Subject: Chapter Progress report of activity September – November 2018 and beyond

1. Introduction

This report has been developed by the Chapter Secretary and provides an overview of the Chapter’s September meeting, held to celebrate International Peace Day. It also outlines recent and forthcoming events and encourages members to consider passing a resolution to support the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The events and initiatives the report will consider include:

- The actions from the Chapter’s meeting held in Clydebank Town Hall on the 20th September, and other events coinciding with International Peace Day and the Nobel Peace Prize.
- An overview of progress with gingko tree seeds sent to 6 UK Mayors for Peace members.
- Re-dedication of the memorial stone to Yorkshire members of the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association at Leeds Minster, 7th October
- A visit to the port cities Liverpool and Dublin by the Japanese ‘Peace Boat’ initiative on 16th and 17th October 2018.
- A visit to the UK of Hiroshima Legacy Ambassadors from November 4th – 7th.
- Plans for the centenary of the end of the First World War in November across Europe.
- Early discussions for a major event ‘24 Hours of Peace’ for November 10th and 11th 2019.

2. UK and Ireland Chapter meeting with NFLA and ICAN UK, September 20th

The UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter held its autumn meeting in conjunction with the NFLA Scotland Forum and members of groups that form part of ICAN UK. It was formally held to celebrate International Peace Day 2018.

The meeting was held at Clydebank Town Hall, West Dunbartonshire, and formally opened by the Provost of West Dunbartonshire, Councillor William Hendrie. It was chaired by the NFLA Scotland Convener and Glasgow City Councillor Feargal Dalton.

A joint presentation was provided by Tim Wallis and Nancy Elsen of the ICAN USA affiliated group NuclearBan.US. This group was involved in developing a number of initiatives to increase knowledge of, and support for, the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) across the United States. At present, 19 countries have fully ratified the Treaty and a further 69 countries have signed it, beginning the process of ratification. As ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) have commented, that is a faster rate of ratification than any other treaty banning weapons of mass destruction has achieved so far.

A core part of this activity has been to work with other groups to encourage towns, cities and states in the United States to pass resolutions of support for the TPNW in a manner similar to that of Parliamentarians, in order to encourage national governments to actively engage and consider signing the Treaty.

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In the seminar, Tim and Nancy talked about the over 200 towns and cities that were either declared as 'nuclear free' or members of the Mayors for Peace. Activity has taken place to both encourage them to pass resolutions on the TPNW as well as to look at other areas of relevant activity, such as pension fund divestment from companies that provide financial support to the nuclear weapons industry.

A number of town and cities have passed Council resolutions supporting the TPNW and urging the US Government to engage with it. The most influential include Baltimore and Los Angeles. This moved a step higher when the Californian Senate recently passed a similar resolution.

This theme was taken up by the Chapter Secretary, who provided a model resolution to members in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales which could be used by Councils to adapt and pass locally. A different resolution was also developed for Councils in the Republic of Ireland, welcoming the Irish Government’s support of the TPNW and urging it to continue to play a leading part in the movement calling for multilateral nuclear disarmament. The agreed model resolutions are attached as Appendix 1.

Similar activity is being developed by other Mayors for Peace Chapters. For example, in the Belgian Chapter 152 Mayors signed a letter sent to the Belgian Government calling on it to sign the TPNW. 192 members also hoisted their Mayors for Peace flag on International Peace Day, as did most members of the German Mayors for Peace Chapter. The Australian city of Melbourne has also just passed a resolution supporting the TPNW and calling on the Australian Government to sign it.

The Chapter Secretary went on to also outline the core action within Mayors for Peace to encourage their members to locally promote peace education programmes. A number of examples in Manchester were provided, such as its work with ‘Project G’ (noted below) and the Manchester City Centre Peace Trail.

Hiroshima have launched in early October a global art competition encouraging its members to work with local schools to produce art on the subject of ‘Peaceful Towns’. The Chapter welcomes this initiative and will send out information on how to take part separately to this report.

