



# Briefing paper

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Date: 14<sup>th</sup> August 2018

No.18

Subject: Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemoration events and wider progress report

## 1. Introduction

This report has been developed by the Chapter Secretary and provides a wider overview to some of the events that were held on, or around August 6<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup>, which was the 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the atomic weapon attacks on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As is usual, large-scale events took place in Japan, but events in solidarity with Hiroshima and Nagasaki also took place across the world, with many by local Chapter members.

The report also outlines a number of upcoming events Chapter members may be taking part in, which include:

- The Chapter's next meeting, which takes place in Clydebank Town Hall on the 20<sup>th</sup> September, and other events coinciding with International Peace Day.
- A visit to the port cities Liverpool and Dublin by the Japanese 'Peace Boat' initiative on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018.
- A visit to Manchester of Hiroshima Legacy Ambassadors in November.
- Plans for the centenary of the end of the First World War in November across Europe.
- Plans to mark International Human Rights Day on the 10<sup>th</sup> December, which will be the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights.
- Future plans for the hosting of the 'Bike for Peace' global tour starting in London on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and a 'Run for Peace' in Belfast on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## 2. Hiroshima and Nagasaki Peace Ceremonies 2018

On August 6<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup> 1945 the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were devastated by two nuclear bombs from American B-52 military aeroplanes. Over 90% of both cities were destroyed, and over a short time afterwards around 240,000 people died, either directly from the bomb, or through the effects of radiation on their bodies.

Since 1946, both cities have held annual Peace Ceremonies to remember those who died and to support those who had survived – the 'hibakusha'. The first ceremonies were obviously simple in structure, but they have grown into national and internationally known events. Both cities have created Peace Parks around the hypocentres of the bombs and have built moving museums reminding the world of what happened. The ceremonies now are attended by tens of thousands of people, including National Ambassadors to Japan from around 100 countries each year.

The centrepiece of the ceremony is a minutes silence around the exact time of the attack – 8.15am in Hiroshima on the 6<sup>th</sup> August and 11.02am in Nagasaki on the 9<sup>th</sup> August. They are directly followed by a Peace Declaration by the Mayor, a Children's Peace Commitment and an address from the Prime Minister of Japan and a representative of the UN Secretary General. The ceremonies conclude with the singing of a peace hymn. Peace crane garlands and floating candles are made and floated in the evening of each day.

## THE UK & IRELAND CHAPTER OF MAYORS FOR PEACE

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This year's Hiroshima Peace Ceremony took place during very hot weather across Japan. The area around Hiroshima had been badly flooded just a couple of weeks before, but it did not stop the ceremony taking place and it was as moving as always. Around 55,000 people were thought to have attended it.

The Mayor's Peace Declaration by Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima received considerable media coverage. It encouraged people to think of the exact second at 8.15am when the bomb dropped on the city. It criticised nuclear weapon states for 'self-centred nationalism' for continuing to develop and modernise nuclear weapon stockpiles. The Mayor encouraged states to sign up for the Treaty to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. The full text is attached at Appendix 1. In addition, the day after the ceremony, the Mayor met with the US Ambassador to Japan and he unveiled a wreath at the Cenotaph in Hiroshima Peace Park. The Ambassador pledged to speak to President Trump encouraging him to visit Hiroshima, in a similar manner to President Obama did towards the end of his term of office.

The Nagasaki Peace Declaration by Mayor Taue encouraged the Japanese Government to take full leadership in the challenge to bring about a nuclear weapons free world, include signing up to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which the current government opposes. A full text is attached at Appendix 2. Around 8,000 people attended the ceremony.

The Nagasaki Peace Ceremony was notable for also having representation from the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres. This was the first time a UN Secretary General had attended the Nagasaki Peace Ceremony. Previous UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon had spoken at a Hiroshima Peace Ceremony. Mr Guterres focused his speech around the need to support the TPNW and he also outlined his own initiative on weapons of mass destruction that he had brought to the UN in May. His speech to the ceremony is attached as Appendix 3.

Along with organising a number of related events, Hiroshima also hosted a delegation of students from fellow Mayors for Peace Vice President Cities and a number of cities from around Japan. Manchester was represented by William Reynolds, a Peace Studies student from the University of Manchester. The organised course 'Hiroshima and Peace' provided a full background to the events of August 1945 and the current work Hiroshima leads on to promote a more peaceful world. William is the sixth student from Manchester in recent years to undertake a course in Hiroshima.

