



*Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee*

# information

**NFLA Media Advisory – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

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## **NFLA welcome news of the 5000<sup>th</sup> Mayors for Peace member**

On the United Nations International Day of Peace, the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) today welcomes the news that its close partner international organisation Mayors for Peace has reached the important milestone of 5000 member towns and cities across the world (1).

The Mayors for Peace was established in 1982 by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to encourage like-minded towns and cities to be involved in the campaign to call for a nuclear weapons-free world and to stop any further atomic bombings on large urban areas.

The former Mayor of Hiroshima, Tadatoshi Akiba, has commented that the creation of the Mayors for Peace was partially inspired by the earlier development of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities, which began at a meeting in Manchester in November 1980 (2). Over the last thirty years the NFLA has closely worked with the Mayors for Peace. The NFLA member Manchester City Council became a Vice President of Mayors for Peace in 2000 and the NFLA member Glasgow City Council became a Members of the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association Board in 2010. Both directly participate in the decision-making of the organisation, whilst many other NFLA members support the Mayors for Peace and promote its work through the hosting of a Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb exhibition (3).

NFLA members and officers have co-operated with Mayors for Peace in various discussions with the UK Government, in organising a number of joint meetings and seminars on UK nuclear weapons policy, in various joint meetings and conferences and in attendance as part of delegations to the United Nations Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Conferences over the past decade. NFLA members have also taken part in annual commemorations of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki bombings at ceremonies on August 6<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup> each year. The NFLA will continue to work closely with the Mayors for Peace for our common goal of seeing the establishment of a Nuclear Weapons Convention and the eventual abolition of stockpiles of nuclear weapons in the UK, USA, Russia, China, France and other nuclear weapon states.

NFLA Chair, Bailie George Regan says:

“The worldwide success of Mayors for Peace proves that vast majority of the citizens of the world, through their directly elected local leaders, are overwhelmingly in favour of nuclear disarmament. It is only the political elite of a few nations that wish to cling to weapons of mass destruction against the wishes of the majority.”

Ends

Further information and interviews: Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary 07771 930196.

Notes for editors:

- (1) See <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org> and <http://www.2020visioncampaign.org>
- (2) See [http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/about/NFLA\\_Service\\_Plan\\_2011.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/about/NFLA_Service_Plan_2011.pdf)
- (3) The exhibition is currently being exhibited in Aberdeen Central Library and will shortly be moving on to locations in the Shetland Islands, Edinburgh, Rotherham and Oxford in the next six months.

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**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES**