



Briefing paper

Date: 7th February 2018

No.14

Subject: Sheffield's Mayors for Peace event, upcoming Chapter meeting in Leeds and wider progress

1. Introduction

This report by the Chapter Secretary provides an overview of a special event to celebrate their membership of the Mayors for Peace held by Sheffield City Council on the 31st January. It also provides information on plans for the next Mayors for Peace Chapter meeting being planned for the 23rd March in Leeds Civic Hall. It finally gives a short and relevant progress report with the national and international work of the Mayors for Peace and in its interaction with other groups like ICAN and PNND.

2. Sheffield's Mayor for Peace Celebration Event

The current Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Councillor Anne Murphy, has been keen to rededicate the city's interest and involvement with the Mayors for Peace. Councillor Murphy has had a strong personal commitment to peace and nuclear disarmament going back over 30 years and the Council has agreed she will remain their permanent Mayors for Peace representative in a similar manner to Manchester (having the Lord Mayor attend special events, with the permanent representative attending Chapter meetings and suchlike).

Following discussions with the Chapter Secretariat, a special event to celebrate Sheffield's membership of Mayors for Peace was held in Sheffield Town Hall with around 100 people in attendance, including children from two Sheffield schools and a special peace choir. Amongst the special guests in attendance were the Chapter Secretary (representing the Lord Mayor of Manchester), Rebecca Johnson of the ICAN Steering Committee, Bruce Kent of CND, Jill Angood from Sheffield Creative Action for Peace (SCRAP) and representatives of Sheffield's multi-faith partnership.

Sheffield City Council was one of the first Councils from the UK and Ireland who joined the Mayors for Peace in July 1989, but it has not been particularly active in recent years. The event was an opportunity to show support for the Mayors for Peace and pledge support for the future. The Lord Mayor noted that the Council had recently decided to reaffirm its commitment to the Mayors for Peace.

The Chapter Secretary welcomed Sheffield's support and noted this was the type of activity that the Chapter wished to see across its members in showing solidarity with Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the other 7,500+ members of Mayors for Peace at the international level, whilst promoting initiatives to promote peace at the local level. The support being shown in Sheffield to peace education was one particular way to do that, and he presented the Lord Mayor with a copy of the Manchester Peace Trail (see <http://www.discoverpeace.eu>).

Dr Rebecca Johnson of ICAN explained to the audience the circumstances behind why it was

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awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize, particularly with the development of the International Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons.

ICAN's core priorities in 2018 include:

- Campaigning for Entry in to Force (EIF) of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (which requires 50 states to ratify). ICAN will be campaigning to get EIF and 100 signatories by the end of 2019, which would mean the first Meeting of States Parties would be held in 2020/21.
- Putting pressure on nuclear weapon states and 'nuclear umbrella' states to change its stance and sign up to the Treaty. A number of positive initiatives have recently taken place in some of these states. For example, in Norway a parliamentary commission was recently agreed to consider the country's stance towards the Treaty; in Sweden a similar commission is to report in October; in Italy a parliamentary resolution in September instructed the government to explore possibilities to ratify the treaty in line with alliance commitments; in Switzerland there is currently a consultation within government ministries; and in the Netherlands the government has commissioned an independent think tank to consider the various options on whether to sign the treaty or not.
- Building the norm internationally: ICAN will work with other disarmament groups to push within existing international forums (e.g. at the NPT review process this year in the UN offices in Geneva), and in new spaces where possible with the media/wider public sphere to build awareness of the treaty and stigmatise any potential use of nuclear weapons.

Dr Johnson said it was important that local government could support such work and highlight its commitment to the Mayors for Peace, as well as supporting local peace initiatives. As the UK is a nuclear weapon state, it is important to highlight the costs of the Trident replacement upgrade at a time when Council and other critical budgets had been cut substantially in recent years. Such an event being held by Sheffield was one such way to highlight these matters. Dr Johnson also noted the work of ICAN UK in publicizing the dangers of nuclear weapon road convoys and presented the Lord Mayor with a booklet summarizing these concerns.

Bruce Kent, a Co-Vice President of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) noted that Sheffield had consistently supported the nuclear disarmament and peace movement for many years. 2018 was the 60th anniversary of the creation of CND and events were being held over the country to not just celebrate this, but demonstrate the public support for maintaining good public services over spending billions on the likes of Trident.