### 3. **Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemoration events held by Chapter members**

As in keeping in solidarity with the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, towns and cities from across the world held commemoration events on or around August 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Cities with major events included Hiroshima, Sydney, Fremantle, Vienna, Dhaka, Toronto, Montreal, Prague, Esbjerg, Helsinki, Paris, in more than 50 German cities, Kerala, Cochin, Tokyo, Auckland, Wellington, Larvik, Oslo, Muntinlupa, Heiden, Lomo (Togo), Atlanta, Baltimore, Des Moines, New York, Barcelona, Granollers, Ypres and Biograd na Moru.

Many towns and cities in the UK and Ireland held prominent events as well. These included:

- **Manchester** held its annual event for the fourth year in the Living Worlds Gallery in Manchester Museum (part of Manchester University). It included the laying of a wreath by the Lord Mayor of Manchester and readings given by the Bishop of Manchester, Afzal Khan MP and Julie Ward MEP. It also included a paper crane and bee folding family workshop.
- **Leeds** held its annual event on Nagasaki Day by its Mayors for Peace memorial plaque and gingko tree in Park Square in the city centre. The event included the Deputy Leader of Leeds City Council reading out the Nagasaki Peace Declaration, a short talk by the Chapter Secretary and the Chair of CND and the singing of peace songs by the Leeds Peoples Choir.
- **London's** annual event was held in Tavistock Square in the presence of the Mayor of Camden. There were speeches by Bruce Kent, Kate Hudson and Amelia Womack.
- **Bradford** held its traditional commemoration ceremony in Norfolk Square behind Bradford City Hall. The Lord Mayor of Bradford was one of the speakers at the event.
- **Sheffield** held its annual ceremony at Meersbrook Park in the city. The Lord Mayor of Sheffield signed the Sheffield Mayors for Peace International Peace Declaration.

- **Paisley's** annual ceremony included speeches from Ross Greer MSP and a local Japanese lady with connections to Hiroshima. It was held by the Paisley Peace Pole in Barshaw Park.
- **Edinburgh** held its annual ceremony in Princes Street Gardens and included readings and singing.
- **Cardiff** held a period of reflection and singing from the Cor Cochion choir at the National Eisteddfod in Cardiff Bay.
- **Coventry** held a commemoration service in Coventry Cathedral. The city has a friendship agreement with Hiroshima.
- **Salisbury's** annual event included placing floating candles on the river that runs through the city in a ceremony that replicates what happens in Hiroshima on the evening of August 6<sup>th</sup>.
- **Stirling's** annual peace ceremony was held in the peace garden at Pullar Park in the Bridge of Allan.

A list of selected global events for Hiroshima Day and Nagasaki Day can be found at the following weblink:

<http://www.abolition2000.org/event/hiroshima-and-nagasaki-commemoration-events/>

Some photos from the events noted above are attached as Appendix 4. The Chapter Secretariat in Manchester and the International Secretariat in Hiroshima sincerely thank all Mayors for Peace members and peace and faith groups who took part in them.

#### 4. **International Peace Day and the next Chapter meeting, Clydebank Town Hall, September 20<sup>th</sup> and call for bell-ringing on September 21<sup>st</sup>**

To coincide with International Peace Day on September 21<sup>st</sup>, the UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter will be held the day before in Clydebank Town Hall (it is a local bank holiday in parts of the west of Scotland on the 21<sup>st</sup>).

The Chapter meeting is being held in conjunction with NFLA Scotland and ICAN affiliated groups in Scotland. This is part of the agreed plan to take the Chapter around the constituent nations that it is made up from. It also coincides with a gathering of ICAN activists from around the world. The seminar will focus on promoting disarmament and peace education and include the following speakers:

- The Provost of West Dunbartonshire Council, host of the seminar.
- Timmon Wallis, Co-ordinator of the group Nuclearban.US will explain their work encouraging American towns and cities to pass resolutions supporting the TPNW.
- A member of the Scottish Parliament's Cross Party Group on Nuclear Disarmament.
- The Chapter Secretary on the development of the Manchester Children's Peace Trail.
- Flavia Tudoreanu of Peace Education Scotland, on a summer peace academy for young people recently held in Glasgow.

A flyer for the event is on the websites of the supporting groups and will go out to all Mayors for Peace members, Scottish Provosts and councillors and ICAN affiliated groups. Please try and attend it if you can.

