pursuing after the recent terrorist attack. (12) The draft flyer is attached as Appendix 6.
10. Bike for Peace on the island of Ireland, May 2018

Mayors for Peace have cooperated with the Norwegian based group Bike for Peace for a number of years. Bike for Peace seek to bring communities together in places of conflict through the mode of cycling, as well as organising bike rides to promote a message of peace. English Mayors for Peace members took part in a ‘World Cycle for Peace’ event in 2013 and Scottish members took part in a Scottish cycle for peace event in 2014, prior to the independence referendum. Bike for Peace are looking to hold a cycling tour in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in May 2018 to promote peace at a time of increased tension with the ongoing suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly. The Chapter Secretariat are in discussion with the Bike for Peace group over the dates and locations for this tour and the involvement of Norwegian Mayors and professional cyclists within it, and will provide more details shortly.

11. Conclusion and recommendations

This report has highlighted the real positive benefit there is to the nuclear disarmament movement as a whole from the decision to award ICAN the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize. The Mayors for Peace at the international level, and members within the UK and Ireland, will welcome and congratulate ICAN on achieving this great honour.

The benefits of the increased exposure of the nuclear weapons issue should be realised at the upcoming Nobel Peace Ceremony on December 10th. Prior to this the UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter meeting on the December 1st in Manchester is an opportunity to promote some of the issues in the remit of the organisation. Member authorities and interested non-member authorities are welcome and encouraged to attend this meeting.

The three recent Manchester based events with the BNTVA, the Mines Advisory Group and promoting the Hiroshima peace seeds initiative are all of relevance for Chapter members. The Chapter Secretariat encourages members that hold relevant meetings on issues around peace, community cohesion and humanitarian matters to inform them so that they can be covered in future reports. Members interested in receiving gingko tree seeds or other resources should contact the Chapter Secretariat.

The expanding role of the Mayors for Peace – to promote on one side the goal of a nuclear weapons free world with the local promotion of dealing with issues like refugees, terrorism and political violence, and community cohesion in general – is an opportunity for all Chapter members to promote the organisation at the local level. All Councils support many humanitarian initiatives in an average year and it would be welcome to promote their membership of Mayors for Peace when organising them. It would also be useful for Member Councils to consider appointing a representative – whether it be the Mayor / Provost, a Council Leader or a nominated councillor – to engage more directly with the Secretariat and attend its two planned meetings in 2018. The organisation can only get stronger with more activity from its members.

12. References

(1) Nobel Prize.org – the official website of the Nobel Prize – https://www.nobelprize.org
(7) BNTVA website - https://bntva.com
(8) MAG website – http://www.maginternational.com
(9) National Trust Dunham Massey Hall – http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dunham-massey
(11) Manchester City Council media release, 12th September – http://www.manchester.gov.uk/news/article/7770/manchester_to_receive_a_survivor_seedling_from_911_memorial_andamp_museum
Appendix 1

Letter of congratulations from Mayors for Peace it ICAN over the Nobel Peace Prize

October 13, 2017

Ms. Beatrice Fihn
Executive Director
International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

Dear Ms. Fihn:

I trust this letter finds you in the best of health and spirits.

I would like to congratulate ICAN on being awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize. As the President of Mayors for Peace, which shares your organization’s goal of abolishing nuclear weapons, and as the Mayor of Hiroshima, the A-bombed city that desires the realization of a peaceful world without nuclear weapons, let me extend my heartfelt congratulations and applause. The *hibakusha* of Hiroshima and Nagasaki rejoice at the news of this prize being awarded owing to, as you have recognized, long-term joint efforts made by *hibakusha* and the like-minded members of ICAN.

Since its inception in 2007, your organization has consistently worked in collaboration with A-bomb survivors as well as civil society partners around the world to appeal to national governments and the international community for the need of a legal prohibition of nuclear weapons. This July, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was finally adopted. I believe this achievement is the result of the tireless and earnest efforts made by your organization, in solidarity with *hibakusha*; Mayors for Peace; and civil society partners, to realize a legal ban on nuclear weapons by focusing on their inhumanity. I am sure that worldwide media coverage on the Nobel Peace Award will raise awareness of inhumanity of nuclear weapons and boost the efforts calling for their elimination.

Amid the increasing tensions in the international community over North Korea, some insist that the strategy of nuclear deterrence should be used to solve issues; we feel the risk of nuclear proliferation growing ever closer. Given such circumstances, I would like to emphasize all the more that we should now work to get nuclear-armed states and their allies under the nuclear umbrella to join in the collective desire of civil society: our future must be free from nuclear weapons.

We at Mayors for Peace resolve to further strengthen solidarity with member cities and people around the world to enhance the international momentum towards the abolition of nuclear weapons. We are intent on working fervently to encourage policymakers to enact policy changes for the prohibition of nuclear weapons by means of these initiatives. Mayors for Peace would like to further promote collaboration with ICAN and its members to achieve our common goal. Your kind understanding and cooperation will be highly appreciated.

