



# Briefing paper

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Date: 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019

No.23

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Subject: 3,000 European members, recent events, August ceremonies, Chapter meeting and wider progress report

## 1. Introduction

This report has been developed by the Chapter Secretary and provides members with an overview of recent local, national and international activity with Mayors for Peace.

The areas of activity considered include:

- Celebrating Mayors for Peace reaching 3,000 members in Europe and a new Secretary General of Mayors for Peace
- Recent Mayors for Peace related events held in Manchester.
- An encouragement for members to hold commemoration events around the 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks.
- A planned mailing to all UK and Ireland members including an annual voluntary invoice, survey and general information on the Mayors for Peace.
- The final programme for the next meeting of the UK and Ireland Chapter planned for the 13<sup>th</sup> September in Manchester Central Library.
- Updates on resolutions some UK members have passed in support of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and divestment from nuclear weapon investments.
- An update of discussions within the European Lead Cities of Mayors for Peace and progress with developing a European structure.
- The Mayors for Peace Executive Conference planned for Hanover, Germany on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019
- A Mayors for Peace exhibition – '50 Cities, 50 Traces' being planned for Manchester and Bristol in late 2019 / early 2020

## 2. Mayors for Peace membership in Europe reaches 3,000 members / new Secretary General

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019, the Hiroshima-based International Secretariat of Mayors for Peace were pleased to announce that the number of members from European municipalities of the organisation had reached the 3,000 mark.

This milestone is very much welcomed and was celebrated in the July 'News Flash' that is issued to all members by the International Secretariat. The note also mentions a renewed campaign to call for 10,000 global members by the end of 2020 – the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first use of nuclear weapons.

93 of these members are from the UK and Ireland, and the Chapter would like to increase this number over the 100 mark and beyond as soon as possible. Of the 48 European countries with Mayors for Peace members, the largest Chapter presently is Germany at 653 members, then Italy at 512 members and Spain at 391 members. Europe remains a core section of the Mayors for Peace internationally, where there are 7,772 members in 163 countries.

## THE UK & IRELAND CHAPTER OF MAYORS FOR PEACE

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In mid-July it was also announced by the Hiroshima Secretariat that the current Secretary General of Mayors for Peace, Yasuyoshi Komizo, would be stepping down from the post and retiring. On behalf of the Chapter, the Lord Mayor of Manchester sent a letter of grateful thanks for his service to the organisation over the past 8 years.

The new Secretary General of Mayors for Peace is Mr Takashi Koizumi. He has worked as a career diplomat for over 40 years in countries as diverse as East Timor, Bulgaria and the United States. The Chapter welcomes Mr Koizumi to the organisation and looks forward with both meeting with, and working with, him in the future.

### **3. Recent Manchester events relating to Mayors for Peace – Project G planting and plaque ceremony and Bells for Peace**

As a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Manchester City Council takes seriously its responsibilities to promote the organisation in the UK and Ireland, as well as organise a programme of interesting events.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July, the Council held its latest event under the 'Project G' banner. This project was commenced in 2015 when Manchester was the first UK & Ireland Chapter member to receive ginkgo tree seeds from Hiroshima. The seeds derive from a mother tree that was close to the hypocentre of the Hiroshima atomic weapon attack, but which successfully regrew the following spring. Ginkgo trees are a particularly hardy tree and have been known to live for over 1,000 years. Seeds have been harvested from this tree and have been sent to towns and cities around the world. They are a powerful symbol of peace and recovery after disaster.

12 of the seeds Manchester was given by Hiroshima have been successfully grown at the Dunham Massey National Trust estate in south Manchester. Over the past four years the Council has worked with six local primary schools and Manchester Children's Hospital on promoting the story of the seeds as a peace education project. Each of the schools has now had a tree planted in peace gardens within their school. The tree at the Children's Hospital will be formally planted in their children's garden – which was designed by Alan Titchmarsh in his ITV garden programme 'Love your Garden'.

An eighth tree has now been donated to Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) and a ceremony was held to plant it in the Student's Garden within the John Dalton Building. The tree was planted by the Lord Mayor of Manchester in the presence of senior staff from Manchester Metropolitan University, senior councillors and an Honorary Consul of Japan to the UK. Schoolchildren from three of the supporting schools also attended with their teachers.

