Mayors for Peace update, ICAN Cities Appeal & European progress

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February 2019, Manchester Central Library
Agenda

• ICAN Cities Appeal and TPNW resolutions
• Basel Appeal and Mayors for Peace / PNND visit
• European Mayors for Peace cooperation
• Peace Boat / Hiroshima Peace Legacy Ambassadors visit
• Mayors for Peace’s peace education promotion
• Leeds International Peace Lecture 2019
• Upcoming events
• INF Treaty and a new nuclear arms race – MFP statement
• Conclusions
TPNW resolution in the US
ICAN Councils pledge / resolution

Manchester City Council becomes the first UK authority to back the Ban Treaty
Manchester City Council is a founder member and the host of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities, and a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, both of which have been working for over 3 decades to promote multilateral nuclear disarmament.

NFLA and Mayors for Peace work with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), which received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 for its work in encouraging over two thirds of United Nations members to agree to the International Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Council regrets that the Governments of the existing nuclear weapon states, including the UK, refuse to support the Treaty. Council fully supports the TPNW as one of the most effective ways to bring about long-term and verifiable multilateral nuclear disarmament.

Council also calls on the United Kingdom Government to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

- Renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- Cancelling the plan to replace its entire Trident nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons;
- Actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals by supporting the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons and the ‘Good Faith’ Protocols within the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the UK Government to inform them of this resolution and urge them to take account of it.
ICAN Cities Appeal launched

Supported by –
- Hiroshima
- Nagasaki
- Los Angeles
- Baltimore
- Sydney
- Melbourne
- Fremantle
- Toronto
- Granollers
- Manchester
- Renfrewshire
- Trondheim
- Zaragoza
- Mainz
- Geneva
- …and shortly many more
Basel Appeal & PNND / M4P meeting

- 3rd Basel Peace Forum
- Opportunity to ‘count the nuclear weapons money’ and highlight UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Mayor of Hanover spoke at Basel University meeting on disarmament and divestment with Molly Scott-Cato MEP and German divestment movement
- Joint Mayors for Peace / PNND meeting on mutual work
- ‘Basel Appeal’ called for US and Russia to not leave INF Treaty and promote new initiatives for disarmament
- Appeal attracted formal support from 43 Mayors / councillors, 78 current or former Parliamentarians and representatives from 92 civil society groups
European Lead Cities cooperation

- European Lead Cities developing a European structure / Chapter
- Terms of reference being drafted
- Develop board and seek finance
- Widen campaign to nuclear weapons and developing safe and resilience cities
- Plan to launch at Executive Conference in Hanover in November 2019
Mayors for Peace Action Plan 2017-20

Realisation of a Nuclear Weapons Free World

- Lobby states at UN NPT Conference to pledge nuclear weapons abolition
- Urge States to sign the TPNW
- A global petition drive to support the TPNW
- Promote Peace Education in towns and cities
- Encourage youth exchange and Legacy Ambassadors
- Promote ‘Hibakusha Appeal’ petition
- Cooperation with local government associations
- Build a network with like-minded groups likes PNND, ICAN, IALANA, ICRC, IPPNW etc.

Realisation of Safe and Resilient Cities

- Promote Peace Education in towns and cities
- Expand activities to address common challenges e.g. terrorism, climate change, poverty, extremism, refugee crisis
- Promote UN Millennium Development goals
- Build up national / regional / continental chapters or structures
- Increase the number of Lead and Member Cities
- Strengthen finances and deepen membership interest
Peace Boat in Liverpool / Dublin

- Peace Boat a Japanese NGO who work closely with Mayors for Peace & ICAN
- 98th Voyage for Peace took in visits to Liverpool and Dublin
- Hibakusha and staff met Lord Mayors
- Also school / public meetings
- Met Irish Government Disarmament Team to discuss TPNW
Peace Legacy Ambassadors visit

- Bring the message of the hibakusha
- First visit outside Japan
- Civic events in Manchester, Oldham and Coventry
- School / Youth Council talks
- Walked the Manchester Peace Trail
- More planned for the future
Peace Education

- Peaceful Towns Children’s Art competition
- 469 works from 29 cities
- Gingko trees in Manchester, Edinburgh, Hull, Shetland, Oldham, South Ayrshire
- New Peace Garden for Manchester
- Peace projects being developed in schools around the UK
Children’s Peace Trail

- Essential to encourage children to think of peace at an early age
- Manchester Children’s Peace Trail relaunched in July 2018
- Bring the radical history of the city alive and encourage future research
- Now developing mobile app for it
- Grateful thanks to Historic England for financial support
Leeds Peace Lecture 2019

- Leeds has held Annual Peace Lecture since 1986
- Previous lectures given by Patrick Stewart, Senator George Mitchell, Caroline Lucas
- 2019 lecture given by Professor Paul Rogers – Routes for Peace in an Uncertain World
- Planning lectures in other cities
- Jointly organised by Leeds City Council, Leeds Beckett University & Peacelink Group
Upcoming events

• Bike for Peace global tour – Westminster launch 27th February

• Manchester civic visit to Kagoshima and Hiroshima – 22nd – 26th April

• Ripple of Hope – work with the Robert F Kennedy Human Rights group

• Mayors for Peace delegation at NPT in New York, May

• Bells for Peace Yoko Ono event for MIF, July

• Next Chapter meeting, September

• Executive Conference, Hanover, November
INF Treaty – MFP statement

• US / USSR 1987 treaty removed most of the nuclear weapons from around Europe
• President Trump & Putin now both suspended the Treaty claiming the other is developing new missiles
• Concern over new nuclear arms race
• European & North American Lead Cities joint statement calls for talks and return to multilateralism
• Such statements to increase over time as European Chapter develops
Conclusions

- We encourage Councils to pass resolutions to support the ICAN Cities Appeal and TPNW
- Develop local peace education projects and refer to Mayors for Peace
- Questionnaire going out shortly
- Voluntary invoices going out too
- All this is about DEEPENING membership
- The world is in a dangerous place – it is important we assist in making it safer
Thank you for listening!