



# Briefing paper

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019

No.26

Subject: **Mayors for Peace International Executive Conference, founding of a European Chapter and core local events**

## 1. Introduction

This report has been developed by the Chapter Secretary and provides members with an overview of the Mayors for Peace International Executive Conference held in Hanover, Germany on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November. This included a peace ceremony on Remembrance Day, a review of the Mayors for Peace Action Plan and consideration of events for 2020, a European security seminar, and the founding meeting of the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace – a major positive development for the organisation in Europe.

Other issues noted in this report include:

- A significant increase in the number of cities that have passed resolutions to support the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).
- The launch of a new edition of an updated report of 'Don't Bank on the Bomb' and a push to encourage Councils to pass resolutions encouraging divestment from nuclear weapons and fossil fuel investment.
- A Mayors for Peace '50 Cities, 50 Traces' exhibition launched in Manchester Central Library, which will also be held in Bristol City Hall from February 2020.
- The rendition of a major artistic performance '24 Hours of Peace' over Remembrance Sunday and Monday.
- The Pope's visit to Hiroshima and Nagasaki on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November.
- The unveiling of a statue to Mahatma Gandhi in Manchester on the 25<sup>th</sup> November.

## 2. Mayors for Peace Executive Conference, Hanover City Hall, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> November

The Mayors for Peace Executive Board is the international governance part of the organisation. It directs and leads its core work and provides focus to its action plan. Executive Conferences are held every two years, and are also linked in with a General Conference that rotates between Hiroshima and Nagasaki every four years.

The 2019 Executive Conference was held in Hanover, Germany. They are a long-standing Vice President of Mayors for Peace and a Lead City of the German Chapter of Mayors for Peace, which is one of the largest national Chapters comprising 673 member towns and cities.

Attending this Executive Conference were the cities of Hiroshima (Japan), Nagasaki (Japan), Hanover (Germany), Manchester (UK), Malakoff (France), Ypres (Belgium), Granollers (Spain), Biograd na Moru (Croatia), Montreal (Canada), Mantiwaga (Philippines) and two Executive Advisors who were representing the US lead city of Des Moines and its US members.

The Executive Conference began this year on the morning of November 11<sup>th</sup>, a date internationally regarded as Remembrance Day for the First and Second World Wars, and all subsequent wars.

## THE UK & IRELAND CHAPTER OF MAYORS FOR PEACE

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A special ceremony was held in the Aegidienkirche in the centre of Hanover. This 14<sup>th</sup> century church was badly damaged in 1943 during a major aerial bombing raid during the Second World War. It has been preserved as a symbol of the damage of war and the need for peace.

At the short ceremony, a white and red flowered wreath was laid at the peace memorial in the church jointly by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the Deputy Lord Mayor of Hanover. A minutes silence was also held to remember all those killed in war in the past 101 years and to hope and work for a more peaceful world.

The Deputy Lord Mayor of Hanover explained that the church had been preserved to remember the damage of war, the liberation from the Nazi dictatorship, to remember the terrible tragedy of the Holocaust and of the real dangers of nuclear weapons. As part of its twinning relationship, Hiroshima has donated a special peace bell which sits in the church and is rung on August 6<sup>th</sup>, Hiroshima Day, and on September 21<sup>st</sup>, International Peace Day.

The Executive Board members were then taken to Hanover's beautiful and historic City Hall for a full two day Executive Conference.

The Executive Conference considered the following core activities:

- An assessment of its 2020 Vision – this campaign had been the primary initiative of Mayors for Peace since 2003. It has encouraged moves towards developing its membership and looked at ways to bring about a process to the abolition of nuclear weapons. The meeting agreed that it had assisted with a fourteen-fold increase in members, and the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons had brought some progress to the nuclear weapons issue, but there still remained considerable complexity in realising a nuclear weapons free world.
- Progress report on the Action Plan – Hiroshima reported that the core activities of the Mayors for Peace Action 2017 – 2020 were progressing well. Manchester, Mantinlupa and Hanover were asked to provide presentations on aspects of the plan they had excelled in – Manchester with its 'Project G' ginkgo seeds project, Mantinlupa with its work on peace education for International Peace Day, and Hanover with the development of the German Mayors for Peace Chapter that now has over 650 members. A full list of international activities by Mayors for Peace members over the past year can be found at the following webpage: [http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/04\\_list\\_of\\_activities/2019\\_List\\_of\\_Activities\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/04_list_of_activities/2019_List_of_Activities_en.pdf)
- Outlining the proposed new Vision and Action Plan – Hiroshima put forward a proposal for a new vision around the concept of 'Spreading the seeds of peace'. This would retain the two core actions of realising a world free of nuclear weapons, and the promotion of safe and resilient cities; with a third action of promoting a culture of peace. All members of the Executive Conference were fully supportive of an expanded vision and looked forward for further detail on the Action Plan 2021 – 2024 at the Executive and General Conference in Hiroshima in August 2020.
- Actions for 2020 – with 2020 being the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first use of nuclear weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the core actions of Mayors for Peace will be to formally commemorate this anniversary and the associated events relevant to the end of the Second World War. There will also be a Mayors for Peace active presence at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference at the United Nations in May 2020.