CND has consistently stood up for a nuclear weapons free world and the risks and challenges that remain while thousands of such weapons exist. Bruce Kent noted the many accidents and near misses that had occurred involved nuclear weapons over the past 60 years, which had seen the world come close to a major nuclear incident. The thousands of nuclear weapon tests in the past six decades has also led to large levels of radiation being released into the atmosphere and health problems to many exposed to them. The potential for a serious accident on our roads from a convoy travelling from Berkshire to the west coast of Scotland remains ever present. It is important for Councils to be part of the movement to highlight these concerns and seek another way forward. CND are willing to work with Councils to do so.

Jill Angood of the group Sheffield Creation Action for Peace (SCRAP) provided a short overview of the work undertaken in the city in bringing groups together to promote peace, social justice, faith communities and diverse communities together. Considerable work was taking place to promote the centenary of some women being granted the vote in 1918 and to commemorate the many peace-making movements, events and issues that have taken place in the Sheffield over the past 100 years. SCRAP works on promoting disarmament, the dangers of drone warfare and challenging the arms trade. They work with Sheffield City Council on annual events to celebrate Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day in August and the International Day of Peace in September. The group is delighted the Council has reaffirmed its commitments to such campaigns and looks forward to cooperating with it in the future.

The local part of the event continued with schoolchildren from Coit Primary School and Ecclesfield Primary School talking about what they have learnt about becoming peer mentors and understanding conflict resolution. This peace education programme has been developed for schools by the Sheffield based group CREEST – Conflict Resolution Education for Students, which has been working with local schools since 2001

CRESST does not aim to reduce conflict, but instead acknowledges that it is a natural and frequent part of daily life. If conflict is managed well, it can lead to deeper understanding, greater tolerance and more creative outcomes. If it is not managed well, it can lead to pain and suffering, including aggression and violence.

At Sheffield schools CRESST works to:

- Enable young people to learn and then use the concepts, awareness and skills to manage conflict constructively.
- Is seen by young people as relevant and useful to them.
- Is highly participative and promotes learning through activity and engagement.
- Draws on best practice nationally and globally as well as CRESST's own experience to design and deliver high quality training and support.
- Provides schools and other young people's organisations with the skills and theory to enable adults to model effective conflict resolution.
- Encourages schools and other organisations to support young people taking responsibility for managing disputes and difficult conversations.
- Stays open to feedback, curious about young people's lived experience, responsive to new situations.
- Seeks to collaborate with all possible partners.

Appendix 1 gives further information about their programmes, which can also be found in more detail on their website – <http://www.cresst.org.uk>.

The formal speeches within the event concluded with two addresses from members of the Sheffield Interfaith Partnership. Sheffield Interfaith is an organisation for “people of all faiths and none” to come together. It not just seeks to tackle the big problems in society but, more importantly, to share, enjoy and learn from our similarities and differences. In Sheffield it supports positive work undertaken at the Shirley House Interfaith Centre and the Multifaith Chapel and Library, Burngreave Ashram. Both the Christian and the Muslim faith leaders that spoke noted the collaborative way they work with each other and the positive way they promote tolerance and support for refugees, local food banks and so forth. Both sang short peace songs from each other's faith tradition.

The Lord Mayor's Consort read out a welcome address of support for the event from the Mayor of Hiroshima, the President of Mayors for Peace. This can be found at Appendix 2. All the children present, the Lord Mayor and invited speakers then lighted candles for peace looking out over Sheffield's famous Peace Gardens, which adjoins the Town Hall.

The event concluded with an invited Sheffield peace choir singing a number of inspiring songs dedicated to peace.

Photos from the event are attached as Appendix 3. For the Chapter Secretariat, this is the type of inspiring event which it is seeking other members to organise, and it encourages all UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace members to consider their own local event to support the organisation.

3. Next UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter meeting, Leeds Civic Hall, Friday 23rd March 2018

Following on from the seminar approach that was welcomed at the last meeting of the Chapter held in Manchester on the 1st December 2017, the next meeting will be organised in a similar manner.