Following the ceremony, the children were then presented with a plaque donated by a special grant attained by MMU which is to go with their tree and explains the story of the mother tree in Hiroshima. Each school, the hospital and MMU have also given their tree a name relating to their hopes and aspirations for peace. This event concluded with the schoolchildren, teachers and councillors learning how to fold a paper crane – Hiroshima's other symbol of peace – which was undertaken by Dr Becky Alexis-Martin, who as well as working with the Chapter Secretary on this project, is also an advisor to the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association (BNTVA).

Shortly after this ceremony, an important follow-up event took place to open the 2019 Manchester International Festival (MIF). The Festival has sought to work with the artist and well-known peace campaigner Yoko Ono for a number of years, and the opening event of MIF was called 'Bells for Peace'. As part of this event, many community groups and choirs had got involved in making bells and practising peace songs. At the event, held in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Manchester and senior councillors and an audience of over 4,000 people Yoko Ono (via a pre-recorded film) took everyone through a 'mantra' of peace words and messages culminating in all 4,000 bells being rung at the same time. The bells were a message from Manchester to the world of the need for peace – 'peace is power' in Yoko Ono's words. The event then concluded with a mass singing of the famous John Lennon – Yoko Ono song 'Give Peace a Chance'.

Within the event, a special film was shown which highlighted the views of people actively working for peace in the city on what the word 'peace' means to them. This film also highlighted the long-term peace work and peace education of Manchester. This lovely film is available online at the following link - <https://vimeo.com/346195318/faae439347> - and it is very much worth watching.

Photos from these two events can be found in Appendix 1.

#### **4. Mailing to UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter – invoices and survey**

Shortly following this briefing, Mayors for Peace members in the UK and Ireland will be sent voluntary invoices to process, and an online short survey to ascertain your views on the way to take forward the Chapter in the future.

It was agreed at the international level, and in the establishment of the Chapter, to process annual voluntary invoices of £160 / €170 for metropolitan / county and unitary councils and £80 / €95 to town and parish councils. This small donation is voluntary in nature to seek to introduce a new commitment from members to the organisation. It will help in the administration of meetings, the development of a Mayors for Peace 'flag day' (in the purchase of a white flag with the green Mayors for Peace logo) and over time a Chapter website. We hope your Council agrees this would be a good use of a small resource, and the voluntary fee has been set at a level which is not prohibitively expensive.

The Chapter Secretariat is also keen to get your views on how the Chapter may develop in the future. What anniversaries and events would you like to see the Chapter support and be put under its banner? Would you be interested in hosting a meeting? What should its role be as it moves forward? We strongly encouraged you to undertake this online survey when it arrives, which will take less than 10 minutes to undertake.

#### **5. 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks, August 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>**

Each year, the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki hold memorial peace ceremonies to commemorate all those who have died in the two atomic weapon attacks of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August 1945. In Japan these are major national events attended by thousands of people and dignitaries like the Prime Minister of Japan, the UN Secretary General and national ambassadors to Japan. They are shown live on Japanese television and around the world through NHK World (which is available on Sky channel 507).

UK and Ireland Chapter members are encouraged to hold short ceremonies to both remember those who were killed in the two atomic weapon attacks, all those from all nations killed in the Second World War, and civilians killed in war and terrorist attacks up to the present day. The Chapter Secretariat would appreciate notification of your own local events and photographs taken of them – please email to [s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk).

An early notification of such events can be found at the Network for Peace website at the following link - <http://www.networkforpeace.org.uk/category/areas-work/hiroshima-nagasaki-days>.

As part of Hiroshima's programme around this year's ceremony, it organises with Hiroshima University a student exchange scheme called 'Hiroshima and Peace'. Tara Rosell, a student at Manchester Metropolitan University, is representing the city as part of this exchange programme.

#### **6. UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter meeting, September 13<sup>th</sup>, Manchester**

The UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter will take place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September in Manchester Central Library. It comes close to International Peace Day.

This meeting will be a local celebration of the upcoming 2019 International Peace Day and will welcome the celebrated Kazakh artist and nuclear disarmament campaigner Karipbek Kuyukov in an event held in cooperation with the Kazakh Embassy.

Karipbek Kuyukov was born without arms as a result of exposure to radiation from the nuclear weapon tests of the former Soviet Union at Semipalatinsk. He has devoted his life and art to making sure that no one – and nowhere – else suffers the devastating effects of nuclear weapons testing.

