



# Briefing paper

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020

No.29

**Subject: Local, national and international plans for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the use of atomic weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the end of the Second World War**

## 1. Introduction

This report has been developed by the Chapter Secretary and provides its members with a full overview of planned events and suggested actions to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the use of atomic weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and other events for the end of the Second World War. Mayors for Peace was established in 1982 by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with one of its core aims to lobby for a world free of nuclear weapons.

It also provides an update on other issues relevant to Mayors for Peace members, including:

- The UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter webinar held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July.
- Events held for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- The development of peace education projects as part of developing safer, peaceful and more resilient cities.
- Progress with the ICAN Cities Appeal and the ratification of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and plans for the rearranged Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.
- The development of the European Mayors for Peace Chapter, including a proposed winter webinar on 'Peace, security and nuclear weapons in Europe – prospects for the future'.

## 2. 'No More Hiroshima. No More Nagasaki'. Plans for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic weapon attacks in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and around the world

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic weapon attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki has long been considered an important date for the Mayors for Peace organisation, as it is likely to be one of the last times to formally commemorate this event with the survivors, or hibakusha, as they are known. The average age of the hibakusha is now 82 years old and inevitably the number of them reduces year on year.

However, the Covid-19 global outbreak has severely reduced the plans for larger live events in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and around the world. A key planned event that has had to be cancelled is the 11<sup>th</sup> Mayors for Peace General Conference, which had been planned for August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 2020. This has now been put back to August 2021.

The Executive Board of the Mayors for Peace, which includes Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Manchester, has decided to try and commemorate this important anniversary as best as it can, given the extent of the global public health emergency. It has instituted a core concept slogan for the anniversary and the year ahead of wishing to see no further use of nuclear weapons through the terms of 'No More Hiroshima. No More Nagasaki'. The aim is for people around the world, many of whom are now currently unable to visit the atomic bombed cities, to share in the earnest desire of the hibakusha: "no one else should suffer as we have."

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The first use of this concept has been in a powerful YouTube film at which Executive Mayors of the Mayors for Peace recite short messages of the need for peace and a world free of nuclear weapons concluding with the statement 'No More Hiroshima, No More Nagasaki'. The participating Mayors in this film came from the cities of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Manchester, Hanover, Biograd na Moru, Ypres, Sarajevo, Granollers, Des Moines, Bangkok, Malakoff, Volgograd, Mantinlupa, Fremantle, Santos and Geneva. Also giving their own message of solidarity on the film are the UN High Commissioner for Disarmament Affairs, the Chair of the UN Conference that agreed to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the current and previous Chair of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, the Vice President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Chief Executive of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

This video can be downloaded from the following weblink:

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/200720\\_news.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/200720_news.html)

The Hiroshima Mayors for Peace Secretariat is also sponsoring a youth peace education webinar which will include presentations from Hiroshima and Nagasaki youth. It will also include presentations from students from Manchester, Santos, Volgograd, Grigny and Takasaki. If you would like to register for the webinar go to the following weblink:

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/200701\\_news.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/200701_news.html)

Many other events and initiatives will take place in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and across Japan. The centrepiece as ever will be the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Peace Ceremonies, which are taking place, but at only 10% of usual capacity. At these ceremonies a Bell of Peace and sirens are sounded and a 1 minute of silence is observed at 8.15am on the 6<sup>th</sup> August and 11.02am on the 9<sup>th</sup> August, the exact timing of each atomic weapon attack. The ceremonies will also include speeches by political leaders, children and hibakusha (survivors of the bomb), the Mayor's annual peace declaration, the releasing of doves and the singing of the Hiroshima / Nagasaki Peace Song. Both ceremonies are shown live on NHK World Japan (Sky Channel 507) and streamed live on their and the Hiroshima and Nagasaki peace ceremony websites.

The wider Hiroshima Prefecture is also supporting a large number of local and global events. At the global level it has provided support (with support from Hiroshima Prefectural Board of Education and co-operation from the groups Project to Preserve the Flame of Culture and Art in Hiroshima, the Energia Culture and Sports Foundation, and the Rotarians Association) to the group 'Hiroshima City – Heart of Peace'. Their 'The Peace Art Project' will bring a global, 24-hour continuous, live broadcast of music, art and remembrance on 6th August, 2020, to mark the 75th Anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

The broadcast will be live-streamed from Hiroshima and New York and will link people around the world via YouTube. The event will commence in Hiroshima with the live-streamed Peace Memorial Ceremony and Lantern Floating festival, to promote a new foundation for interactive peace on a global scale. There will be a link to it on the Manchester City Council Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day web page.