The meeting is planned for Friday the 23rd March in the East Room, Leeds Civic Hall from 1.15pm – 3.30pm. All members of the UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter are encouraged to send a representative. There are plans at the meeting to encourage Mayors, Provosts and senior councillors that attend the meeting to also sign the ICAN pledge to work for a nuclear weapons free world that has been developed for local and national politicians. This will include a photo opportunity with a media release to follow. This pledge was signed in Manchester and Glasgow for example prior to the Nobel Peace Ceremony.

The meeting also plans to consider:

- ICAN UK's plans and campaigns in 2018.
- The work of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) and how both groups can cooperate in the UK and Ireland.
- Initiatives to promote peace education in schools around the UK and Ireland.
- Possible plans to develop Mayors for Peace in Europe.

A flyer and full speaker programme will be sent out shortly to advertise it.

4. Mayors for Peace plans in 2018

The core international activity of Mayors for Peace in 2018 will be to seek full implementation of the UN's International Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty. Two core events will include a Mayors for Peace International Secretariat and Executive Advisors presence – the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) Preparatory Conference in UN offices at Geneva, Switzerland in late April / early May and the UN High Level Conference on Disarmament being held at the UN headquarters in New York later in May (14th – 16th).

Both conferences come at a time of heightened international tension and real concern over the prospects of a nuclear conflict. On January 25th the Bulletin on Atomic Scientists moved the hands of its famous 'doomsday clock' forward to two minutes to midnight, the closest it has seen to a nuclear conflict since the end of the Cold War. This partially comes over the concerns with North Korea's nuclear weapons programme and with the publication of the United States new 'nuclear posture' plans.

The new posture highlights the 'need' for strengthened nuclear deterrence capabilities to 'counter' threats from Russia, China, North Korea and other adversaries of the United States. It also outlines the Trump administration's plans to develop new low-yield so-called "tactical" nuclear weapons and reintroduce old, Cold War weapons systems. It increases the role of nuclear weapons in U.S. security, elevating the threats of a nuclear war. And it expands current plans to modernise its nuclear arsenal, increasing the already huge nuclear weapons budget (which currently stands at \$60 billion per year).

U.S. Senator Ed Markey, Co-President of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, has called the new nuclear posture a 'road-map to nuclear war.' The Chinese and Russian Governments have also been severely critical of the new policy.

It remains therefore pressing to call for nuclear weapon states to 'pull back from the brink' and into sensible and practical discussions to encourage nuclear disarmament. The contrast between the positive moves for nuclear disarmament at the United Nations with the increase in tensions between nuclear weapon states could not be starker.

On the 24th April, whilst a Mayors for Peace delegation will attend the Geneva NPT, an Executive meeting of Mayors for Peace will be held allowing European and other continental Lead Cities of Mayors for Peace on the 24th April to meet with its International Secretariat to discuss ways to develop greater cooperation and joint events. The Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will also be speaking at the NGO Forum to the NPT Conference on the 25th April and the International Secretariat are also organising a Mayors for Peace Youth Forum on the 26th April. Further details of this meeting will be provided at the 23rd March meeting in Leeds.

5. Conclusions and recommendations

The Chapter Secretariat warmly welcomes Sheffield's Mayors for Peace celebration event and its increased interest and support for the organisation. It encourages other Mayors for Peace members to consider organising similar events, or bringing its membership of Mayors for Peace into other relevant events, such as Holocaust Memorial Day, Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days and International Peace Day.

The Chapter Secretariat also welcomes the positive work to promote peace education, conflict resolution and peer mentoring at school and college level. The examples in Manchester (noted in Briefing Number 13) and Sheffield are instructive in showing how Mayors for Peace members can promote the values of peace, tolerance, good citizenship and community cohesion at the local level.

While positive actions to promote disarmament are taking place at the international level, there are worrying trends of substantial levels of increased resource being channelled towards developing new nuclear weapons and other increasing threats that could lead to the 'doomsday' scenario mentioned by the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists.

2018 is an important year in looking at ways to reduce tension in the world and promote peace. With it also being the 60th anniversary of CND, the centenary of expanding the vote to some women in the UK and the centenary of the end of the First World War, there are a lot of events that individual Mayors for Peace members are likely to get involved in, and you are encouraged to link such involvement to membership of the organisation.

All members are strongly encouraged to seek to send a representative to the next Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter meeting taking place in Leeds Civic Hall on the 23rd March, where the opportunity to discuss future direction of the organisation in the UK and Ireland can be considered.