Karipbek was born in a small village which was just a few miles away from where the Soviet Union conducted more than 450 nuclear weapons tests. Those tests exposed his parents to radiation and resulted in Karipbek being born without arms. Karipbek has overcome many obstacles to become an anti-nuclear weapons activist and renowned artist, whose works have been shown around the world. Today, Karipbek often paints portraits of the victims of nuclear testing and, as an honorary Ambassador to The ATOM Project, speaks out against nuclear weapons at conferences and events held in such places as the United Nations and the United States Congress.

(See - <https://www.theatomproject.org/en/about/nuclear-weapons-testing-effects/>)

The Kazakh Embassy is bringing Karipbek to the UK for a short national tour in mid-September which will include events at the Westminster UK Parliament and at the Scottish Parliament, as well as an exhibition of his artworks. The Chapter Secretariat is delighted that Karipbek can be the lead speaker at its September meeting.

Also speaking at the meeting will be Vijay Mehta of the group 'Uniting for Peace'. Vijay Mehta is an author and long-term peace activist. He is Chair of Uniting for Peace and a founding Trustee of the 'Fortune Forum' Charitable Trust. His books include 'United Nations and its Future in the 21st Century' (2005), 'Arms No More' (2005), 'The Fortune Forum Code: For a Sustainable Future' (2006), 'The Economics of Killing' (2012) and 'Peace Beyond Borders' (2016).

Vijay Mehta's latest book is 'How Not to Go to War – Establishing Departments for Peace and Peace Centres Worldwide'. The book argues that the institutions of war need to be matched by institutions of peace. For every department of war, Vijay Mehta suggests there needs to be a department of peace that allocates public resources to forestall violence and militarism, by measures of pre-emptive conflict resolution. The Chapter Secretariat is pleased that Vijay can speak at its September meeting.

Other seminar speakers will be Dr Becky Alexis-Martin from Manchester Metropolitan University, who is an advisor to the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association. She will talk about her recently published book 'Disarming Doomsday'. This book looks at the human impacts of nuclear weapons since the Hiroshima and Nagasaki attacks, particularly on those affected by atomic bomb tests.

Dave Cullen, Director of the Nuclear Information Service based in Reading, will profile its latest publication. 'Trouble Ahead' is a forensic analysis of the costs, risks and problems that may well arise in the new Trident nuclear weapons replacement programme. This report estimates the costs of the programme as being potentially much higher than thought.

A flyer for the programme is attached as Appendix 2 and will be sent out to Chapter members shortly.

## **6. Resolutions on TPNW and divestment**

The ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) Cities Appeal was launched in mid-November 2018 at the UCLG Congress in Madrid. Its aim is to allow local government – town, city and county councils – to pledge their support to the campaign to encourage states to pass the UN International Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). This is particularly targeted at countries whose governments do not support the TPNW, like the UK, US, Germany, Japan and Australia. The Cities Appeal is supported by Mayors for Peace as part of its own strategy to encourage states to pass the TPNW as well as supporting the NPT. By passing resolutions, Councils are also showing their own support to Mayors for Peace.

In recent months there has been a swift increase in resolutions from Councils and to date, there are now 107 towns and cities around the world that have passed resolutions pledging support for the TPNW and calling on a reconsideration of policies of those governments who are looking to modernise their nuclear weapon programmes. These include capital cities like Washington DC,

Paris, Berlin, Berne, Canberra and Oslo as well as leading cities like Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Zaragoza, Grenoble, Munich Geneva, Sydney, Melbourne, Toronto and Los Angeles.

In the UK, Edinburgh City Council passed a resolution to support the Cities Appeal in their meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> June. They join Manchester, Renfrewshire and Hebden Royd Councils in passing resolutions supporting the Cities Appeal and the TPNW. It is expected that more UK Chapter members will pass resolutions in the next couple of months.

In a related development, three Scottish Councils have passed resolutions calling on divestment from their Pension Funds in companies involved in fossil fuel and nuclear weapon production. These are Renfrewshire, West Dunbartonshire and Midlothian Council. They were assisted in making this decision following the production of the ICAN 'Don't Bank on the Bomb' report and its Scottish network, and the PNND initiative 'Count the Nuclear Weapons Money'.

If Mayors for Peace members require assistance with developing model resolutions in both areas please contact the Chapter Secretary – [s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk).

## **7. Progress with a European Mayors for Peace Chapter**

The European Lead Cities of Mayors for Peace, which includes Manchester City Council, have been discussing for some time increasing cooperation and looking for an effective structure, which may become an over-arching European Chapter for the organisation.

This matter has recently included considering a terms of reference and legal statutes that can structure such a Chapter organisation. It is hoped to put some proposals on this matter to the November Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace for approval.

As part of this process active discussion is also taking place to increase the number of lead cities and national Chapters of Mayors for Peace. A core part of European developments will be to support the Mayors for Peace's core aim of promoting activity to develop a world free of nuclear weapons, but also to promote its second aim of supporting the development of safer, resilient and more peaceful towns and cities.

The Chapter Secretary has developed a discussion paper to move this initiative forward, and a number of Lead Cities are considering developing much more active support to realise and create a Secretariat.

The Chapter Secretary will keep members apprised of these developments as they are agreed upon.

## **9. Mayors for Peace Executive Conference, Hanover, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

Every two years, the Executive Board of Mayors for Peace comes together to review its Action Plan and consider its future development.

The next Executive Conference will be held in Hanover, Germany on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November and representatives from Manchester City Council are attending it. The Conference will be considering many of the issues noted in this report, as well as the wider development of Mayors for Peace and the creation of national / cross-national Chapters.

A major focus for discussion will be its activity in 2020, which will be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first use of nuclear weapons in war, and to discuss progress beyond 2020. For Hiroshima and Nagasaki this is an important date as it may be one of the last formal events directly including survivors, or 'hibakusha', of the atomic weapon attacks on their cities. Most hibakusha are now in their 80s and 90s.

The Executive Conference will also focus on the second pillar of the Mayors for Peace remit – the creation of safer and more resilient cities. This brings in discussion over the other serious threats to peace around the world – such as civil war, terrorism and political extremism, climate change,

the refugee crisis and the poverty crisis. This Executive Conference is therefore both timely and important.

As part of the conference, the city of Hanover has organised a major public meeting on the subject – ‘Between Washington and Moscow: does Europe needs its own security architecture?’ Speaking at this meeting will be the ICAN Executive Director Beatrice Fihn, and German Bundestag Foreign Policy Committee member Jurgen Tritten.

This meeting is very timely given that both the US and Russia are about to formally abrogate from the INF nuclear weapons treaty, which in the 1980s led to most nuclear weapons being removed from Europe. In a world where tensions over the Iranian nuclear programme are reaching crisis proportions, North Korea’s nuclear ambitions remain, and tensions remain between India and Pakistan, the world is perhaps in one of the most dangerous times since the end of the Cold War.

#### **10. Mayors for Peace art exhibition in Manchester and Bristol, late 2019 / early 2020**

The Mayors for Peace Vice President and Lead City of Hanover has worked with a number of German artists to establish a touring exhibition called ‘50 Cities, 50 Traces’.

Launched at the Mayors for Peace Executive Conference in November 2015, this international art project seeks to promote the benefits of a nuclear free world. It was initiated by Klaudia Dietewich, an artist based in Stuttgart, Germany, and promotes the ‘Cities Are Not Targets’ (CANT) initiative of Mayors for Peace. The exhibition began in 2018 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and will conclude in 2020 in New York within the NPT Review Conference.

The exhibition will be held in Manchester Central Library in early November 2019, following on from its major ‘Peterloo’ festival, which itself looks at the one of the most pivotal events in the history of Manchester. Following its stay in the special exhibition space at the Central Library it will then move on to Bristol, which is a twin city of Hanover.

Manchester has also announced the development of a new contemplative peace garden in Lincoln Square, close to the Town Hall. This will consolidate its peace plaques and statues with trees and flowers allowing people to relax in a quiet space of a large city. This is part of a wider development and it is planned for completion in spring 2021.

Later in 2019, a new statue of Mahatma Gandhi will be unveiled close to Manchester Cathedral around the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. Final designs and agreement for a suitable memorial for the Manchester Arena terrorist attack are also being discussed, but it has been agreed that the memorial will be situated close to the Arena in a new garden being designed close to the Cathedral and Chetham’s Music School. It is likely to be unveiled some time in 2020.

#### **11. Conclusions and recommendations**

This briefing provides a progress report on the national and international activity of Mayors for Peace over the past couple of months and plans for the next few months. This comes at a time of increasing international tension in our world and as the UK and Ireland itself faces divisions and stress as it seeks to determine whether the UK leaves the European Union or not.