This first virtual event of its kind will include participating artists from the United Kingdom (London), Nagasaki, Tokyo (Japan), Germany (Hannover), France (Paris), South Africa (Cape Town), India (Bangalore), Ukraine (Kiev), Cyprus (Nicosia), Austria (Vienna), Argentina (Buenos Aires), Palestine (Bethlehem), Spain (Guernica), Rwanda, USA (Phoenix and New York).

A major grassroots NGO festival called the 'Global Peace Wave' is also taking place in Japan and around the world. Over 150 events are being planned across Japan, with the main event being the annual 2020 World Conference against A and H Bombs, which will this year be online. Registration for this conference can be found at: [http://www.antiatom.org/english/world\\_conference/](http://www.antiatom.org/english/world_conference/)

Other events under the Global Peace Wave include:

- New Zealand Youth Peace Week <http://www.peace.net.nz/content/youth-peace-week-2020>
- Philippines – Nurturing Bridges of Peace at the Japanese Garden, Manila.
- Chile – Peace Wave Kite-flying in Santiago City Plaza.

- Nepal – Hiroshima Day Commemoration by Nepal AAPSO.
- India – Various events held across India on Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day.
- Norway – No Hiroshima Week events organised by the Norwegian Peace Council.
- Denmark - Hiroshima Memorial Event and Demonstration for a Ban on Nuclear Weapons in Herups Garden, Copenhagen.
- Germany - Around the Hiroshima / Nagasaki Memorial Day, 275 large-format posters will be put up in 150 cities in Germany. A special series of events are also concentrated on the city of Hanover, twin city of Hiroshima and Vice President of Mayors for Peace. An open-air exhibition and installation is also taking place in the Cathedral Square of Munster. Many other events are taking place across Germany.
- Netherlands – 3D Nuke Missile Amsterdam installation will take place in front of the Netherlands Stock Exchange.
- Belgium – a ‘Parc Hibakusha’ will be held in the city of Mons. The City of Ypres are also holding a number of events close to the ‘In Flanders Fields’ Museum.
- Italy – the Italian disarmament network will hold a memorial event outside the Aviano airbase where nuclear weapons are held.
- Spain – The Centre Delas Peace Centre will hold a series of events in Barcelona.
- Canada – The Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons will hold an important webinar on August 6th.
- USA – The formal publication launch of the book ‘Atomic Bomb on my Back’ will be launched on August 9<sup>th</sup>. There are also plans for major events across the United States in places like Vermont, New York, Baltimore, Washington DC and Seattle.

The Peace Wave image for these events is as follows:



### 3. **Recommendations for supporting local events and initiatives to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Hiroshima and Nagasaki**

There are events taking place across the UK and Ireland to commemorate this important peace anniversary. Appendix 1 provides a detailed list of the events the Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter Secretariat are aware of. Some of them include the active involvement of local Mayors / Provosts or senior councillors, and Chapter members are very much encouraged to support them in as active a way as possible.

As the Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Manchester City Council has decided this year to create an online virtual page on the Council's website <https://www.manchester.gov.uk/LetTherebePeace>. This will include readings from the Lord Mayor of Manchester, the Chancellor of Manchester University and the Director of Manchester Museum. It will include information on the Council's 'Project G' ginkgo tree peace education project and its support for the Mayors for Peace. It also links to special projects undertaken by the Imperial War Museum North and a peace crane folding workshop developed by Manchester Museum. There will also be links to the Peace, Art and Music event noted above. A link to a Greater Manchester CND Nagasaki Day webinar will also be provided. This webpage will be fully advertised to Mayors for Peace members in a media release imminently.

Members are encouraged to issue a formal media release on August 6<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> of support and solidarity for the need for a more peaceful world free of nuclear weapons. They are also encouraged to do likewise for the formal 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War which takes place on the 15<sup>th</sup> August in the UK and Ireland.

#### 4. **UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter webinar, 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

At the beginning of July, the Chapter held a webinar to provide an update on Mayors for Peace progress and encourage support for, an involvement in, events to support the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks and the end of the Second World War. The Chapter Secretary Sean Morris also provided an update with the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace, international updates, the ICAN Cities Appeal and peace education work.

Elena Tompkins of Manchester City Council provided a presentation on her 10 day placement in Hiroshima to work with the International Mayors for Peace Secretariat. Elena provided a personal and interesting overview of the work of the Mayors for Peace and some of the major peace exhibits in the city, as well as understanding its ongoing work to encourage peace and reconciliation.