There will be a series of other events taking place during this week in Scotland organised by ICAN affiliated groups, including the Medact (Physicians for Peace) Annual General Meeting in Glasgow and an evening of international cabaret at the Webster's Theatre in Glasgow.

The main event of the week will be an International March and Rally organised by ICAN groups in Scotland under the banner 'Nae Nukes Anywhere'. It will begin from the Faslane Peace Camp and walk to the area in front of the Faslane naval base which hosts Trident nuclear armed submarines. Amongst the expected attendees from around the world include **Sharon Dolev**, Founding Director of the Israeli Disarmament Movement; **Ekaterina Earsalovna**, Professor of International Relations, Ural Federal University; **Anthony Donovan**, writer, organiser and documentary maker on peace and disarmament from New York; **Emad Kiyaei**, an Iranian consultant who provides political, business and civil society leaders with strategic advice in the intersection of political risk, diplomacy and technology; **Maaïke Beenes**, a youth campaigner with PAX in the Netherlands; **Members of the South Korean People's Democratic Party** who

are visiting Scotland as part of their Peace Expedition, **Allison Pytlak** of the group Reaching Critical Will, who was awarded, along with Ray Acheson, the UN Women's Champion for Change status this year for their advocacy in the campaign for the TPNW; and **Timmon Wallis** – National Co-ordinator of the group NuclearBan.US. Visitors are also expected from **Kazakhstan** and **France**.

For further information and to take part please go to the following website:

<http://www.nuclearban.scot/nae-nukes-anywhere-international-rally-at-faslane-22nd-september/>

On International Peace Day there are also plans across Europe to encourage the ringing of bells to celebrate peace. A number of German cities are taking part in this initiative, as is one of the Belgian cities synonymous with the First World War, Ypres, who are also a Vice President of Mayors for Peace. UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace members are also encouraged to consider supporting this initiative and contacting local faith buildings to join in with it. A similar initiative is taking place in November as noted below in section 7.

#### **5. Peace Boat's 99<sup>th</sup> Global Voyage for Peace with stops in Liverpool and Dublin, October**

Over the past three decades, Mayors for Peace members around the world have cooperated with the Japanese group, Peace Boat.

Peace Boat is a Japan-based international non-governmental and non-profit organisation that works to promote peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development and respect for the environment. It carries out its main activities through a chartered passenger ship that travels the world on peace voyages. The ship creates a neutral, mobile space and enables people to engage across borders in dialogue and mutual cooperation at sea, and in the ports that it visits. A number of its voyages have also included hibakushas from Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In 2016, Peace Boat members and a number of hibakushas visited London. A joint public meeting was organised by the Chapter Secretariat in Quaker House to hear testimony from three hibakusha, as well as a Parliamentary meeting in a House of Lords Committee Room. In 2017, a follow-up educational visit was held in London, and a meeting was organised in Edinburgh at the Scottish Parliament.

Peace Boat's 99<sup>th</sup> Global Voyage of Peace will take place between September 1<sup>st</sup> and December 18<sup>th</sup> 2018. It will include stops in Liverpool on October 16<sup>th</sup> and Dublin on October 17<sup>th</sup>. The Chapter Secretariat is talking with members of Peace Boat to ascertain what they plan to do during their visits to both cities, and it is hoped to bring them in touch with the Lord Mayors of Liverpool and Dublin during the visit.

#### **6. Hiroshima Legacy Ambassadors visit to Manchester, November**

As part of its role as a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Manchester has received an invitation from the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation to host a visit of a number of Hiroshima A-bomb Legacy Ambassadors. This is being planned for early November.

Hiroshima A-bomb Legacy Ambassadors is a project to keep the message of the hibakusha alive for the longer-term. The average age of hibakusha in Hiroshima and Nagasaki has now reached 82, and their number is inevitably declining year by year. The Legacy Ambassadors are volunteers linked to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum who have spoken with hibakusha and pledge to pass on their direct experiences and their hope for peace. The project also brings people who will read from the memoirs or poems of the hibakusha. Those coming to Manchester in November are all fluent English speakers, and a programme is currently being developed between Manchester and the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation to visit schools and undertake a number of public events.

Further details on this project will be published as it becomes available, and it is hoped that it can include other Mayors for Peace members.

## **7. Centenary of the end of the First World War, November 2018**

Around Europe and the wider world, major events to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War are being planned in detail.

