Hiroshima & Nagasaki remembered again

August saw the 74th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bomb attacks. As major events were held in the two Japanese cities, other commemorations were held across the world calling for disarmament.

Both the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Mayors made strong political points in their Peace Declarations, urging the Japanese Government to sign the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and also calling for a de-escalation of growing tensions in the world.

Over 40 UK & Ireland NFLA and Mayors for Peace members held their own local events to commemorate the 74th anniversary. Events were also held across many European towns & cities and around the world.

A full summary of the many local events with photos, the context to this year's anniversary, and the Peace Declarations have been put into a Policy Briefing. They are on the NFLA & MFP websites.

NFLA publishes detailed report on Ireland & climate change

The NFLA has published a detailed analysis over how the climate change issue is being dealt with across the island of Ireland. The report urges new powers and finance be given to Irish Councils in a parallel initiative with the Irish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive in reducing carbon emissions.

The report raises real concerns that the island of Ireland – north and south – has become a ‘laggard’ in the challenge to mitigate climate change, and faces billions in fines from the EU for not reaching 2020 targets.

The NFLA report looks at the highly positive way Irish Councils could provide in supporting the two governments.

Focusing on Climate Action Plans of the four Greater Dublin Councils shows evidence of the positive role local government can play in reducing carbon emissions.

The report has been sent to all Councils and is on the NFLA website.
NFLA media releases, August 2019:
(On NFLA website)

- NFLA support International Day Against Nuclear Tests
- NFLA sceptical of new SMRs being built in Cumbria
- NFLA disappointed with ONR decision on Hunterston B
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  - NFLA support International Day Against Nuclear Tests
  - NFLA sceptical of new SMRs being built in Cumbria
  - NFLA disappointed with ONR decision on Hunterston B
  - NFLA continues to support joint letter to the EIB
  - NFLA continue to have concerns on Hunterston B
  - All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum publishes report on Ireland and climate change

NFLA letters to the media, August 2019:
(Email to members)

- There is a real risk, and no need, to restarting Hunterston B R4
- The costs and delays to Hinkley could be much higher & longer

NFLA join CNFE & Alliance of Regions over energy investment

The NFLA has co-signed a joint letter, with the Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe and the Alliance of Regions for the Phasing out of Nuclear Power, calling on the European Investment Bank to stop investing in new nuclear energy.

The joint letter notes that nuclear power generating process is by no means carbon neutral. It also notes the dependency on uranium from outside Europe.

A core part of the letter argues nuclear power is not economically viable and remains a real safety risk across the continent.

In an era of the ‘climate emergency’, there is neither the time or resources to support nuclear in mitigating climate change, but rather the Bank should support renewable energy solutions instead.

A media release with further content is on the NFLA website.

NFLA publishes nuclear emergency planning briefing

The NFLA has published a new briefing looking at core changes to UK nuclear emergency planning regulations.

The briefing was covered at a recent meeting of the BEIS NGO Forum and considers the new changes in the REPPiR (Radiation Emergency Planning and Public Information Regulations) regime.

While NFLA welcome a lot of the changes, which reflect learning points from the Fukushima disaster, there remains a number of key concerns that need to be addressed.

This particularly relates to when a nuclear accident becomes a prolonged incident and issues over evacuation and shelter that need to be considered.

The NFLA Secretary is engaging with government emergency planning staff to discuss further. The report is on the NFLA website.

NFLA/Mayors for Peace to hold nuclear weapon tests seminar

The NFLA is joining with the Mayors for Peace to develop a programme linked to International Peace Day.

The 13th September seminar will consider the humanitarian impacts & risks of nuclear weapons.

Speakers include the Kazakh artist and campaigner Karipek Kuyukov, Dr Becky Alexis-Martin, Vijay Mehta of Uniting for Peace and Dave Cullen of NIS.

The meeting takes place after the NFLA Steering Committee and the flyer is on its website.
NFLA Forum meetings in September & October

NFLA’s four National Forums will be holding their core meetings and seminars over September and October.

The NFLA Welsh Forum meeting in Swansea looks at the ‘climate emergency’, radwaste policy and establishing a Welsh ‘Just Transition’ or Defence Diversification Agency.

The NFLA Scottish Forum will meet in Dunfermline. As well as a business meeting this will look at local authority climate change action, Fife Council’s low carbon action, Hunterston B and nuclear transports.

US & Russia leave INF Treaty as 26th state ratifies TPNW

There were contrasting decisions made on nuclear weapons which puts under threat the core nuclear weapons non-proliferation regime.

In early August, both the US and Russian Governments formally left the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty in order to build a new generation of medium range nuclear weapons.

This frees both of them up to test a new generation of short and medium range nuclear weapons.

There is real concern that an accident at a recent Russian test of such weapons could have led to a significant radiation release and public harm. The Russian Government has given little detail on the accident.

Both NFLA and the Mayors for Peace are very concerned at such developments. At the same time, Kazakhstan became the 26th state to ratify the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

NFLA Welsh Forum, Swansea Civic Centre, 6th Sept

NFLA SC & Mayors for Peace meeting, Manchester Central Library, 13th Sept

NFLA Scotland Forum, Dunfermline City Chambers, 19th September

NFLA All Ireland Forum, Dublin City Hall, 4th or 11th October (date tbc)

NFLA / BANNG / TASC / Stop Hinkley joint meeting, Colchester, 18th or 19th October (date tbc)