A short summary note of the core outcomes of the Executive Conference are attached in Appendix 1 below. The conference was notable for its equanimity and consensus. A challenge to try to increase membership beyond 9,000 members and towards the goal of 10,000 members was also put forward.

Directly following the Executive Conference, members attended a public meeting organised by the City of Hanover in its role as Lead City of the German Chapter of Mayors for Peace. This meeting included presentations from:

- Beatrice Fihn, Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).
- Frank A. Rose, former Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Verification and Compliance from 2014 – 17 at the US State Department and now a policy officer in the Brookings Institute on these issues.

- Jurgen Trittin, former German Federal Minister of the Environment and a current member of the Bundestag Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The meeting considered the state of international security, particularly in Europe, following the abrogation of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty earlier this year. In a wide-ranging discussion there was mention of the deepening crisis in the nuclear weapons treaty regime and a lack of consensus on how to bring nuclear weapon states together. There was acknowledgement that the attempts to develop the TPNW have come out of frustration with the lack of progress with reducing the number of nuclear weapons, though quite different views on how effective this Treaty will be. There was considerable discussion on the different policy aims and objectives on security of the United States and Russia, some concerns raised over the political rise of China and how this impacted on international security, and the real concerns that remain over the nuclear programmes of Iran and North Korea, as well as the ongoing deep disagreements between India and Pakistan.

The quality of this short seminar and the discussion that followed it emphasised somewhat the polarisation in views on the way forward in the nuclear weapons debate. The Deputy Mayor of Hanover and the Mayor of Hiroshima opened the seminar and noted how important the Mayors for Peace see such discussions in developing a way forward to the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

### **3. Founding of the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace**

Following the conclusion of the Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace, the participating European Lead Cities, the Mayor of Hiroshima, the Secretary General of Mayors for Peace and the Mayors for Peace Executive Advisers held a meeting that formally founded a European Chapter of Mayors for Peace.

A discussion on creating a structure that would help develop Mayors for Peace in Europe, increasing and deepening its membership and pursuing the goals of a nuclear weapons free world and safe and resilient cities, had commenced at the 2017 Executive Conference in Nagasaki, and moved forward more formally in the Mayors for Peace meetings held in Geneva around the NPT Preparatory Conference in 2018.

That meeting had tasked an officers working group with bringing forward proposals to develop a structure that could bring greater cooperation with European members of Mayors for Peace and develop specific projects. Over the summer of 2019, discussions between the Lead City and Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Granollers, and the Provincial Council of Barcelona (an umbrella body looking after the interests of around 300 municipalities in the Greater Barcelona region) had led to an agreement to provide total funding of around €300k in the period 2020 – 2023.

This funding would provide for a Secretary of the Chapter, based in Granollers, and an Executive Adviser, who would both help with developing the Chapter and specific projects, as well as seeking to help in increasing membership, Chapters and Lead Cities.

At the meeting all welcomed the generous offer of Granollers and agreed to the formation of a Chapter Board, which will be initially chaired by the Mayors of Granollers. It was agreed that in 2020 it would focus on the following areas:

- Develop a conference on European security – it was provisionally considered that this may be held in Germany on July 8<sup>th</sup>, the German Chapter's annual 'Flag Day'.
- Work with other groups like ICAN to encourage more members to pass resolutions supporting the TPNW.
- Develop a communications strategy including a website and the promotion of peace education on it.

The European Chapter was warmly welcomed by the Mayor of Hiroshima, who hoped it would help in the development and deepening of membership in Europe and as a template for development of other continental Chapters.

It was agreed that an officers working group would prepare a draft terms of reference and Action Plan by the end of the year for full approval. Work would also take place on the drafting of a job description and recruitment of an Executive Adviser to support the European Chapter. It is expected

they will be recruited in 2020, with a formal launch of all these areas of development at the Executive and General Conference of Mayors for Peace in Hiroshima in August, 2020.

As the Lead City of Mayors for Peace in the UK and Ireland, Manchester City Council supports these developments. They provide a basis not just for increasing the profile of Mayors for Peace in Europe, but the development of existing and new Chapters across the continent. A note and structure diagram outlining the Granollers proposal is attached as Appendix 2.

It was agreed that Mayor Mayoral and officers in Granollers would attend the upcoming Basel Peace Forum on January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2020 and a side event encouraging youth to become more involved in peace and climate change activity. Other European Lead Cities are considering also attending both events.

#### **4. Number of countries and cities supporting the TPNW grows**

As noted above, one of the core campaigning activities of ICAN is to encourage countries to support and ratify the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). This campaign continues to progress with now 80 states who have formally signed the Treaty and 34 states who have ratified it. Once 50 states ratify the Treaty it is implemented into international law at the United Nations.