The Armistice that ended the First World War concluded all military operations on 11am on the 11<sup>th</sup> November, 1918. The centenary takes place on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018, with Remembrance Sunday the usual day for events around the country at local cenotaphs and war memorials. A whole raft of events are being planned, many involving the use of the symbol of that war – the poppy.

Amongst the major events planned for the 11<sup>th</sup> November is an initiative jointly organised by the UK and the German Governments seeking the ringing of bells in faith and civic buildings in both countries. The ringing of church bells took place in 1918 to commemorate the end of the war and remember the sacrifice of millions of soldiers and civilians.

Each UK and some Irish members of Mayors for Peace are likely to be holding their own events around Remembrance Sunday. The Chapter Secretariat encourages members to include the need for ongoing peace and reconciliation as a part of such ceremonies.

## **8. International Human Rights Day, 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary events, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1948, the United Nations (UN) unanimously adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This year events are being held around the world for its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The date has been forever set as International Human Rights Day.

The UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights was a milestone document that proclaimed the inalienable rights which everyone is inherently entitled to as a human being -- regardless of race, colour, religion, gender, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. It is the most translated document in the world, available in more than 500 languages.

As the UN comments: "It was drafted by representatives of diverse legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world. The Declaration sets out universal values and a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations. It also establishes the equal dignity and worth of every person. While its promise is yet to be fully realized, the very fact that it has stood the test of time is testament to the enduring universality of its values of equality, justice and human dignity."

Chapter members are encouraged to hold appropriate events to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary on International Human Rights Day. Manchester City Council is looking to hold an event in conjunction with Manchester Museum.

To find out more about International Human Rights Day and events being held, focusing with a major event in Paris, please consult the UN's website –

<http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/>

## **9. Bike for Peace and Run for Peace events being planned in 2019**

Over the past few years, Mayors for Peace members around the world have cooperated with the work of the Norwegian group, Bike for Peace, led by Tore Naerland.

This group, established in 1978, uses the mode of cycling to build connections between conflicted communities, as well as promoting the wider need for peace and justice. The Chapter has cooperated with Bike for Peace with their global tour in 2015, a Scottish tour prior to the independence referendum in 2016, and a short tour of Manchester – Warrington – Liverpool in May 2018 (see Chapter Briefing 17).

Bike for Peace will be holding a new Global Bike Ride for Peace from February 25<sup>th</sup> to April 4<sup>th</sup> 2019. The ride will commence in London on the 25<sup>th</sup> February and plans are in place to hold an opening event in Westminster. The group will then travel to Rochester and Dover and go on to

Paris. The trip will take in a route including France, India, China, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Hawaii, concluding in Norway.

Further details will be provided as the full itinerary is finalised. The Chapter Secretariat is assisting Bike for Peace in bringing a cross-section group of MPs and Mayors together for the launch event in Westminster.

A small delegation from the group also plan to be in Belfast from May 2<sup>nd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> to run the Belfast Marathon and meet with peace groups around Northern Ireland. This 'Run for Peace' offshoot is part of a new initiative of the group. Further details on the planned itinerary will be provided once they are known.

## **10. Conclusions and recommendations**

This report has outlined the events around the 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversaries of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings, held both in Japan and around the world. They remain focal events in the international work of the Mayors for Peace, and the Chapter Secretariat welcomes the increased involvement of local members in supporting them.

The report has also outlined a timetable of other related events taking place over the next few months. It strongly encourages relevant Mayors for Peace members to participate in them and advocate its support of the organisation when it does so.

Chapter members, particularly those in Scotland, are encouraged to attend the next Chapter meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> September in Clydebank Town Hall and the associated events. The Chapter meetings are the best opportunity to get involved and support the work of Mayors for Peace.

A voluntary invoice and a questionnaire is also being issued over the summer to all Chapter members in the UK and Ireland, encouraging support for the work of Mayors for Peace and to understand what members would like the Chapter to be involved with in the future. Letters are also going to non-members encouraging them to join this organisation which has now topped more than 7,600 members in 163 countries.

An updated series of reports of some of the events noted above will be published as they take place.

## Hiroshima Peace Declaration 2018



It is 73 years ago and a Monday morning, just like today. With the mid-summer sun already blazing, Hiroshima starts another day. Please listen to what I say next as if you and your loved ones were there. At 8:15 comes a blinding flash. A fireball more than a million degrees Celsius releases intense radiation, heat, and then, a tremendous blast. Below the roiling mushroom cloud, innocent lives are snuffed out as the city is obliterated.