The third seminar speaker, Flavia Tudoreanu, outlined the work of Peace Education Scotland. This included a summer ‘Generation Y’ Peace Academy which brought a large group of young people together to talk about ‘what is peace’ and how they could promote it to a wider audience. Peace Education Scotland regularly visit schools with a tailored programme of resources and teachers materials. If you are interested in their work and would like them to visit a Scottish school or Council go to their website [http://www.peaceeducationscotland.org](http://www.peaceeducationscotland.org).

The joint meeting concluded with a civic reception hosted by the Provost. Representatives from a number of member Councils were in attendance at the meeting, along with national and international representatives from ICAN-affiliated groups. An excellent overview of the past year for ICAN is attached as Appendix 2. A group photo from the seminar is attached in Appendix 3.

### Other events held in the UK & Ireland and globally for International Peace Day

The Chapter event was held during a week of activity by ICAN groups based in Scotland and the wider UK. This included the Medact UK AGM and a report launched in Edinburgh by the ‘Don’t Bank on the Bomb Scotland Network’. This report highlighted that 26 British financial institutions have made an estimated £24.5 billion available to nuclear weapons companies since January 2014. The report was noted in the Chapter seminar as questions were asked as to whether a number of Council pension schemes had investments in such companies as well. The full report can be found at: [http://uk.icanw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/2018_United-Kingdom2.pdf](http://uk.icanw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/2018_U...)

Councillors at the meeting pointed out that most Council pensions schemes were often linked around a larger number of Councils, such as the Strathclyde Pension Scheme or the Greater Manchester Pension Fund, as well as sometimes other public sector bodies. It was agreed that
the Chapter Secretary should interact with the Network to understand if Council pension funds are investing in companies involved in developing nuclear weapons.

The main event of the week was a march and rally at the Faslane naval base where Trident submarines are based. Several hundred activists from around the world attended the march and leading ICAN representatives spoke to the audience. The event received a considerable amount of media interest.

A notable other event that took place on International Peace Day was at the Warrington Peace Centre on the subject of the ‘Right to Peace’ and it supported the need to create an international network of survivors who will campaign and work for peace. Speakers included the US Deputy Chief of Mission from the US Embassy; Baroness Newlove, the Victims Commissioner for England and Wales; Dr Idit Albert, a consultant clinical psychologist specialising in psychological trauma issues after major terrorist incidents; Fiona Murphy, the Associate Director of Nursing Northern Care Alliance who organised bereavement teams after the Manchester Arena attack; Cathryn Ellsmore of the Home Office unit that is responsible for the UK’s response to terrorism; Diana Fawcett, the Chief Executive of Victim Support; Dave Fortier, the President in the Boston based One World Strong Foundation assisting victims of terrorism; and a variety of speakers from the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Peace Foundation, based in Warrington.

Events were also held around the world, and the latest version of the Mayors for Peace global newsletter provides examples of some of them from the likes of Australia, Belgium, Germany, Japan, Philippines, Spain and the United States. See its website – http://mayorsforpeace.org.

4. Mayors for Peace gingko tree seeds project

One of the most attractive and engaging Mayors for Peace ‘peace education’ projects has been the issuing of gingko tree seeds from Hiroshima to members around the world.

The gingko tree the seeds are taken from was close to the hypocenter of the Hiroshima atomic bomb. It was damaged and blackened by the bomb, but the following spring began to sprout new leaves, giving a very powerful message to the citizens of Hiroshima that the city could be rebuilt.

The seeds project has been sponsored by Mayors for Peace and seeds have been sent around the world, to symbolic places like the UN buildings in Geneva, to previously war-damaged cities like Guernica and Ypres, and to Oslo prior to last year’s Nobel Peace Prize ceremony awarded to ICAN.

There are at present six members of the UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter who have taken up the offer from the International Secretariat to receive gingko seeds – Manchester, Edinburgh, Shetland Islands, Hull, Oldham and South Ayrshire Councils. Each are nurturing them in their Council garden nurseries or in cooperation with local universities, botanical gardens or National Trust sites.

All of them are using the seeds in order to promote their membership of, and commitment to Mayors for Peace, to inform their local population and as a prominent tool for peace education.