In closing, I offer my best wishes for the further development of your organization.

Sincerely yours,

松井 賢
MATSUI Kazumi
President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor of Hiroshima
ICAN statement on being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 2017

Nobel Peace Prize 2017
October 6, 2017

It is a great honour to have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2017 in recognition of our role in achieving the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This historic agreement, adopted on 7 July with the backing of 122 nations, offers a powerful, much-needed alternative to a world in which threats of mass destruction are allowed to prevail and, indeed, are escalating.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a coalition of non-governmental organizations in one hundred countries. By harnessing the power of the people, we have worked to bring an end to the most destructive weapon ever created—the only weapon that poses an existential threat to all humanity.

This prize is a tribute to the tireless efforts of many millions of campaigners and concerned citizens worldwide who, ever since the dawn of the atomic age, have loudly protested nuclear weapons, insisting that they can serve no legitimate purpose and must be forever banished from the face of our earth.

It is a tribute also to the survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki—the hibakusha—and victims of nuclear test explosions around the world, whose searing testimonies and unstinting advocacy were instrumental in securing this landmark agreement.

The treaty categorically outlaws the worst weapons of mass destruction and establishes a clear pathway to their total elimination. It is a response to the ever-deepening concern of the international community that any use of nuclear weapons would inflict catastrophic, widespread and long-lasting harm on people and our living planet.

We are proud to have played a major role in its creation, including through advocacy and participation in diplomatic conferences, and we will work assiduously in coming years to ensure its full implementation. Any nation that seeks a more peaceful world, free from the nuclear menace, will sign and ratify this crucial accord without delay.

The belief of some governments that nuclear weapons are a legitimate and essential source of security is not only misguided, but also dangerous, for it incites proliferation and undermines disarmament. All nations should reject these weapons completely—before they are ever used again.

This is a time of great global tension, when fiery rhetoric could all too easily lead us, inexorably, to unspeakable horror. The spectre of nuclear conflict looms large once more. If ever there were a moment for nations to declare their unequivocal opposition to nuclear weapons; that moment is now.

We applaud those nations that have already signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and we urge all others to follow their lead. It offers a pathway forward at a time of alarming crisis. Disarmament is not a pipe dream, but an urgent humanitarian necessity.

We most humbly thank the Norwegian Nobel Committee. This award shines a needed light on the path the ban treaty provides towards a world free of nuclear weapons. Before it is too late, we must take that path.
Photos from the BNTVA memorial stone ceremony, 5th October

The BNTVA memorial stone with remembrance wreaths

A piper pipes a lament at the remembrance ceremony

Multi-faith leaders, BNTVA leaders, the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lieutenant of Greater Manchester at the memorial service

The memorial stone covered with a Union flag before the ceremony

The Lord Mayor of Manchester with Cllr Judge and the BNTVA at the civic reception in Manchester Town Hall
Photos from the civic reception for the 20th anniversary of Mines Advisory Group being a co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, 12th October

The Lord Mayor of Manchester formally opens the civic reception for the 20th anniversary of Mines Advisory Group receiving the Nobel Peace Prize. A copy of the prize can be seen on the white table next to the Lord Mayor.

MAG Ambassador Sir Bobby Charlton with the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Eddy Newman at the reception

MAG Co-Founder Lou McGrath, Sir Bobby Charlton and MAG CEO Jane Cocking at the reception
Photos from the Project G and promoting peace in Manchester schools event, 18th November

The Lord Mayor of Manchester opens the Project G meeting

Students from St Margaret’s Mary School present their peace plan with MCC Biodiversity Officer Dave Barlow

Manchester Met University student Chris Moss explains his Hiroshima visit to the children

One of the original Project G pieces of art work exhibited at the event

Manchester’s gingko trees now just over 2 years old, and almost ready for planting outside!
UK & Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter  
Friday 1st December, The LEAF Centre, 113 – 115 Portland Street,  
Manchester M1 6DW, 1.30pm – 3.30pm  

An uncertain world, a positive future?  
Moving Mayors for Peace forward to support initiatives for a nuclear  
weapons free and more peaceful world  

Speakers:  
- Councillor Eddy Newman, Lord Mayor of Manchester and Vice President of Mayors  
  for Peace – Building a Culture of Peace in Manchester  
- Elizabeth Minor, Article 36 & ICAN UK Co-ordinator – The Nuclear Weapons  
  Prohibition Treaty and winning the Nobel Peace Prize (invited)  
- Dr Nick Ritchie, Lecturer on International Security, York University – The Trident  
  replacement debate and how do we build multilateral disarmament with a political  
  establishment so attached to nuclear weapons? (invited)  
- Speaker from the Foundation for Peace / Warrington Peace Centre – Dealing with  
  the after-effects of the Manchester terrorist attack, assisting those affecting by it and  
  how do we de-radicalise potential terrorists? (invited)  
- Sean Morris, Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary – the future plans for the Mayors  
  for Peace 2017 - 2020