The Republic of Ireland are expected to be one of those states to shortly ratify the TPNW. It has been fully discussed and approved in the Dail and is now with the Irish Senate. It has received full cross-party support. Whilst the UK Government, as a nuclear weapon state, remains opposed to the TPNW – as letters to UK cities that have supported it testify – the positive role of Ireland in promoting multilateral nuclear disarmament is to be applauded.

Across the world, an increasing number of towns, cities, counties and regions / federal states have passed resolutions formally supporting the TPNW and calling on their governments to engage with it. There are now well over 200 that have undertaken this action, with 36 towns and cities recently doing so from Italy, including the city of Brescia.

The latest member of the UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter to pass a resolution supporting the TPNW are Norwich City Council. A cross-party resolution was unanimously supported by all councillors and a letter sent to the UK Government. It is expected others will follow in early 2020 following the UK general election.

#### **5. Don't Bank on the Bomb new report published and divestment resolutions**

There has been growing interest in the financing of nuclear weapons and ways to dissuade financial institutions in supporting such work, as well as to encourage Councils to consider divesting their pension fund investments in companies involved in nuclear weapon programmes.

In October, an updated report by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was published as part of their 'Don't Bank on the Bomb' campaign. The report shows that an increasing number of financial institutions are adopting and strengthening their policies to prevent any financial involvement in nuclear weapon producing companies. Together, the 36 institutions noted in the report are keeping at least €1600 billion in assets out of the nuclear weapons industry.

Amongst the 36 companies is just one from the UK and Ireland – the Cooperative Bank. A Scottish 'Don't bank on the Bomb' network is working with other groups to lobby other UK banks encouraging them to divest from investments in companies involved in nuclear weapons.

There has also been a greater interest in encouraging Councils to do likewise with their own pension funds. An updated report by the Scottish 'Don't Bank on the Bomb' network calculates that the 11 Scottish Councils Joint Pension Funds have over £321 million of investments in companies involved in nuclear weapon programmes. A joint meeting was held in November at which Councillor Audrey Doig explained why Renfrewshire Council (along with West Dunbartonshire and Midlothian Councils) had passed a resolution calling on divestment of such companies from the Strathclyde Pension Fund. This issue is one of the areas the UK and Ireland Chapter will look to focus on in 2020, and meetings are being established with councillors involved in pension committees and with pension fund managers.

## 6. **Mayors for Peace '50 Cities - 50 Traces' exhibition launched in Manchester**

From November 5<sup>th</sup> 2019 through to the end of January 2020, Manchester City Council is hosting the Mayors for Peace contemporary art exhibition '50 Cities, 50 Traces'.

This exhibition has been devised by the Stuttgart artist Klaudia Dietewich, with support from its curator Raimund Menges. As an international art and peace project it seeks to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which was signed in 1968 and was formally ratified in 1970. The artistic concept behind '50 Cities – 50 Traces' is to juxtapose individual traces from 50 Mayors for Peace cities, highlighting the diversity and beauty of these cities and the daily life taking place therein. It also highlights the concern about the possible destruction of these cities by the use of nuclear weapons and advocates the Mayors for Peace maxim that 'Cities are not Targets!'

The exhibition has taken place in a number of German cities starting in Hanover. It has also been exhibited in Ypres, in Pittsburgh and in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

At a special launch event on November 5<sup>th</sup> (the 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Manchester's 'nuclear weapon free city' declaration) the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Abid Latif Chohan; the Council's permanent Mayors for Peace representative Councillor Eddy Newman and Raimund Menges spoke at the launch welcoming this innovative and imaginative art exhibition. Chapter members are encouraged to attend it if they should be in Manchester.

The exhibition then moves on to Bristol, who are a twin city of Hanover. It will be held there in the Vestibules Gallery, Bristol City Hall from February 3<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> 2020. It will be held at the United Nations in New York during the NPT Review Conference in April and May 2020.

The Chapter Secretariat is pleased that the exhibition can be held in Manchester and Bristol and encourages Chapter members and peace groups to attend it.

## 7. **24 Hours of Peace event held at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester**

Also taking place in November was a performance of '24 Hours of Peace' across Remembrance Sunday and Monday at the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester.

This performance brought the words of 100 peace-makers and peace-builders from across the UK to a wider audience to rethink 'remembrance' 101 years after the end of the First World War. The theatre director Neil Bartlett interviewed the 100 people and over the 24 hours a wide range of actors read their experience in building and making peace.

The actors involved in this performance included film, TV and theatre actors Miranda Richardson, Toby Jones, Julie Hesmondhaugh and Adjoa Andoa. Amongst the 100 people interviewed was the UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary, Sean Morris.

Over the 24 hours around 3,000 people attended the performance and a much larger audience listened to it on Resonance FM, who have podcasts of all actors on their website. The full transcript of this successful performance will be placed with the British Library. The whole performance will be repeated again on Resonance FM on New Year's Eve.

## 8. **Pope Francis visits Hiroshima and Nagasaki**

Shortly after the Mayors for Peace Executive Conference, the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were delighted to receive a formal visit from Pope Francis, as part of the first Papal visit to Japan since the early 1980s.