For example, Manchester initiated ‘Project G’, an art and poetry competition with local primary schools. Following a visit to meet the children from the Mayor of Hiroshima and the Lord Mayor of Manchester, the children also took part in events to develop school peace plans, and each saw a gingko tree planted in their school grounds in winter 2017. The schools are all going to take part in Hiroshima’s ‘Peaceful Towns’ art competition. A tree has also been provided to Manchester Children’s Hospital and to Manchester University, where Manchester Museum has been an active partner to the project. Trees are also ear-marked for the Dunham Massey National Trust site, where the seeds were nurtured, and to a new contemplative garden in Manchester city centre.

The Shetland Islands is an area where growing trees can be a particular challenge, due to the level of high winds it receives in any average year. As such, those trees that are grown are cared
for particularly well. One of Shetland’s gingko trees has been planted out at Bells Brae Primary School in Lerwick, with the school teaching the students the significance of the tree as part of their studies on the Second World War.

In Oldham, the Council is a key supporter of the ‘Pledge to Peace’ which encourages schools in particular to develop peace education programmes. A number of local parks have also been designated as peace parks with areas dedicated to various themes of peace. The gingko trees are being nurtured in greenhouses in Alexandra Park and a discussion is going on with participating schools as to their trees final location. This project will be publicised at the upcoming visit to Oldham of Hiroshima Peace Legacy Ambassadors (see below).

South Ayrshire Council only received their gingko seeds two months ago, but they have decided to initiate an art competition in their schools, where winning school entries will get the opportunity to have a tree planted at their school.

Some photos of these projects are attached in Appendix 3. If any UK or Ireland member of Mayors for Peace is interested in receiving some gingko seeds from Hiroshima please contact the Chapter Secretary, Sean Morris, on s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk.

5. Re-dedication of memorial stone to Yorkshire members of the British Nuclear Tests Veterans Association, Leeds Minster, 7th October

While most attention with the people affected by nuclear weapons focuses on the hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, there are other people who have been directly affected in the age of nuclear weapons.

One such group are military servicemen and merchant seamen who took part in the testing programmes of nuclear weapons. The UK’s nuclear weapons test programmes took place from 1952 onwards at sites such as Maralinga in Australia, Christmas Island and Monte Bello Island. Thousands of servicemen took part in the programme, with many members of the Merchant Navy providing support. As a result many witnessed the huge explosions on land and out to sea and the health problems that a number of them have endured, and in some cases, passed on to children and grandchildren, may have derived from radiation exposure from the tests.

In the UK, the British Nuclear Tests Veterans Association represents these men and has held a long-running campaign for justice, recognition and compensation to their members. While no UK Government has yet to provide a formal apology to the BNTVA for illnesses incurred by a number of veterans, the current government has provided funding to the Nuclear Communities Charity Fund (NCCF – http://thenccf.org), with some scientific research being undertaken of veterans by the Centre for the Health Effects of Radiation at Brunel University in London.

Both the NFLA and the Mayors for Peace has supported the BNTVA (http://www.bntva.org.uk), and one way that support has been provided is through memorial stones to deceased veterans. BNTVA are now in the process of working to cleaning and re-dedicating such memorials with the support of Councils. The first of these re-dedications took place in Manchester in October 2017, and the second took place on the 7th October, close to the 66th anniversary of the first British atomic weapon test, at Leeds Minster.

The Leeds ceremony was performed by the Canon of Leeds Minster and was held in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Councillor Graham Latty, who was himself a nuclear test veteran. The Deputy Leader of Leeds City Council, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, the NFLA English Forum Chair, the Chapter Secretary and a good number of Yorkshire veterans and their families attended the ceremony. The re-dedicated stone was unveiled by Brian Gay, a veteran living in Leeds from the very first British atomic weapon test at Maralinga, and Nigel Heaps, former Chair of the BNTVA and a member of the Board of Trustees of the NCCF.

It is hoped further ceremonies will take place next year. Photos of the moving Leeds ceremony are attached in Appendix 3.
6. Peace Boat’s Global Voyage for Peace - meetings in Liverpool & Dublin, October 16/17

Over the past three decades, Mayors for Peace members around the world have often cooperated with the Japanese group, Peace Boat.