"I'm so hot! It's killing me!" From under collapsed houses, children scream for their mothers. "Water! Please, water!" come moans and groans from the brink of death. In the foul stench of burning people, victims wander around like ghosts, their flesh peeled and red. Black rain fell all around. The scenes of hell burnt into their memories and the radiation eating away at their minds and bodies are even now sources of pain for hibakusha who survive.

Today, with more than 14,000 nuclear warheads remaining, the likelihood is growing that what we saw in Hiroshima after the explosion that day will return, by intent or accident, plunging people into agony.

The hibakusha, based on their intimate knowledge of the terror of nuclear weapons, are ringing an alarm against the temptation to possess them. Year by year, as hibakusha decrease in number, listening to them grows ever more crucial. One hibakusha who was 20 says, "If nuclear weapons are used, every living thing will be annihilated. Our beautiful Earth will be left in ruins. World leaders should gather in the A-bombed cities, encounter our tragedy, and, at a minimum, set a course toward freedom from nuclear weapons. I want human beings to become good stewards of creation capable of abolishing nuclear weapons." He asks world leaders to focus their reason and insight on abolishing nuclear weapons so we can treasure life and avoid destroying the Earth.

Last year, the Nobel Peace Prize went to ICAN, an organization that contributed to the formation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Thus, the spirit of the hibakusha is spreading through the world. On the other hand, certain countries are blatantly proclaiming self-centered nationalism and modernizing their nuclear arsenals, rekindling tensions that had eased with the end of the Cold War.

Another hibakusha who was 20 makes this appeal: "I hope no such tragedy ever happens again. We must never allow ours to fade into the forgotten past. I hope from the bottom of my heart that humanity will apply our wisdom to making our entire Earth peaceful." If the human family forgets history or stops confronting it, we could again commit a terrible error. That is precisely why we must continue talking about Hiroshima. Efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons must continue based on intelligent actions by leaders around the world.

Nuclear deterrence and nuclear umbrellas flaunt the destructive power of nuclear weapons and seek to maintain international order by generating fear in rival countries. This approach to guaranteeing long-term security is inherently unstable and extremely dangerous. World leaders must have this reality etched in their hearts as they negotiate in good faith the elimination of nuclear arsenals, which is a legal obligation under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Furthermore, they must strive to make the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons a milestone along the path to a nuclear-weapon-free world.

We in civil society fervently hope that the easing of tensions on the Korean Peninsula will proceed through peaceable dialogue. For leaders to take courageous actions, civil society must respect diversity, build mutual trust, and make the abolition of nuclear weapons a value shared by all humankind. Mayors for Peace, now with more than 7,600 member cities around the world, will focus on creating that environment.

I ask the Japanese government to manifest the magnificent pacifism of the Japanese Constitution in the movement toward the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by playing its proper role, leading the international community toward dialogue and cooperation for a world without nuclear weapons. In addition, I hereby demand an expansion of the black rain areas along with greater concern and improved assistance for the many people suffering the mental and physical effects of radiation, especially the hibakusha, whose average age is now over 82.

Today, we renew our commitment and offer sincere consolation to the souls of all A-bomb victims. Along with Nagasaki, the other A-bombed city, and with much of the world's population, Hiroshima pledges to do everything in our power to achieve lasting world peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Mayor Kazumi Matsui

Mayor of Hiroshima

Read on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony



## Nagasaki Peace Declaration 2018



It was on this day 73 years ago, at 11:02 a.m. on August 9. The explosion of a single atomic bomb in the blue summer sky reduced the city of Nagasaki to a horrific state. Humans, animals, plants, trees and all other forms of life were scorched to ashes. Countless corpses lay scattered all around the annihilated streets. The corpses of people who had exhausted themselves searching for water bobbed up and down in the rivers, drifting until they reached the estuaries. 150,000 people were killed or wounded and those who somehow managed to survive suffered severe mental and physical wounds. To this day they continue to be afflicted by the aftereffects of radiation.

Atomic bombs are cruel weapons that mercilessly take away from humans the dignity to live in a humane manner.

In 1946, the newly-founded United Nations made the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction the first resolution of its General Assembly. The Constitution of Japan, which was issued that same year, set pacifism as one of its unwavering pillars. These were strong expressions of determination to see that the tragedy of the atomic bombings experienced by Hiroshima and Nagasaki, along with the war that brought them on, would never be repeated. The fulfillment of this resolve was then entrusted to the future.