The visit deliberately centred on the nuclear weapon issue. The Vatican State was the first to formally ratify the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and Pope Francis has been a very prominent figure in calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Pope Francis first visited the city of Nagasaki, which has one of the largest Catholic communities in Japan. The visit included a ceremony at the Nagasaki 'Ground Zero' memorial (where the atomic bomb exploded on August 9<sup>th</sup> 1945) and the Nagasaki Peace Park, where he met survivors – hibakusha – of the atomic weapon attack and called on moves for multilateral nuclear disarmament.

The Pope also visited Urakami Cathedral, the largest Catholic Cathedral in Japan, which lay on the site of the previous cathedral largely destroyed in the 1945 atomic weapon attack.

Pope Francis moved on to Hiroshima for a moving ceremony in the Hiroshima Peace Park, laying a wreath at the Cenotaph of the atomic weapon victims and again meeting some hibakusha.

Pope Francis prayed for peace at the site of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, where he called for an end to war and the threat of nuclear weapons. He said: "How can we propose peace if we constantly invoke the threat of nuclear war as a legitimate recourse for the resolution of conflicts?" He added: "May the abyss of pain endured here remind us of boundaries that must never be crossed. A true peace can only be an unarmed peace."

"In a single plea to God and to all men and women of good will, on behalf of all the victims of atomic bombings and experiments, and of all conflicts, let us together cry out: Never again war, never again the clash of arms, never again so much suffering," Pope Francis said after a moment of silence for the victims of Hiroshima.

An ICAN article on Pope Francis's visit to Nagasaki and Hiroshima is attached as Appendix 3. The Mayors for Peace are delighted Pope Francis has visited the two Japanese cities and made such prominent comments on nuclear weapons and peace. The Vatican State has hosted a number of conferences on the issue and met also recently with Beatrice Fihn and Daniel Hogsta of ICAN. The Pope has now twice met with the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and Mayors for Peace welcomes his leadership on this issue.

## **9. Manchester unveils statue to peace and non-violence leader, Mahatma Gandhi**

An inter-faith service took place in Manchester Cathedral as part of an event that unveiled a new statue of Mahatma Gandhi close to the Cathedral.

The statue had been donated to Manchester by the Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur UK (SRMD) through a generous fund from the Khamani family. SRMD is a worldwide spiritual movement inspired by the life of Shrimad Rajchandraji, who was Gandhi's spiritual mentor. The event was fully supported and sponsored by Manchester City Council, Manchester Cathedral, the Manchester India Partnership and the Indian High Commission. The 9 foot high statue had been sculpted by the artist, Ram V Sutar, who is also the sculptor that designed the Statue of Unity, the world's tallest sculpture, in Gujarat.

The inter-faith service was led by the Dean of Manchester Cathedral, Rogers Govender, and began with Indian dances and songs. Prayers and messages for peace from the Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Sikh, Buddhist and Jain traditions were recited, as well as messages of peace from children representing the 1,700 children who had taken part in a peace education programme on the Gandhian values of peace and non-violence. The Lord Mayor of Manchester, in his role as a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, read out a civic prayer. Small maquettes of the statue were given out to those who had been supportive of the statue coming to Manchester, including the Leader of Manchester City Council, the Elected Mayor of Greater Manchester and Manchester City Council officers Sean Morris (the UK and Ireland Chapter Secretary) and Anissa Keratkar, who provided links to the participating schools. Most of the ten ceremonial Mayors of the Greater Manchester local authorities were present at the event.

Following the service, music and dance took place as the statue was unveiled. Media coverage from the local BBC and ITV regional news was extensive, and an article on the event is attached as Appendix 4. Manchester is the fifth UK city to receive a statue of Gandhi.

The Gandhi statue marks the third notable 'peace and justice' related statue in Manchester in the past 12 months, after the Emmeline Pankhurst statue to celebrate women's suffrage, and the Peterloo statue on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this tragic event taking place.

It has also been announced at the end of November the design and location of Manchester's permanent memorial to those killed and injured in the 2017 Manchester Arena attack. The Manchester Memorial Advisory Group has chosen to appoint BCA Landscape and Smiling Wolf and their concept 'Glade of Light – A Living Memorial'. This was the most popular design overall

with the families and scored highest in the technical appraisal. The 'Glade of Light' will be a grove of native trees, illuminated at night with a multitude of tiny lights described as being like "a field of stars." Within the tranquil garden-like space will be other planting and 22 memory pools with the names of those killed in the attack and personalised messages from their friends and families. The memorial will be close to Manchester Cathedral and be part of an upgraded 'Medieval Quarter' in the city centre.

Complementing this will be the creation of a new contemplative peace garden in Lincoln Square, close to Manchester Town Hall. Anchored by the statue of American President Abraham Lincoln and the joint call for the abolition of slavery at the time with Manchester, the square will also include Manchester's remaining ginkgo peace trees from Hiroshima and a series of peace plaques and messages. It is anticipated this area will be opened in spring 2021.

Both public spaces will emphasise Manchester's role as a 'City of Peace' and a Vice President and Lead City of Mayors for Peace. Manchester encourages all its members to consider public realm projects which promote their support for peace and justice.

