



*Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee*

# information

**NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2013**

## **NFLA remembers Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear weapon attacks as terrible events which must never be repeated, and works with both cities for a nuclear weapons free world**

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) remembers today the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nagasaki atomic bombing (1), after a small NFLA delegation attended the Hiroshima Peace Ceremony three days earlier (2).

At the solemn Annual Peace Ceremonies in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and at similar events held by towns and cities worldwide (3), the Mayors of the two cities remember the combined more than 200,000 people killed by the atomic bombs on August 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 1945, and the thousands more who have suffered from the effects of radiation exposure over the past 68 years.

In Hiroshima this year the 8<sup>th</sup> Mayors for Peace Executive and General Conference was held at the Hiroshima International Conference Centre, which lies at the southern end of Hiroshima Peace Park. A small NFLA delegation took an active part in these conferences. Manchester City Council is a Vice President of Mayors for Peace and Glasgow City Council is a member of the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association.

At the Executive Conference a 2013 – 2017 Action Plan was agreed and included some major structural changes and the agreement to develop formalised national / cross-national chapters of the Mayors for Peace. NFLA representatives played a major role in the development of the Action Plan on behalf of their member councils and in partnership with Mayors for Peace.

The 'Hiroshima Appeal', which was the main public pronouncement of the Conference, calls on the United Nations and all governments to take the following measures (4):

1. To make sure that policy makers and officials from governments and international agencies responsible for nuclear disarmament visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki in order to deepen their understanding of the indescribable human tragedy of the atomic bombings, and disseminate the earnest wish of the atomic bomb survivors for the abolition of nuclear weapons.
2. To establish policies and frameworks for confidence-building measures among nations to ensure that nuclear weapons will never be used again.
3. To aim for the early implementation of a nuclear weapons convention, or other effective means of establishing a nuclear-weapons-free-world, and to start concrete negotiations towards its conclusion.
4. To actively work on replacing the current security system of nuclear deterrence, which attempts to maintain peace through the threatened use of nuclear weapons, with one rooted in a sense of community as fellow members of one human family, taking into account experiences gained by regional communities such as the EU, ASEAN and CELAC.

The 2013 Hiroshima and Nagasaki Peace Declarations read out by the Mayors of these two cities reminded the world of the terrible effects of nuclear weapons. The Declarations from both Mayors also included a pledge to continue to support those people affected by the nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear facility in north east Japan. The Hiroshima Peace Declaration noted that: "We urge the (Japanese) national government to rapidly develop and implement a responsible energy policy that places top priority on safety and the livelihoods of the people." (5)

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For NFLA this is especially relevant as it now becomes clear that radioactive materials from the Fukushima facility have been leaking into the Pacific Ocean for some substantial time. A New York Times report has recently noted that 75,000 gallons of radioactively contaminated water is leaking daily into the Pacific Ocean. (6)

In the Nagasaki Peace Declaration mention was also made of the Japanese National Council of Nuclear Free Local Authorities, which reaches its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary later in August. The UK and Ireland NFLA will be sending its warmest congratulations on this anniversary and will welcome the Mayor of Nagasaki again to Manchester at a future date.

NFLA Chair, Councillor Mark Hackett said:

“I was honoured, touched and inspired by my presence in Hiroshima as NFLA Chair and as a Manchester Councillor. 68 years on, the ‘hibakuska’, the survivors of the atomic bombings, are coming towards the end of their lives and I heard passionate appeals from them that their memory of these terrible events is never forgotten. The NFLA will work with Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the 5,712 members of Mayors for Peace, as well as organisations like the International Red Cross, CND and the International Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and all like-minded governments to pursue the goal of a nuclear weapons free world. The Fukushima disaster has made us aware again of the continuing dangers of radiation to our health and environment. It is incumbent on those seeking a nuclear free world to continue to dedicate themselves to bring about its fruition urgently.”

Ends

**Further information** - Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary - 0161 234 3244 or 07771 930196.

## **Notes to editors:**

- (1) The Hiroshima Peace Declaration is attached with this media release and is also available at: <http://www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/www/contents/0000000000000/1317948556078/index.html>
- (2) The Nagasaki Peace Declaration is attached with this media release and is also available at: <http://www1.city.nagasaki.nagasaki.jp/peace/english/appeal/archives.html>
- (3) Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorative events in the UK and Ireland, 2013:  
**3rd August - LONDON**  
Film Screening and Talk - 'Hiroshima' and 'The Land of Hope', 11.30am School of Oriental and Arabic Studies (SOAS), Russell Square, 10 Thornhaugh Street, WC1H 0XG.

**MALVERN** - Gather outside Malvern Priory Church at midday for a multi-faith peace service.

## **6th August - Hiroshima Day**

**LONDON** - London Region CND's annual Hiroshima Day Commemoration at the commemorative cherry tree in Tavistock Square, noon-1pm.

Speakers include Jeremy Corbyn MP; Mayor of Camden, Cllr Jonathan Simpson; Bruce Kent, CND Vice-President; Natalie Bennett, Leader of the Green Party; Nobu Ono, JAN UK; Linda Perks, UNISON London Regional Secretary; Peter Tatchell, Peter Tatchell Foundation; Val Brown, London Guantanamo Campaign. With Raised Voices, Red & Green Choir, JAN UK and Jim Radford providing singing. Bring your own picnic for informal chat afterwards.