Continuous efforts to realize this resolve made by countries and individuals, most prominently the atomic bombing survivors, bore fruit last year when the United Nations adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Furthermore, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (also known as ICAN), which greatly contributed to efforts that led to the adoption of this treaty, was then awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. These two developments are proof that the majority of people on this earth continue to seek the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Even now, however, 73 years after the end of World War II, some 14,450 nuclear warheads exist in the world. Moreover, to the great concern of those in the atomic-bombed cities, a shift towards openly asserting that nuclear weapons are necessary and that their use could lead to increased military might is once again on the rise.

I hereby appeal to the leaders of nuclear-armed nations and nations dependent on the nuclear umbrella. Please do not forget the resolve of the first United Nations General Assembly Resolution to work towards the elimination of nuclear weapons. In addition, please fulfill the pledge made to the world 50 years ago in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (or NPT) to pursue nuclear disarmament in good faith. I strongly request that you change to security policies not dependent on nuclear weapons before humanity once again commits a mistake that would create even more atomic bombing victims.

To the people of the world, please demand that the governments and parliaments in your countries sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in order to see that this treaty comes into effect at the earliest possible date.

The Government of Japan has taken the position of not signing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. In response to this, more than 300 local assemblies have voiced their desire to see this treaty signed and ratified. I hereby ask that the Government of Japan, the only country to have suffered from the wartime use of nuclear weapons, support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and fulfill its moral obligation to lead the world towards denuclearization.

Currently, a new movement towards peace and denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula has emerged. We in the atomic-bombed cities watch this development attentively and have great

expectations that persistent diplomatic efforts, as initiated with the Panmunjom Declaration by the leaders of North and South Korea and the first ever United States-North Korea Summit, will lead to the realization of irreversible denuclearization. I hope that the Japanese government will make use of this great opportunity to work towards the realization of a Northeast Asia Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone that would see Japan and the entire Korean Peninsula denuclearized.

Last year, two of the hibakusha, or atomic bombing survivors, who led the anti-nuclear-weapons movement in Nagasaki for many years passed away in quick succession. One was Mr. Hideo Tsuchiyama, who had this to say about the leaders of countries that rely on nuclear weapons. "Your possession of nuclear weapons, or attempts to possess such weapons, is nothing to boast of. Rather, you should know that it is something shameful that risks making you perpetrators of crimes against humanity." The second of these hibakusha, Mr. Sumiteru Taniguchi, spoke the following words. "Human beings and nuclear weapons cannot co-exist. The suffering we went through is more than enough. For people to truly live as human beings, we cannot allow a single nuclear weapon to remain on the face of the earth." These two people harbored great worries that those who have never experienced war or atomic bombings might head down mistaken paths. With their passing, I feel anew the need to pass on to the next generation the war-renouncing message included in the Constitution of Japan.

There are many things that each and every one of us can do to help bring about the realization of a peaceful world. One is to visit the atomic-bombed cities in order to learn about history and the fearfulness of nuclear weapons. It is also important to listen to accounts of the wartime experiences of those in your own towns. While the experiences themselves are not things that can be shared, feelings of appreciation for peace may be shared by all. The campaign to collect ten-thousand signatures in support of the abolition of nuclear weapons, a project that originated in Nagasaki, started with a proposal made by high school students. The ideas and actions of the young generation have the power to create new movements. There are also people who continue to fold paper cranes and send them to the atomic-bombed cities. Through exchanges between people from different cultures and traditions we deepen our mutual understanding, which in turn can lead to peace. We can also make expressions of peace through our favorite music or sport. The foundations of peace are most certainly formed in civil society. Let us use the power of the civil society to spread throughout the world a culture of peace instead of one of war.

Seven years have now passed since the nuclear power plant accident that followed the Great East Japan Earthquake, yet the people of Fukushima are still suffering from the effects of radiation. Nagasaki continues to offer support to all those in Fukushima who are persevering with efforts aimed at rebuilding.

The average age of the hibakusha is now over 82. I ask that the Government of Japan improve efforts to provide support for survivors still suffering from the aftereffects of the bombings, and offer relief as soon as possible for those who experienced the bombings but have yet to receive official recognition as such.

While offering our heartfelt condolences to those who lost their lives in the atomic bombings, we citizens of Nagasaki hereby declare that we will continue to work tirelessly with people around the world to bring about everlasting peace and the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Tomihisa Taue  
Mayor of Nagasaki  
Read on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 at the Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony

## Speech of the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, to the Nagasaki Peace Ceremony



Nagasaki no minasama, konnichi wa. [Hello everyone.]