## **10. Conclusions and recommendations**

A successful Mayors for Peace Executive Conference and the founding of a European Chapter of Mayors for Peace are very much to be welcomed by the UK and Ireland Chapter. They point the organisation in the right direction and the European Chapter will provide a great opportunity for deepening membership and increasing activity in the organisation over the next few years. As the UK's relationship to Europe faces some stress and potential radical change, there is also an opportunity to develop initiatives which promote peace and tolerance at this time.

This report also highlights a number of positive events, reports and initiatives taking place at the local, national and international level which emphasise increasing activity and effectiveness.

There are a number of suggested recommendations for member authorities, including:

- The Chapter will next meet in late February / early March, probably in the south of England. Members are encouraged to attend this meeting when it is announced.
- 2020 is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of both the atomic weapon attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the end of the Second World War. There will be a national UK bank holiday in May and events are likely to be held across the country. Members are encouraged to consider supporting appropriate events for both of these anniversaries.
- Members are encouraged to consider passing cross-party resolutions that support the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the divestment of pension funds from companies involved with nuclear weapon production.
- Members are also encouraged to engage with the creation of a European Mayors for Peace structure. Further details on the European developments will be provided at the next Chapter meeting.
- Voluntary invoices will be issued shortly to encourage the creation of an annual 'Flag Day' of Mayors for Peace Chapter members, and to show your solidarity with the organisation. We encourage you to process them and help build up a cross-national Chapter.
- Members are encouraged to support and promote peace education projects local to them, and inform the UK and Ireland Chapter Secretariat when they take place.
- Members are encouraged as well to consider developing public realm projects that support your own local history of promoting peace and justice like Manchester's Pankhurst, Peterloo, Arena Memorial and Peace Gardens projects. All towns and cities have a relevant history of promotion of similar individuals, groups or movements in the local area. Mayors for Peace is keen to show its support to such projects.

Some selected photos from the events noted above are attached as Appendix 5.

**Summary note of the Mayors for Peace Executive Conference in Hanover  
The 11th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace**

Since its establishment in 1982, Mayors for Peace has been calling for the total abolition of nuclear weapons and lasting world peace through close solidarity among member cities. Mayors for Peace now has 7,847 member cities in 163 countries and regions and our numbers keep growing. The 11th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace was held on November 11 and 12, 2019 in Hannover, Germany.

First, the participants made an assessment of the 2020 Vision and reviewed the progress of the current Action Plan. Then, three of the Executive Cities each made a report on one of their peace initiatives: Manchester, UK, on their peace education utilizing atomic-bombed trees; Muntinlupa, Philippines, on their International Day of Peace event to raise peace consciousness; and Hannover, Germany, on its membership recruitment efforts as a Lead City.

Based on the common understanding that Mayors for Peace must develop sustainable activities, the participants discussed the formulation of the new Vision and Action Plan, which are to be launched in 2021. The participants agreed upon the basic concepts of the new Vision: on the two objectives “Realize a world without nuclear weapons” and “Realize safe and resilient cities”, which we believe will lead to our ultimate goal, that of lasting world peace, and on another objective, “Promote a culture of peace”, which encourages people to actively engage in concrete actions that are conducive to the other two objectives. It was agreed that discussions would continue with the Executive Members and other concerned parties ahead of the adoption of the new Vision and Action Plan at the 10th General Conference in Hiroshima in August next year.

2020 is a pivotal anniversary for our organization, being the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the end of the Second World War. We remain committed to the hibakushas’ desire for a world without nuclear weapons. We will redouble our efforts to achieve this aim.

Taking into account what has been achieved and to ensure the smooth and successful implementation of the next Vision and Action Plan, the Executive Conference decided to set the following three items as priorities for action until the end of 2020, the final year of the 2020 Vision.

1. Expand membership to support the agreed goals of Mayors for Peace, including the entry-into-force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
  - Lead Cities are encouraged to strengthen recruitment efforts within each chapter
  - Member cities are encouraged to invite their sister/friendship cities and their neighbouring cities to join Mayors for Peace, including through cooperation with non-governmental organisations.
  - Member Cities are encouraged to call on guests from abroad and within the country to cooperate on membership expansion.
  
2. Conduct peace education to raise awareness among future generations
  - Lead Cities are encouraged to promote peace education within each chapter and invite their chapter members to participate in the following Mayors for Peace projects:
    - Sharing of examples of initiatives to foster peace-seeking spirit
    - Mayors for Peace Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns"
  
3. Strengthen support for existing projects to receive youths in Hiroshima and Nagasaki such as “The Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program”
  - Executive Cities are encouraged to send youth representative(s) to next year’s “HIROSHIMA and PEACE”, an intensive summer course in Hiroshima.

In addition, the Executive Conference approved a proposal by the City of Granollers and some other European Executive Cities to formally launch a transnational European Chapter of Mayors for Peace in January of next year. The European Chapter held its first meeting after the close of the Executive Conference.