Peace Boat is a Japan-based international non-governmental and non-profit organisation that works to promote peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development and respect for the environment. It carries out its main activities through a chartered passenger ship that travels the world on peace voyages. The ship creates a neutral, mobile space and enables people to engage across borders in dialogue and mutual cooperation at sea, and in the ports that it visits. A number of its voyages have also included hibakushas from Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Peace Boat’s 99th Global Voyage of Peace is taking place between September 1st and December 18th 2018. It included stops in Liverpool on October 16th and Dublin on October 17th. The Peace Boat delegation included two hibakushas from Hiroshima, Mrs Michiko Tsukamoto and Mrs Tamiko Sora (though unfortunately she was unwell prior to the visits to Liverpool and Dublin and could not take part), as well as the Peace Boat Group Coordinator and Youth Communicator.

In Liverpool, three events were held. The first was a civic reception with the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Christine Banks, at Liverpool Town Hall. 84 year-old Mrs Tsukamoto told her moving testimony to the Lord Mayor. She had been a few miles out of Hiroshima on the 6th August but came back into the city to look for her parents and to help in the difficult relief operation, where she was exposed to radiation. Her father was on a bridge close to the hypocentre and received terrible injuries. He died shortly after in Hiroshima port. Her mother suffered burns and damage from the building she was in collapsing. It took a number of years for her to recover from her injuries and bring up her two children, but she would die at the young age of 52, riddled with cancer. Mrs Tsukamoto has given her testimony of the need to hear such stories for a number of years now and she ended her talk calling for ‘No More Hibakushas! No More Hiroshima’s! No More Nagasaki’s!’

Following the civic reception, the delegation also spoke to A-level history students at Liverpool College and to a public meeting of the Merseyside Peace Network. The delegation was supported by the Chapter Secretary and members of Merseyside CND.

In Dublin, two events were held. The first was a civic reception with the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Nial Ring, in the Mansion House. The Lord Mayor was also moved by the testimony he heard from Mrs Tsukamoto. The delegation also met with officials from the Disarmament Section of the Department of Foreign Affairs in the Irish Government at Iveagh House. Ireland has taken a consistently progressive role on nuclear weapons matters going back decades. It was one of the governments who worked hard for the creation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in the late 1960s and it has been an instrumental partner of the New Agenda Coalition at the United Nations which assisted the agreement to deliver the TPNW. Ireland signed the TPNW on the 22nd September 2017 and it is currently going through the Dail for formal ratification. The meeting allowed the officials to talk to the Peace Boat delegation about the work they are undertaking in the United Nations and elsewhere to embed and support wider ratifications of the TPNW.

The Chapter Secretariat welcome the warm support provided by the Irish Government and Irish disarmament NGOs involved in hosting the delegation. Peace Boat have moved on up to Iceland and then go on to the United States and Central America before travelling via Hawaii to Japan in December. Photos from the two meetings are attached in Appendix 3.

7. Hiroshima Legacy Ambassadors visit to the UK, November 4th – 7th

As part of its role as a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Manchester has received an invitation from the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation to host a visit of a number of Hiroshima A-bomb Legacy Ambassadors. This will take place in early November.

Hiroshima A-bomb Legacy Ambassadors is a project to keep the message of the hibakusha alive for the longer-term. The average age of hibakusha in Hiroshima and Nagasaki has now
reached 82, and their number is inevitably declining now year by year. The Legacy Ambassadors are volunteers linked to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum who have spoken with various hibakusha and pledge to pass on their direct experiences and their hope for peace. The project also brings people who will read from the memoirs or poems of the hibakusha. Those coming to the UK in November are all fluent English speakers, and a programme has been developed between Manchester and the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation to visit schools and undertake a number of public events.

The Hiroshima delegation arrive in Manchester on November 3rd. On the 4th they will walk the Manchester City Centre Peace Trail and meet with members of Greater Manchester peace groups. On the 5th November, the 38th anniversary of Manchester declaring itself a ‘nuclear weapons free city’, the Hiroshima delegation will speak to children from Heald Place Primary School in Rusholme, Manchester. The schoolchildren have taken an active part in ‘Project G’ and have a Hiroshima gingko tree in their grounds.