Voluntary fee invoices of £70 / £140 (€80 / €160) to assist supporting such work will be sent out shortly and members are encouraged to process them. Members are also encouraged to assist the Secretariat in recruiting other Councils to join the Mayors for Peace – East Ayrshire Council joined in December 2017 and are very much welcomed to the Chapter.

The programmes of CRESST (Conflict Resolution Education Support for Students) in Sheffield

1. Young Peacemakers Project

CRESST's whole school approach for primary schools which includes pupil and staff training in conflict resolution skills and approaches, supporting schools recruiting volunteer mediators and then setting up a sustainable mediation scheme to work in school. CRESST undertakes evaluation visits of each school we have worked in to produce a case study demonstrating impact. Our annual Peer Mediation Conference at the University in January brings active schools together with a celebration day for the volunteer mediators.

2. Youth Resolving Conflict

Working in secondary and special schools, CRESST provides whole year group training for young students, staff training in conflict resolution, mediation skills and restorative approaches, and provides all the necessary support and training for establishing a sustainable student-led mediation scheme with older student volunteers. CRESST can stay involves to evaluate the impact of the scheme and provide links to further development opportunities.

3. Restorative Approaches

CRESST is providing more and more training in using restorative approaches with schools, alternative education providers and youth organisations. An initial one-day training provides the introduction and organisations can then decide to develop the practice in various ways to suit their organisation's needs. This training is delivered by our Programme Director who has an MA in Restorative Justice, is a qualified facilitator and has 4 years' experience running panels with victims and offenders.

4. Adult Training

CRESST delivers a range of adult training programmes throughout the year. These include introductory days for those wanting to explore conflict resolution skills and their relevance to education settings and work with young people, skills training for Peer Mediator Coordinators in primary schools, training in communication skills for staff in secondary schools, workshops for parents, a session for Governors, and more. CRESST can also (and regularly does) offer bespoke training for organisations in mediation skills, restorative approaches and conflict resolution skills and techniques for working with young people.

For further information contact CRESST – <http://www.cresst.org.uk>

Letter of support from the Mayor of Hiroshima to the Lord Mayor of Sheffield

Congratulatory Message for the Mayors for Peace Celebration Event in Sheffield
January 31, 2018

To: Councillor Anne Murphy, Lord Mayor of Sheffield

Dear Lord Mayor,

It is an honour and a pleasure to send this message on the occasion of the Mayors for Peace celebration event in Sheffield. I would like to express my sincere respect to the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Councillor Anne Murphy, and to the people involved in organizing this event.

Last July, 122 United Nations members, which exceeds 60 percent of its total membership, adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to ban, among others, the use, possession, deployment, and threat of use of nuclear weapons. With non-nuclear-armed nations at the forefront, they demonstrated their unequivocal determination to achieve abolition.

Furthermore, last December saw the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons. However, there are only four nations to date that have ratified the treaty, and we are concerned that it will take a long time for the treaty to be ratified by 50 nations, which brings the treaty into force.

In this context, it is essential for civil society to help create an environment that allows policymakers to move beyond national borders to act in good faith and conscience for the elimination of nuclear weapons. Hence, it is truly significant that you will deepen understanding of the importance of nuclear weapons abolition and think about the promotion of regional peace activities through this event, and I extend to you my deepest respect.

Mayors for Peace will continue to solidify its unity with people around the world, and work with a passion for the realization of everlasting world peace. May we all join together, combining our power, combining our efforts, combining our actions, to these ends.

I close with my best wishes for the success of the Mayors for Peace celebration event in Sheffield, and for the continued good health and the happiness of all in attendance.

Yours sincerely,
Kazumi Matsui
President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor of Hiroshima

Photos from the Sheffield Mayors for Peace event



The Lord Mayor of Sheffield Anne Murphy opens the celebration event



Rebecca Johnson of ICAN talks about their work and the Nobel Peace Prize



Bruce Kent of CND talks about its work in its 60th anniversary year



Candle lights for peace offered by Sheffield schoolchildren with Sheffield's original Mayors for Peace membership form



Representing the NFLA at the event, its English Chair and Leeds Councillor David Blackburn



The Sheffield Peace Choir sings several songs of peace to the invited audience