The Secretariat reported to the Executive Conference about collective actions planned in conjunction with the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics and actions for the 2020 Review Conference.

We at Mayors for Peace hereby pledge to continue strengthening our efforts to create real momentum in civil society toward nuclear weapons abolition and a truly peaceful world without wars by steadily expanding our membership and closely working with each other.

The Executive Conference expressed sincere gratitude to the host city, Hannover, for its excellent organization and hospitality.

These notes are to be distributed to all member cities of Mayors for Peace.

November 12, 2019

The 11th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace

## Proposal by Granollers for the development of a European Chapter of Mayors for Peace

### EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE AND LEAD CITIES PROPOSAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EUROPEAN CHAPTER OF MAYORS FOR PEACE

- **Aim of establishing a European office**

At the meeting held in Geneva on the 25th April 2018 it was agreed with the International Secretariat that European Lead Cities should seek to cooperate more closely together and start a process to create a structure akin to a European Chapter. This process does not deflect from continuing to support the aim of nuclear disarmament and working closely with Hiroshima and Nagasaki on this aim within Europe, but it is to provide detail and momentum to develop the second core strand of Mayors for Peace in 'developing safe, peaceful and resilient cities'. It was also felt important to seek to increase membership within Europe but also to assist in making Mayors for Peace membership more visible and encouraging more active members.

Despite the efforts made by the European Lead Cities, the major challenge remains with a lack of funding and capacity or resources that do not allow for the development of a solid, stable and robust structure. For that reason, and following successful local elections for the Mayor in Granollers, the city proposes to **host and fund a European office of Mayors for Peace in cooperation with Barcelona Provincial Council for the period of the next 4 years** in order to ensure its proper functioning. Through this medium-term financial assistance European Lead Cities will enable to develop a robust and longer-lasting structure and develop their own Operational Plan and activities. Granollers will establish an autonomous organization outside the municipal structure in order to properly manage the European Chapter, in a similar manner to what was developed by Ypres with the 2020 Vision Campaign.

- **Areas to be included in the European Chapter**

- ✓ Global campaign for nuclear disarmament with a European focus on security and community cohesion/tolerance.
- ✓ Education programmes across Europe (in cooperation with other organizations).
- ✓ Develop a communications strategy concerning European affairs.
- ✓ Lobby/network with selected NGOs and institutions (UN disarmament bodies in Geneva and Vienna, European institutions etc).

- **Planned activities**

The European Chapter in conjunction with the Executive Board will develop and implement an Annual Operational Plan as part of the process of achieving the main objectives; develop and maintain sustained Partnerships and Alliances with Civil Society Organizations, Social Movements in Europe, key stakeholders, critical actors and "change makers" in Europe; prepare advocacy materials, including policy briefs, position papers, communication messages, position statement and any other material relevant to the ongoing campaign; represent Mayors for Peace at European level in high level working platforms, forums and others; develop strategies to encourage new or increased contributions, develop fundraising activity plans that maximize participation or contributions and identify and build relationships with potential donors; and manage the approved budget for the European Chapter within the approved Annual Operational Plan and produce annual narrative and financial reports.

- **Estimated budget**

Estimated budget for the period of the next 4 years: 301.000€ (100%) / Barcelona Provincial Council grant: 225.750€ (75%) + Granollers co-financing required: 75.250€ (25%)