In the afternoon of the 5th, the delegation will move on to Oldham Civic Centre where they will give one talk to members of Oldham’s Youth Council and then a second talk to the Mayor of Oldham and councillors from Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council.

On the 6th November the delegation have been invited to a civic reception with the Lord Mayor of Manchester in the morning and will then travel on to Coventry for a talk to schoolchildren in the city, which has an ongoing friendship agreement with Hiroshima.

The Chapter Secretariat looks forward to facilitating the visit and the next Chapter Policy Briefing will highlight these events.

8. **Centenary of the end of the First World War, November 2018**

Around Europe and the wider world, major events to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War are being planned in detail.

The Armistice that ended the First World War concluded all military operations on 11am on the 11th November, 1918. The centenary takes place on Sunday 11th November 2018, with Remembrance Sunday the usual day for events around the country at local cenotaphs and war memorials. Amongst the major events planned for the 11th November is an initiative jointly organised by the UK and the German Governments seeking the ringing of bells in faith and civic buildings in both countries. The ringing of church bells took place in 1918 to commemorate the end of the war and to remember the sacrifice of millions of soldiers and civilians.

On the 11th November there will also be an international commemorative service at St Symphorien Cemetery near Mons, Belgium, where the war began in 1914 and where the first and last casualties of the First World War lie. The day will end with a national commemorative service at Westminster Abbey, London, along with others held in Glasgow, Cardiff and Belfast, to give thanks for peace and for those who returned.

Major exhibitions have taking place this year in the UK, France, Belgium and Germany in particular to highlight the horrors of the Western Front. The Imperial War Museum sites in London and Manchester will conclude the centenary events with special exhibitions, including hosting thousands of ceramic red poppies on their sites.

UK and Irish members of Mayors for Peace are likely to be holding their own events around Remembrance Sunday. The Chapter Secretariat encourages members to include the need for ongoing peace and reconciliation as a part of such ceremonies.

Manchester closely cooperates with the Belgian city of Ypres, which is a fellow Vice President of the Mayors for Peace. A lot of British and Commonwealth citizens will be in Ypres on the 11th November 2018 given the city’s prominent role as a major frontline in the First World War. Events taking place in Ypres include a commemoration service in St Martin’s Cathedral, a service in St George’s Memorial Anglican Church, a ceremony at the Ypres War Victims Monument, a special Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, and the usual evening Last Post Ceremony at 8pm. In
addition, R.C. Sherriff's seminal First World War play 'Journey's End' will be performed by the MESH theatre company throughout the months of October and November 2018 at the Kruitmagazijn (Ammunition Store) building in Ypres.

9. Early discussions for '24 Hours for Peace', November 2019
Following the conclusion of the centenary commemorations of the centenary of the First World War, discussion is now beginning to take place about how this conflict will be remembered in the future, given that all the veterans who took part in the war are now deceased. As part of this process, Manchester will be the venue for one such event, being planned for November 2019.

The theatre director Neil Bartlett is working with the Royal Exchange Theatre to produce a full day free production called '24 Hours of Peace' which will be played from 11am on the 10th November 2019 to 11am on the 11th November 2019. The production will involve a series of readings looking at what ‘peace’ now means in the 21st century. The company developing the production are interviewing a wide series of people, groups and organisations dedicated to peace-making, peace-keeping and peace-building and the play will see the results of these interviews presented over a 24 hour period by a variety of actors, some famous, and some ordinary members of the public. Young and old will be involved in this project, which is being produced with the involvement of Manchester City Council, including the Chapter Secretary.

The production will also be aired on Resonance FM, a radio station with a daily listenership of around a million people. Further details of this exciting project will be provided as they are developed.

The production chimes with the values of Mayors for Peace in remembering the true cost of conflict and looking for ways to promote a more peaceful world.

10. Conclusions and recommendations
This report has outlined a busy couple of months of activity for the Mayors for Peace in the UK and Ireland, with a number of important events also profiled taking place in November 2018 and onwards.

