



*Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee*

# information

**NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

## **NFLA remembers the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bomb anniversaries and joins in with their call for a nuclear weapons free world**

August 6<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup> 2014 will mark the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the atomic bombings of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On these two dates in August 1945 145,000 civilians were killed, with many thousands dying later of their injuries or radiation-induced illnesses.

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) was originally established in 1980 to call for a nuclear weapons free world. That still remains one of its core aims and it works closely with the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to jointly campaign for the '2020 Vision' of the Mayors for Peace organisation – that by 2020 a structure should be in place to deliver rapid reductions in nuclear weapons stockpiles to the ultimate goal of zero nuclear weapons. (1)

Since 1980, the global stockpile of nuclear weapons has greatly reduced, but thousands of them still remain in Russia and the United States; whilst the UK, France, Israel, Pakistan, India and probably North Korea also possess much smaller numbers of nuclear weapons. On the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings, NFLA calls for these states to comply with the terms of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, and the will of the vast majority of the members of the United Nations, by working much harder and with less delay on reducing their nuclear weapon stockpiles.

Many NFLA members will follow the example of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and hold commemoration ceremonies to the memory of those killed in the atomic bombings. (2) Earlier this week, the world commemorated the memory of those killed in the First World War – the 'war to end all wars'. Yet, just 31 years later, the world witnessed the devastating damage of a nuclear weapon attack at the end of the Second World War. And war still ravages today across the Middle East, North Africa and in Ukraine.

As the world commemorates over the next four years a large number of centenary events for the First World War, the NFLA will also be planning its involvement with the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. Highlights in the next 12 months will include the Third International Conference on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons taking place in Vienna in December; the 'Ypres 100 Conference' around the first use of chemical weapons taking place in Ypres, Belgium in April 2015, and global events for the Hiroshima and Nagasaki 70<sup>th</sup> anniversaries in August 2015.

NFLA Chair, Councillor Mark Hackett said:

"The Nuclear Free Local Authorities sends its best wishes and deep condolences to the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dropping of atomic bombs devastating each city. The rebuilding of these cities as true 'Cities of Peace' seeking peace, justice and reconciliation around the world should be a major incentive to all towns and cities affected by the scourge of war that there is a better way forward. I know we will continue to work with them so that the common desire of the survivors of the bombings – the 'hibakuska' – of a nuclear weapons free world, is finally realised."

Ends

For more information please contact Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary on (00 44) (0)161 234 3244.

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**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES**



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Notes for editors:

- (1) For more details on the Mayors for Peace go to its two websites – <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org> or <http://www.2020visioncampaign.org>
- (2) A list of selected Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorative events in the UK and Ireland: **HIROSHIMA DAY EVENTS, 6th AUGUST (all events are on the 6th August, unless stated):**

**ENGLAND:**

*London* - London Region CND's annual Hiroshima Day event will take place at the commemorative cherry tree in Tavistock Square, noon - 1pm and will be led by the Mayor of Camden with speeches from Kate Hudson (CND General Secretary), Jean Lambert MEP, Jeremy Corbyn MP and poet A L Kennedy.

*Birmingham* - held on Saturday 2nd August in Birmingham Cathedral Church Yard, Colmore Street from 11.30am - 12.30pm. A special photographic exhibition is being held in the Cathedral from 26th July - 2nd August.

*Manchester* - Manchester City Council's Hiroshima-Nagasaki event takes place in Lincoln Square, Brasenose Street 10.30am - 11.30am.

*Bradford* - Yorkshire CND / Bradford's civic Hiroshima-Nagasaki event takes place in Norfolk Gardens, behind the Town Hall from 11am - 11.45am.

*York* - Yorkshire CND will be leafleting about Trident, meet in Parliament Street at 2pm.

*Stockport* - assemble by the War Memorial at 5pm for memorial peace ceremony.

*Salisbury* - Candle float on the River Avon between Fisherton Bridge to Crane Bridge, starting at 8.45pm.

*Milton Keynes* - Organised by the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Order, assemble by the Milton Keynes Rose, Campbell Park at 8.15am.

*Chester* - A flower memorial by the River Dee, assemble at 8pm by The Groves, Chester.

**SCOTLAND:**

*Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh* - On the 5th August the Parliament's Nuclear Disarmament Cross party group is hosting a talk by Ward Wilson of the Rethinking Trident group from 12pm - 1.30pm in Committee Room 3.

*Edinburgh* - Edinburgh's event begins at 6pm at the Mound (Princes St) for the official Hiroshima commemoration. Following this at 7pm there will be a gathering by the Peace Pole in Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre, St John's Church (corner of Princes St / Lothian Road).

*Glasgow* - assemble at the Great Western Gates of Glasgow Botanical Garden at 7pm and walk via Byres Road and Dumbarton Road to the peace tree at Kelvingrove Park.

*Stirling* - Stirling's official commemoration begins at 7pm in the Peace Garden, Pullar Memorial Park, Bridge of Allan.

*Paisley* - Renfrewshire's annual event will begin at 7pm in the Peace Garden in Barshaw Park. Meet at the car park off Glasgow Road by the park.

*Dundee* - As part of Dundee Peace Festival the official Dundee event will begin at 8.15pm at Law Road and walk up the Law Hill.

*Aberdeen* - Aberdeen's event starts at 8.30pm at the Fisherman's Hut on the River Dee, Riverside Drive with the floating of peace lanterns and a full civic event.

**WALES:**

*Welsh National Eisteddfod event, Llanelli* - CND Cymru's official Welsh Hiroshima-Nagasaki event will take place by the Peace Tent, Festival Fields, Millennium Coastal Park.

*Haverfordwest, Ceredigion* - An early evening gig organised by Pembrokeshire Peace Group at 6pm at the Picton Centre.

**IRELAND:**

*Dublin* - the Irish national commemoration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will take place in Merrion Square, Dublin at 1.05pm led by the Deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin.

**NAGASAKI DAY EVENTS, 9th AUGUST:**

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*National Hiroshima-Nagasaki event - Wool against Weapons:* A large peace event will take part in Berkshire, connecting a 7km woollen scarf between the two nuclear weapon facilities at Aldermaston and Burghfield. Go to the National CND website for further details <http://www.cnd.org.uk>. The event will include music, walking and reflection.

*Leeds* - Leeds City Council's Peacelink Group's Hiroshima-Nagasaki event takes place by the Mayors for Peace memorial, Park Square 10.30am - 11.30am

*Dundee* - Vigil event held at Law Hill at 11am.

*Glossop* - Peace vigil at 12 noon in Norfolk Square, Glossop High Street.

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