July 2020 to December 2020 → 43.000€

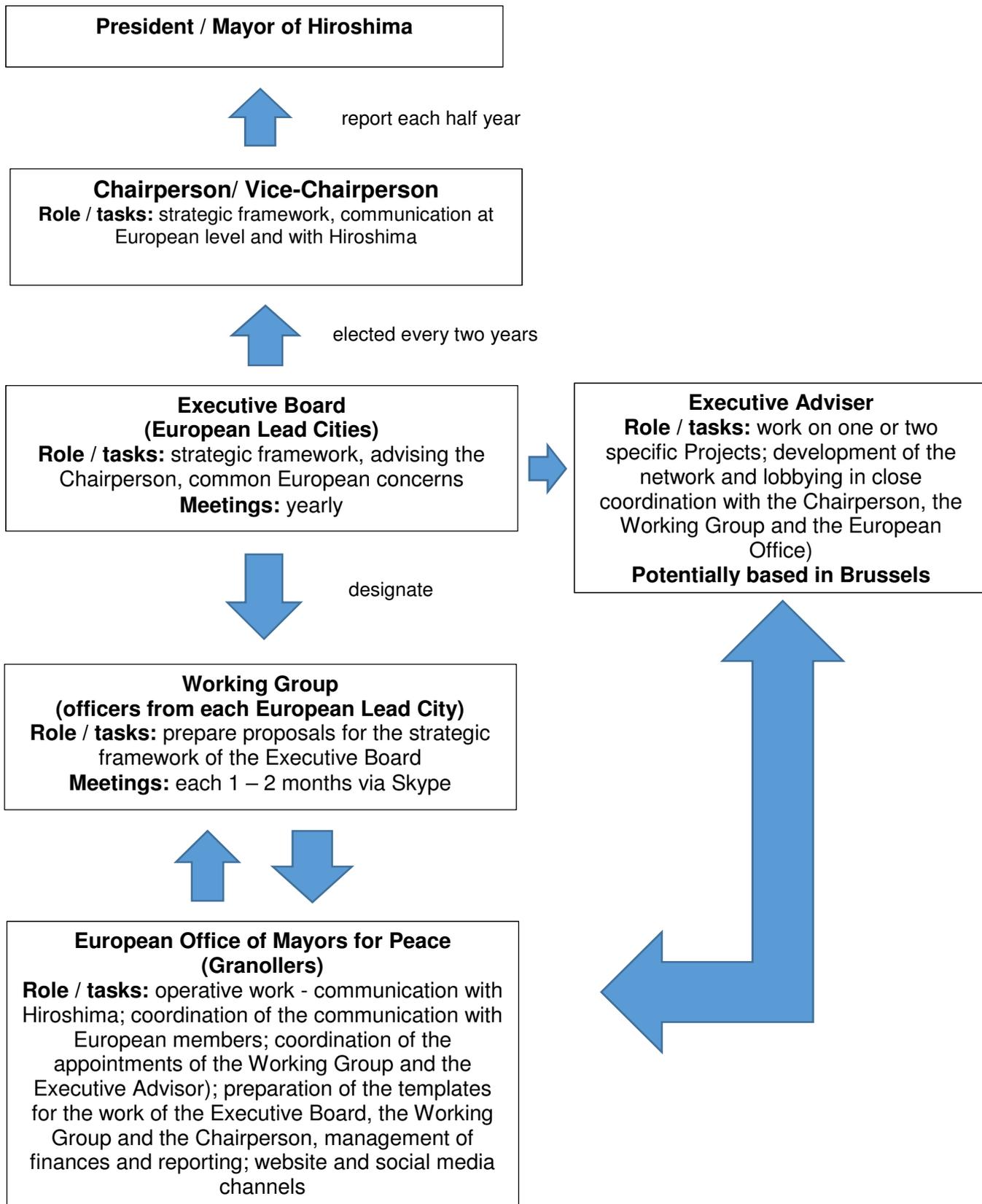
January 2021 to December 2021 → 86.000€

January 2022 to December 2022 → 86.000€

January 2023 to December 2023 → 86.000€

\* To be considered other budget lines such as budget from the 2020 Vision Campaign from Ypres and donation from Hiroshima.

## Structure Diagram of European Chapter



## ICAN Briefing Note on the visit of Pope Francis to Hiroshima and Nagasaki

### The Catholic Church and the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (report provided by, and courtesy of, ICAN)

#### Support for the TPNW

On a historic visit to the A-bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in November 2019, Pope Francis, the head of the Roman Catholic Church, condemned the use and possession of nuclear weapons by any state as “immoral”, and urged support for “the principal international legal instruments of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, including the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons”. He said that international peace cannot rest on a balance of military power, but must be based on mutual trust, and that a world without nuclear weapons is “possible and necessary”.

The Roman Catholic Church has been a leading proponent of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which 122 states, including the Vatican, voted to adopt at the United Nations in July 2017. It is the first globally applicable multilateral agreement to outlaw nuclear weapons comprehensively. At a Vatican-sponsored symposium in November 2017, the Pope said that the treaty “filled a significant juridical lacuna” and showed that “a healthy realism continues to shine a light of hope on our unruly world”.

***“We must never grow weary of working to support the principal international legal instruments of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, including the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.”***

***– Pope Francis, Nagasaki, 24 November 2019***

The Vatican was among the first states to ratify the TPNW when it opened for signature in New York in September 2017. The Vatican’s chief diplomat described the treaty as “one more blow on the anvil toward the fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah: ‘They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks.’” When the negotiations for the TPNW began in March 2017, the Pope expressed his wish that the treaty-making process may “constitute a decisive step along the road towards a world without nuclear weapons”, which is “not beyond our reach”.

The Vatican has called on all other states to ratify the TPNW “as soon as possible”, commending it as “an important step towards a nuclear-weapons-free world”. By adhering to the treaty, states formally reject “the fallacy that ‘might makes right’ and its pernicious modern corollary that some nations have the right to nuclear weapons while others do not”, and they affirm that “international peace and security consist in what supports the common good of all humanity”.

#### ***Pope Francis at the cenotaph for A-bomb victims in Hiroshima, Japan, on 24 November 2019:***



### **‘Catastrophic humanitarian effects’**

The TPNW was negotiated in response to the ever-deepening concern of the international community about the risks and consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. At the Vatican-sponsored symposium in November 2017, Pope Francis warned of the “catastrophic humanitarian and environmental effects of any employment of nuclear devices” and “the risk of an accidental detonation”, noting that nuclear weapons affect “not only the parties in conflict but the entire human race”.