Minasama-ni ome-ni kakarete, kouei desu. [It is an honour to meet you.]

It is a privilege, as secretary-general of the United Nations, to be here with you to commemorate the women, men and child-children killed by the nuclear attack on Nagasaki on 9 August 1945.

I convey my deepest respect to everyone here today, and to all the victims and survivors of the atomic bombings.

It is a great personal pleasure to be here in Nagasaki. My country, Portugal, has deep political, cultural and religious ties with this city, going back nearly five centuries.

But Nagasaki is not just an international city with a long and fascinating history. It is a global inspiration for all those who seek to create a safer and more secure world.

This city, your city, is a beacon of hope and strength, and a monument to the resilience of its people.

The atomic bomb that killed and injured tens of thousands of people in the immediate aftermath of the blast, and in the years and decades that followed, could not crush your spirit.

The survivors of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, the hibakusha, have become leaders for peace and disarmament here in Japan and around the world. They are defined not by the cities that were destroyed, but by the peaceful world they seek to build.

From the other side of the apocalypse, the hibakusha have raised their voices on behalf of the entire human family. We must listen.

There can be no more Hiroshimas, no more Nagasakis, no more hibakusha.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear children.

Sadly, 73 years on, fears of nuclear war are still with us. Millions of people, including here in Japan, live in a shadow cast by the dread of unthinkable carnage.

States in possession of nuclear weapons are spending vast sums to modernize their arsenals. More than \$1.7 trillion was spent in 2017 on arms and armies--the highest level since the end of the Cold War. That is around 80 times the amount needed for global humanitarian aid.

Meanwhile, disarmament processes have slowed and even come to a halt.

Many states demonstrated their frustration by adopting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons last year.

Let us also recognize the persistent peril of other deadly weapons.

Chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction, and those being developed for cyberwarfare, pose a grave threat.

And conflicts fought with conventional weapons are lasting longer and are becoming more deadly for civilians.

There is an urgent need for disarmament of all kinds, but especially nuclear disarmament.

This is the backdrop to the global disarmament initiative that I launched in May.

Disarmament is a driving force for maintaining international peace and security. It is a tool for ensuring national security. It helps to uphold the principles of humanity, promote sustainable development and protect civilians.

My agenda for disarmament is based on concrete measures that will lower the risk of nuclear annihilation, prevent conflict of all kinds, and reduce the suffering that the proliferation and use of arms causes to civilians.

The agenda makes clear that nuclear weapons undermine global, national and human security. The total elimination of nuclear weapons remains the highest disarmament priority of the United Nations.

Here in Nagasaki, I call on all countries to commit to nuclear disarmament and to start making visible progress as a matter of urgency.

Nuclear weapon states have a special responsibility to lead.

Let Nagasaki and Hiroshima remind us to put peace first every day; to work on conflict prevention and resolution, reconciliation and dialogue, and to tackle the roots of conflict and violence.

Peace is not an abstract concept and it does not come about by chance. Peace is tangible, and it can be built--by hard work, solidarity, compassion and respect.

Out of the horror of the atomic bomb, we can reach a deeper understanding of our irreducible bonds of responsibility to each other.

Let us all commit to making Nagasaki the last place on earth to suffer nuclear devastation.

I will work with you to that end.

Thank you. Arigato gozaimasu.

Antonio Guterres

UN Secretary General

Read on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony

Selected photos from some of the Hiroshima & Nagasaki events in the UK & Ireland



Group picture after the laying of the peace wreath, following Manchester's Hiroshima Day ceremony. Left to right – Sean Morris (MFP Chapter Secretary), Revd Ian Rutherford (Methodist Church Manchester Mission), Henry McGhie (Manchester Museum), Lord Mayor of Manchester Cllr June Hitchen. Julie Ward MEP. Afzal Khan MP. Rt Revd David Walker. Bishop of Manchester



Above: Cllr James Lewis, Deputy Leader of Leeds City Council, reads Nagasaki Declaration  
Below: Cllr David Blackburn, NFLA English Forum Chair, reads Hiroshima Declaration



Attendees at the 2018 Renfrewshire Hiroshima & Nagasaki commemoration ceremony, by the Paisley Peace Pole, Barshaw Park Peace Garden, Paisley