Suggested recommendations for Chapter Members to follow up on include:
• Consider passing resolutions through your Council supporting the TPNW and calling on the UK and Irish Governments to engage in this process.
• Look at the ICAN ‘Don’t Bank on the Bomb’ report and investigate if your Council pension fund invests in companies that support in some way the development of nuclear weapons. If they do, encourage divestment, where practical, of such investments.
• Consider contacting the Chapter Secretariat to arrange for gingko seeds to be sent from Hiroshima to your Council.
• Work with local organisations that support the development of peace education programmes in your schools and colleges.
• Support the re-dedication of memorial stones to the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association and / or consider developing a memorial stone if there is not one in your area.
• Support the positive work of ICAN member Peace Boat. In 2019, Peace Boat will be undertaking three further voyages. The 102nd voyage will include a visit to Belfast on October 29th and 30th 2019.
• Support the visit of the Hiroshima Peace Legacy Ambassadors to Manchester and Oldham on the 5th November and Coventry on the 7th November.
• Support local events to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War be highlighting the need for ongoing peace and reconciliation.

The date for the next UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter has not been set, but is likely to be in February 2019. It is provisionally going to be in Manchester, but if a member would like to host a Chapter meeting please get in touch with the Chapter Secretariat. The Secretariat is also happy to promote and advertise any relevant events your Council may be supporting that promote the values of the Mayors for Peace for a more peaceful world.
Appendix 1

Model resolution to UK and Ireland members of Mayors for Peace on the TPNW

a) Model resolution for Councils in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

(N) Council is a member of the Mayors for Peace, the global international body of Councils working for over 3 decades to promote multilateral nuclear disarmament and a more peaceful world.

Mayors for Peace is a strategic partner of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). In December 2017, ICAN received the Nobel Peace Prize for its work in encouraging over two thirds of United Nations members to agree to the International Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). At present 69 nations have now signed this Treaty, and 19 have fully ratified it. The Treaty is expected to come into international law in 2019. However, existing nuclear weapon states, including the United Kingdom, as well as all NATO states and those in tactical alliances with NATO, such as Japan and Australia, have refused to support this process.

ICAN are working with Governments, Parliamentarians and Councils to encourage supporting the TPNW as one the most effective ways to bring about long-term and verifiable nuclear disarmament. As a supporting member of ICAN, NFLA and/or Mayors for Peace this Council fully supports the TPNW as a method to bring about multilateral nuclear disarmament.

The Council also calls on the United Kingdom Government to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:
• Renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
• Cancelling the plan to replace its entire Trident nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons;
• Actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals by supporting the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons and the ‘Good Faith’ Protocols within the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The Council will ask the Chief Executive to write to the UK Government to inform them of this resolution and urge them to take account of it.

b) Model resolution for Councils in the Republic of Ireland

(N) Council is a member of the Mayors for Peace (or NFLA), the international body of Councils working for over 3 decades to promote multilateral nuclear disarmament and a more peaceful world.

Mayors for Peace is a strategic partner of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). NFLA is one of the 440 groups that make up the ICAN coalition. In December 2017, ICAN received the Nobel Peace Prize for its work in encouraging over two thirds of United Nations members to agree to the International Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). At present 69 nations have now signed this Treaty, and 19 have fully ratified it. The Treaty is expected to come into international law in 2019. The Republic of Ireland Government signed the Treaty on 20th September 2017 and is in the process of ratifying it in the Dail. However, existing nuclear weapon states, including the United Kingdom and France, as well as all NATO states and those in tactical alliances with NATO, such as Japan and Australia, have refused to support this process.

ICAN are working with Governments, Parliamentarians and Councils to encourage supporting the TPNW as one the most effective ways to bring about long-term and verifiable nuclear disarmament. As a partner of ICAN and as a member of Mayors for Peace / NFLA this Council fully supports the TPNW as a method to bring about multilateral nuclear disarmament.

The Council:
• fully supports the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)
• encourages the Irish Government and the Dail to ratify the TPNW as soon as is practical;
• calls on the Government to continue to be a leading part of the New Agenda Coalition at the United Nations and lobby other states to sign and ratify the Treaty;
• to particularly encourage European nuclear weapon states, the United Kingdom and France, as well as European NATO members, to engage with this international policy process;
• to continue to support the cross-party support for Irish neutrality and its positive work in peacekeeping, peace-building and peace-making initiatives.