**GLASGOW** - Walk from the Botanic Gardens to the peace trees in Kelvingrove Park with speeches from NFLA Scotland Convenor Councillor Bill Butler, Councillor Martha Wardrop and Sandra White MSP. Meet at 6.30pm at Botanic Gardens Gates (Queen Margaret Drive).

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**EDINBURGH** - Edinburgh CND's event starts at the Mound at 6pm and follows a walk to the Peace Pole at 7pm. Speeches by civic leaders, trade union reps, faith groups and local peace groups.

**DUBLIN** - Irish CND's Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemoration event will be held by the Peace Memorial Cherry Tree in Merrion Square, Dublin city centre from 1.05pm and includes speeches by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, the First Secretary of the Japanese Embassy and the President of Irish CND.

**DENBIGH** - There will be a formal presence at the Welsh National Eisteddfod in Denbigh from 3rd - 10th August with special vigils for the Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear weapon attacks.

**NORWICH** - Members of Norwich CND propose to lay a wreath on the War Memorial and to continue to the Peace Pillar in Chapelfield Gardens for a short vigil. The event will start from the Friends Meeting House in Upper Goat Lane at 11.30am. Please wear white if possible. The event will finish by 1.30pm.

**COVENTRY** - Multi-faith Hiroshima Day Service in the Chapel of Unity, Coventry Cathedral at 6:30 pm.

**BRADFORD** - Peace Vigil at 5pm in Norfolk Gardens behind Bradford City Hall. At 6pm is a special event - 'Story of the Nuclear Disarmament Symbol' (the original design is kept in the Commonwealth Library, Bradford University) in the Fabric Art Gallery, 33a Broadway. A special exhibition on 'Bradford Voices of Peace' is being held in the Gallery from 6th - 13th August with a series of special talks and events.

**SHEFFIELD** - Civic vigil event led by the Lord Mayor of Sheffield. Held in the Peace Gardens by Sheffield Town Hall, starting at 10am.

**KEIGHLEY** - Civic vigil event in the Town Hall Square from 8pm.

**SOUTHAMPTON** - Hiroshima Day Public Meeting. Join Southampton CND for a public meeting on Hiroshima Day with speakers Bruce Kent and the deputy mayor of Southampton, Cllr Sue Blatchford. The meeting will be followed by lighting lanterns and singing peace songs. All are welcome. The meeting is being held in Southampton Friends Meeting House from 7pm.

**MILTON KEYNES** - Annual Lantern Floating Ceremony at the Peace Pagoda at 7.30pm.

**MALDON** - An ecumenical Candle Service for Peace on the 68th anniversary of the first use of nuclear weapons in Hiroshima. Starts in the car park opposite Maldon Quaker Meeting House, Butt Lane, Maldon (off the High Street) starting at 8pm.

**KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES** - All welcome at 8pm by the Thames in Canbury Gardens to commemorate the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. The event will include floating lighted lanterns on the Thames to remember the victims of the first nuclear weapon attacks.

**PAISLEY** - Annual Hiroshima Peace Walk led by civic leaders and peace groups starts at 7.30pm, ending in the peace garden in Barshaw Park. Meet at the park entrance at Glasgow Road.

**ABERDEEN** - 200 peace lanterns will be put on the River Dee followed by short contributions from civic leaders, faith groups, trade unions and student groups. The event begins at 8.45pm at the Fishermans Hut by Riverside Drive between the Bridge of Dee and Duthie Park.

**SALISBURY** - Join Salisbury CND for its annual candle float vigil from Fisherton Bridge on the River Avon from 8.45pm.

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## **9th August - Nagasaki Day**

**LONDON** - Franz Jagerstatter Memorial Service, Crypt Chapel, Westminster Cathedral, at 6.30pm. Entrance via Ambrosden Avenue car park. Followed by annual multi-faith walk/ceremony for Nagasaki Day in Battersea Park. Peace walk begins at 7.45pm, from Westminster Cathedral to the London Peace Pagoda followed by a Floating Lantern Ceremony at sunset.

**LEEDS** - Leeds City Council's official Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemoration event is being held by the Mayors for Peace memorial plaque and tree in Park Square Gardens, Leeds city centre from 10.40am.

**GLASGOW / CLYDEBANK** - CND Scotland have organised a 'Peace Cruise' from Glasgow Science Centre to Clydebanks, West Dunbartonshire and back again starting at 6.30pm. Places are limited and tickets are available by emailing CND - [flavia@banthebomb.org](mailto:flavia@banthebomb.org) - as soon as possible.

**CORK** - Pax Christi will be holding a multi-faith peace service in Holy Trinity Church, Fr Matthew Quay, off South Mall at 7.30pm.

**10th August, BIRMINGHAM** - A multi-faith commemorative event takes place at Birmingham Cathedral Churchyard from 11.30am.

**11th August, SHEFFIELD** - Peace picnic with Bruce Kent and music from Roy Bailey in the Japanese Garden in Meerbrook Park. The picnic takes place all afternoon.

- (4) The Hiroshima Appeal is available by emailing the Mayors for Peace Secretariat - [mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto:mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)
- (5) Quoted from the Hiroshima Peace Declaration, see reference (1) above.
- (6) New York Times, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2013, 'Japan Government Stepping In to Help Clean Up Atomic Plant: <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/08/world/asia/fukushima-nuclear-plant-radiation-leaks.html>

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