



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 2nd April 2014

NFLA congratulates Mayors for Peace in reaching 6000 members calling for a nuclear weapons free world

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) today congratulates the international local government nuclear disarmament group Mayors for Peace, who announced they have recruited their 6000th member at the end of March. (1)

NFLA is a strong supporter of the Mayors for Peace group and shares its key aim of seeking a nuclear weapons free world. Leading NFLA member Manchester City Council is a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, whilst Glasgow City Council is a member of the Mayors for Peace's 2020 Vision Campaign Association Board. (2)

Mayors for Peace were established by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1982, partially inspired by the development of the NFLA group in 1980. In recent years it has grown rapidly and its 6000 members come from 158 countries around the world. It effectively represents over a billion people worldwide.

A Mayors for Peace delegation will, as usual, be attending the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Conference at the United Nations (UN) at the end of April. This conference brings the members of the UN together to discuss strategies in reducing and eventually eliminating nuclear weapon stockpiles. Mayors for Peace members will lobby key member states at the Conference and the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will speak to all delegates in the NGO presentation that takes place at each conference.

Mayors for Peace will also be holding a board meeting in Sarajevo, Bosnia on June 7th and 8th as part of the commemoration events for the centenary of the First World War. Many of the Executive Cities of Mayors for Peace are towns and cities that have suffered from indiscriminate attacks in warfare, such as Ypres, Granollers, Volgograd and Halabja.

Meanwhile, the Mayors for Peace are currently developing an improved structure of the organisation in order to support and catalyse such a large membership. Manchester City Council has accepted an invitation from Hiroshima to be a 'Lead City' of Mayors for Peace and develop its membership in the UK and Republic of Ireland. (3)

NFLA Chair Councillor Mark Hackett said:

"I warmly congratulate Mayors for Peace on reaching the remarkable milestone of 6,000 members. NFLA will continue to cooperate with it for our mutual vision of a world free from nuclear weapons. Over the last decade we have shown that local government is an important part of the international movement for nuclear disarmament. As we approach the 70th anniversary of the nuclear weapon attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki it is essential that we continue to dedicate ourselves to remembering the suffering of the hibakuska (atomic bomb survivors) and working to ensure it may never happen again."

Ends

For more information please contact Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary on 0161 234 3244.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES



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Notes for editors:

- (1) Mayors for Peace websites: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>
<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org>
- (2) The Executive Cities of Mayors for Peace are Hiroshima (Japan), Nagasaki (Japan), Hanover (Germany), Volgograd (Russia), Malakoff (France), Mantinlupa (Philippines), Manchester (UK), Akron (USA), Ypres (Belgium), Biograd na Moru (Croatia), Granollers (Spain), Halabja (Iraq), Brussels (Belgium), Fongo Tongo (Cameroon), Mexico City (Mexico) and Frog (Norway).
- (3) Manchester City Council formally agreed to be a Lead City of Mayors for Peace at a special ceremony on the 16th September 2013.

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