



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

MEDIA ADVISORY – for immediate release, 4th August 2011

NFLA members commemorate the 66th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings

Members of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) will be solemnly commemorating the 66th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings at special ceremonies around the UK and Ireland on August 6th and August 9th.

At ceremonies in Hiroshima this Saturday August 6th (1) and in Nagasaki next Tuesday August 9th, the two cities will remember the 200,000 people that died as a result of atomic bombings of their cities. The Mayors of both cities are President and Vice President of Mayors for Peace, which now has 4,892 members across the world, representing around 1 billion people. The NFLA works closely with the Mayors for Peace in its campaign to eliminate nuclear weapons from the world and also works with UK groups to lobby the UK to develop alternatives to the replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons programme.

Reports in the Japanese media suggest that the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will make explicit references in their annual 2011 Peace Declarations to the recent Fukushima incident, urging the Japanese Government to review its energy policy and promote renewable energy (2). The NFLA would very much support these statements.

Ceremonies to commemorate the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings will be taking place all over the world in the next few days. Official ceremonies are also taking place in the UK and Ireland, where NFLA members are co-operating with groups like CND, faith groups, humanitarian groups and community groups to remember the destruction of nuclear weapons.

Some examples include:

- In Manchester, the Lord Mayor of Manchester will lead a ceremony which includes the screening of a documentary about one of the 30 survivors of both the Hiroshima and the Nagasaki atomic bombings (3);
- In Leeds, the Lord Mayor will take part in a short ceremony of commemoration around the Mayors for Peace memorial plaque in Leeds city centre;
- In Glasgow, MSPs and local councillors will speak at a ceremony near the university;
- Events are also being held in Edinburgh, Paisley and Dundee;
- In Oxford, 100 lanterns for peace will be floated on the River Thames;
- In Wales, an official ceremony will take place at the Welsh National Eisteddfod;
- In Ireland, official ceremonies are taking place in Dublin and Cork. (4)

NFLA UK and Ireland Chair Bailie George Regan says:

“The 66th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki reminds us of the destructive power and sheer terror of nuclear weapons. The abolition of such weapons was why the Nuclear Free Local Authorities was set up over 30 years ago and it remains one of our ultimate aims. Over the next few days we will proudly stand shoulder to shoulder with our close friends in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and across the world to remember these tragic events, along with this year’s tragedy in Fukushima, and say, ‘never again’. A world free of nuclear weapons remains a realisable goal and we will work with the Mayors for Peace to help achieve it.”

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES



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Ends

For interviews contact Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary on 07771 930196.

Notes for editors:

- (1) The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Service is being shown live on the following website:
<http://www1.city.hiroshima.jp/86live/index-en.htm>
They are also being shown on NHK World which can be found as channel 507 on Sky satellite services at the following times:
Hiroshima, August 6th at midnight, repeated at 12.10pm and 8.10pm
Nagasaki, August 9th at 2.30am, repeated at 12pm and 8.10pm.
- (2) See <http://mdn.mainichi.jp/mdnnews/news/20110802p2g00m0dm094000c.html>
- (3) Manchester's civic commemoration for the 66th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings takes place on Tuesday August 9th from 7pm at Manchester Central Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester.

ORDER OF SERVICE:

- 7.00 am – Opening address by the Lord Mayor of Manchester
 - 7.05 pm – Two minutes solemn silence
 - 7.10 pm - The Hiroshima and Nagasaki 2010 Peace Declarations read by Councillor Mark Hackett and NFLA Secretary, Sean Morris
 - 7.20 pm - Screening of 'Twice Bombed – The Legacy of Yamaguchi Tsutomu
 - 8.25 pm - Reading of poems by Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-bomb survivors by members of the Manchester Peace Festival Organising Committee
 - 8.40 pm – Close of event.
- (4) Further information on Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorative events can be found from the Network for Peace website: <http://networkforpeace.org.uk>

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