The Council will ask the Chief Executive / County Manager to write to the Irish Government to inform them of this resolution and urge them to take account of it.
Looking back at ICAN’s first year as a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate


October 5th, 2018

On October 6th, 2017 at a few minutes to 11, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons received an unexpected phone call from Oslo. The message: the campaign had received the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize, for “its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its groundbreaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.”

What followed next was a whirlwind of press, well-wishes and celebration by ICAN campaigners all over the world, followed by the realisation that this was not just an incredible honour but also a huge opportunity. The wish for a world free of nuclear weapons was taking centre stage, and we needed to use the spotlight to move people around the world into action. So campaigners around the world got back to work:

The visibility and support from the Nobel Peace Prize were a welcome boost to the lobbying efforts to promote the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. With the Prize so clearly tied to the achievement of the Treaty, diplomats involved in negotiating or lobbying for the treaty, were able to show their governments back home why this was a unique and urgent opportunity. All over the world, our campaigners pushed elected officials to speak out in support of the Treaty, and pledged to work for their government to join the treaty, boosted again by the public visibility that came with the Prize. And all of those efforts have paid off: Since its adoption by the UN in July of 2017, 69 countries have signed the Treaty and 19 have become States Parties. That is a faster rate of ratification than any other treaty banning weapons of mass destruction has achieved so far.
Importantly, despite not even having yet entered into force, the Treaty has already started to have an impact on the States and institutions that are most complicit in nuclear weapons – from the nuclear weapon possessor States to nuclear weapon endorsing States – the 30+ that purport to rely on nuclear weapons for their international security. The normative power of a categorical prohibition of nuclear weapons has created increased pressure on financial institutions to move their money away from companies that are involved in developing nuclear weapons. Even at this early stage major financial institutions in Norway, Netherlands and Germany have already announced their intentions to exclude nuclear weapon producers from their portfolios, citing the TPNW and a growing norm against nuclear weapons as the prime motivation.

The medal itself has also been a great conversation starter all over the world. In Australia, the medal opened doors- and ears- at a wide range of places: political conferences, unions, fire stations, city-halls, universities. In September of 2018, the medal was taken on a 900km bicycle tour across the country, ending in a large rally at parliament in Canberra; find photos of the unique Nobel Peace ride here. In Japan, the medal was displayed in the Memorial Museums of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as a recognition for the incredible resilience of the Hibakusha – survivors of the nuclear bombings in 1945 – and their efforts to end nuclear weapons. These displays brought the message that we can and must end nuclear weapons to new generations, and helped spark a conversation about why Japan has not yet signed the Treaty.

The Nobel Prize has also served as a rallying cry for the campaign to end nuclear weapons. In the days after the announcement and the ceremony, thousands of new people from all around the world began engaging with the campaign. In the months that followed the Prize, we have welcomed dozens of new partner organisations – each incredible organisations in their own right that work on nuclear disarmament in their own context, and help us spread the message more effectively. And it is that energy which we will continue to build on. As we wait to welcome a new Nobel Peace Prize winner to the family of Laureates today, we know that the momentum to end nuclear weapons is growing ever closer to reaching a tipping point.
Photos from recent Mayors for Peace activity in the UK and Ireland

a) Group picture from the Chapter / NFLA / ICAN meeting in Clydebank Town Hall

b) Some examples of UK gingko tree projects

The Chapter Secretary with one of Manchester’s gingko trees

Pupils of Bells Brae Primary School in Lerwick plant their gingko tree
c) **Photos from the BNTVA memorial stone ceremony at Leeds Minster**

The Leeds BNTVA Memorial Stone  The Lord Mayor of Leeds at the Memorial Stone  Members of the BNTVA by the Memorial Stone

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d) **Photos from the Peace Boat meetings in Liverpool**

The Lord Mayor of Liverpool with Hiroshima hibakusha and Peace Boat delegate Mrs Tsukamoto
The Lord Mayor of Liverpool with members of the Peace Boat delegation, the UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Secretary and student intern

Members of the Peace Boat delegation with A-level student and their history teacher from Liverpool College