In the event of a nuclear attack, the dead and injured would number in the tens or hundreds of thousands, if not the millions. Chronic illness would plague survivors, and genetic damage would be passed on to future generations, as was the case following the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. A nuclear attack would also destroy major infrastructure, disrupt the economy, and cause irreversible damage to the environment. Even a so-called “limited” nuclear war involving a small fraction of the world’s nuclear weapons would severely disrupt the climate and agricultural production, resulting in widespread famine.

### **Rejecting ‘assured mutual destruction’**

In recent years, the Roman Catholic Church has grown increasingly critical of strategies of “nuclear deterrence”, which it argues are “deeply flawed” and have led to a permanent stockpiling of nuclear weapons. In his speech in Nagasaki, Pope Francis said that “nuclear doctrines” ferment “a climate of fear, mistrust, and hostility”, and that the possession of nuclear weapons is never the answer to our longings for security, peace, and stability. Nuclear weapons only ever afford a “false sense of security”, as peace cannot be achieved through “the threat of total annihilation”, he said.

***“The use of atomic energy for purposes of war is immoral, just as the possessing of nuclear weapons is immoral.”***

***– Pope Francis, Hiroshima, 24 November 2019***

The Pope also condemned the waste of “precious resources” on the ongoing “arms race”, urging leaders to reflect on how the world’s resources can be employed in light of the “complex and difficult implementation” of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. “In a world where millions of children and families live in inhumane conditions,” he said, “the money that is squandered and the fortunes made through the manufacture, upgrading, maintenance and sale of ever more destructive weapons, are an affront crying out to heaven.”

### **Action for nuclear disarmament**

In Nagasaki, the Pope said that a world free of nuclear weapons is “the aspiration of millions of men and women everywhere”, and that making this ideal a reality “calls for involvement on the part of all: individuals, religious communities and civil society, countries that possess nuclear weapons and those that do not, the military and private sectors, and international organisations.” He added: “Our response to the threat of nuclear weapons must be joint and concerted, inspired by the arduous yet constant effort to build mutual trust and thus surmount the current climate of distrust.”

Members of the Roman Catholic Church have long been at the forefront of grassroots movements to oppose nuclear weapons and promote disarmament, including the US ‘Plowshares’ movement, which advocates active resistance to war.

**BBC News article on unveiling of the Gandhi statue in Manchester city centre**

**Manchester Mahatma Gandhi statue unveiled, 25 November 2019**

A statue of Indian independence icon Mahatma Gandhi has been unveiled in Manchester.

The 9ft (2.75m) bronze tribute was designed by artist Ram V Sutar, and revealed in front of political and religious leaders.

The statue marks the 150th anniversary of Gandhi's birth in 1869 and was installed outside the city's cathedral.

It is also intended to celebrate Manchester's "multi-cultural and multi-faith" society, organisers said.

Gandhi had visited Manchester on his way to see mill workers in Lancashire in 1931.

However, the plans were previously met with criticism from some who claimed Gandhi had shown "well-documented racism".

Crowds gathered in the rain to watch the unveiling, which was accompanied by performances from the University of Manchester Indian Dance Society and The Indian Choir of England, among others.

A service at the cathedral also featured readings, poetry and songs.

The statue was given to the city by the Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur (SRMD), a worldwide spiritual movement.

Organiser Aadit Virani said: "The main reason for having the statue in Manchester is to share in the multi-faith and multi-cultural city that is Manchester.

"It's a direct response to the [Manchester Arena attack] that happened in 2017, to show that love and compassion can always overcome hatred."

A council spokeswoman said the statue was intended "to spread a message of peace, love and harmony".

Photos from some of the events noted in this report

- a) **Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace in Hanover, Germany (pictures courtesy of the City of Hannover)**



Above left: Members of the Mayors for Peace Executive Conference at City Hall  
Above right: Attendees at the founding meeting of the European Chapter, Hanover

- b) **Launch of 50 Cities, 50 Traces exhibition at Manchester Central Library**

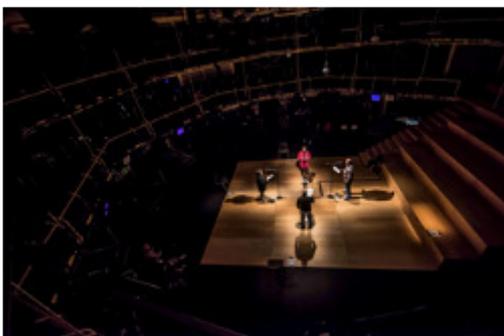


The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Cllr Abid Latif Chohan formally opens the exhibition



Some of the attendees to the exhibition including the Lord Mayor (centre left), the artist (centre right) and Cllr Eddy Newman

- c) **24 Hours for Peace performance at Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester (pictures courtesy of Chris Payne)**



Some of the '24 Hours of Peace' actors reading at the Royal Exchange



Film, TV and stage actor Toby Jones reading at the '24 Hours of Peace' performance

**d) Unveiling of Gandhi statue, Manchester Cathedral**



An Indian dance troupe formally opens the inter-faith service



The Chapter Secretary and Anissa Keratkar with their Gandhi statue maquette



The unveiling of the Gandhi statue close to Manchester Cathedral