The report has focused on quite a lot of activity from its Lead City and Mayors for Peace Vice President Manchester. This highlights the ongoing work it undertakes to show its solidarity with the organisation and its support for peaceful initiatives and peace education. It also highlights that all Mayors for Peace members can undertake activities to support the organisation, whether large or small.

Such recommendations for UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace members include:

- Considering passing a resolution to support the ICAN Cities Appeal and the need for a Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
- Considering passing a resolution(s) calling for divestment from companies involved in fossil fuels and nuclear weapon production.

- Encouraging members to contact their twin and international friendship cities to join Mayors for Peace, and work directly together to promote local projects for peace, tolerance and harmony.
- Hold events to commemorate the 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks on August 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
- Attend the UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter meeting in Manchester on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
- Hold separate events to commemorate International Peace Day on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019.
- Consider hosting the '50 Cities, 50 Traces' modern art exhibition.
- Consider hosting a Mayors for Peace photographic exhibition which outlines what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 and the history of the Mayors for Peace organisation. This has been shown by 12 Chapter members to date, and is available for loan from the Chapter Secretariat.
- Considering receiving ginkgo tree seeds from Hiroshima and a suitable project to plant and nurture them. Currently 6 Chapter members have receiving and are growing ginkgo trees – Manchester, Edinburgh, Hull, Shetland Islands, South Ayrshire and Oldham.
- Consider developing peace trails, peace gardens, peace poles and peace flags to show solidarity with the Mayors for Peace.
- Process voluntary membership invoices to allow the Chapter to develop an annual Flag Day and an interactive website.

Photos from Project G event and Bells for Peace event in Manchester

Project G planting and plaque ceremony at Manchester Metropolitan University



The Lord Mayor of Manchester, senior councillors, Manchester Met Uni senior staff and some of the children and teachers with the MMU ginkgo tree and their ginkgo plaques



The child participants in Manchester's Project G with their school plaques prior to making peace cranes



The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Cllr Abid Latif Chohan rings one of the bells for peace



The message of the bells for peace event within the Manchester International Festival



A couple of the bells for peace – 4,000 were rung during the event



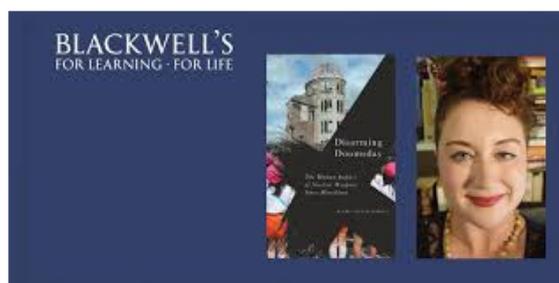
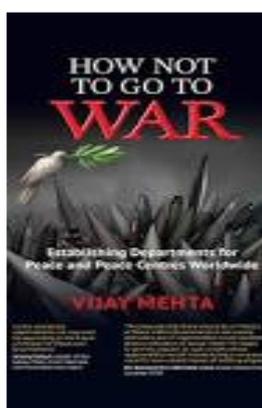
Yoko Ono leaves the 4,000 participants in the Bells for Peace mantra

Flyer for the Mayors for Peace Chapter meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> September

**NFLA and UK & Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace  
Chapter Seminar: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019, Meeting Room 2, Level  
2, Central Library, St Peter's Square, Manchester, M2 5PD  
1.30pm – 3.30pm**

## The humanitarian impacts, costs & dangers of nuclear weapons in the wider campaign for a more peaceful world

Understanding the damage of nuclear testing on people around the world, the costs and risks of upgrading UK nuclear weapons and why we need more Peace Studies departments in UK and Irish universities



### Speakers:

- Councillor Eddy Newman, Manchester City Council Mayors for Peace representative – seminar introduction
- Karipbek Kuyukov, Kazakh artist and nuclear non-proliferation campaigner – the personal effects of nuclear weapons testing and the need for a nuclear weapons free world
- Dr Becky Alexis-Martin, Lecturer in Political & Cultural Geography, Manchester Metropolitan University – Disarming Doomsday, the Human Impacts of Nuclear Weapons since Hiroshima
- Vijay Mehta, Co-founder of Uniting for Peace – How not to go to War: Establishing Departments for Peace and Peace Centres Worldwide
- Dave Cullen, Director of Nuclear Information Service – Trouble Ahead: Risks and Rising Costs in the UK Nuclear Weapons Programme