Chrissie Waite and Juli Hammersley from the group Peace Partners conclude the webinar by explaining their peace education programme which they have undertaken with schools and youth groups, community groups and prisons. This uses information provided by the Prem Rawat Foundation, a global group which looks at internal and external needs for peace.

The presentations from the Chapter webinar can be found at the following weblink:

<https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/presentations/uk-ireland-mayors-provosts-and-leaders-for-peace-seminar-3-july-2020/>

#### 5. **Commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia-Herzegovina**

Whilst 2020 has been a very difficult year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it remains an important year of poignant anniversaries.

One such anniversary is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre. Between July 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> over 8,000 men and boys were killed as the Srebrenica 'safe haven' was overcome by Bosnian Serb forces. It was the single, worst atrocity of post- Second World War European history and in this most bitter and vicious of civil wars where over 100,000 people died.

Across Bosnia-Herzegovina, Europe and the world formal events were held in July to remember this anniversary. A national event planned to be held at St Paul's Cathedral in London was moved online and included speeches from Prince Charles, the Prime Minister Boris Johnson, UN Human Rights Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie, the President of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Šefik Džaferović, Leader of the Opposition Sir Kier Starmer MP, the Grand Mufti of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Husein ef. Kavazovic, the UK Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, the Archbishop of Westminster Cardinal Vincent Nichols, former UK Prime Minister David Cameron, former US President Bill Clinton, former UK Foreign Minister Lord William Hague and former US Secretary of State Madeline Albright.

For further information on this initiative go to the website: <https://www.srebrenica.org.uk/>.

#### 6. **Progress with the TPNW, the ICAN Cities Appeal and the NPT Review Conference**

As with many other matters, the Covid-19 pandemic has slowed down other peace, nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation activities taking place at the local, national or international level.

There are now 40 states who have ratified, and 82 states who have signed the UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which seeks to speed up the push for global multilateral nuclear disarmament. The latest states to ratify this treaty are Fiji and Botswana, whilst Sudan became a signatory state. It is possible some more states will symbolically ratify or sign the treaty around the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and over the year, bringing the number of ratified states to the milestone of 50 states, when it becomes recognised international law.

Nuclear weapon states, NATO member states and those with security agreements with nuclear weapon states, remain actively opposed to the TPNW. In such countries, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has been encouraging towns, cities and counties to pass resolutions given their support to the TPNW and calling on their own governments to take an active part in the discussions over multilateral nuclear disarmament. In this ICAN Cities Appeal initiative over 300 Councils have now passed resolutions. Amongst the most notable recent supporters of the initiative are the Belgian city and Mayors for Peace Vice President Ypres. Other Councils are likely to pass resolutions as normal business starts to resume following the easing of lockdown brought about by the pandemic.

The planned UN Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, which nuclear weapon states and their supporters do engage with, was postponed from May and has been provisionally planned to be held in January 2021. This date though remains dependent on how social distancing and the problems brought about by the Covid-19 global pandemic are eased in time to allow it to go ahead. The Review Conference, whenever it happens, is likely to be particularly affected by the outcome of the US Presidential election. At present, all of the nuclear weapon states are actively modernising their existing stockpiles of missiles at huge expense, and the context to the Review Conference remains difficult for real progress.

Members of the European Mayors for Peace Chapter have discussed with ICAN the possibility of holding an international webinar considering the state of European security prior to the NPT. There will be further discussion on holding this later in 2020 or in the first quarter of 2021.

## **7. Development of the Mayors for Peace European Chapter**

Since the European Chapter was formally agreed upon in November 2019, an Officers Working Group has been moving forward with creating a structure for it. In the past couple of months that has seen the approval of a Chapter logo and the style and initial content of a Chapter website. Detailed statutes compliant with Spanish and wider European law are being developed for the European Chapter Secretariat Council of Granollers. A protocol on the issuing of Chapter statements has also been drafted and agreed upon.

Once the statutes are agreed upon, the Chapter can start looking at issues around recruiting staff, determining the needs of the Secretariat, developing content and starting campaigns. Its involvement with other European and global groups will be a part of that process. Its activity around promoting safe, resilient and more peaceful cities is a core part of its planned activity, along with promoting the need for multilateral nuclear disarmament in Europe.

## **8. Conclusions and recommendations**

This report highlights that a considerable amount of activity is taking place to remember the importance of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks, and of the end of the Second World War. It also notes the importance of a similarly important 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre and the civil wars in the former Yugoslavia. Local authorities have always played a focal role in remembering such times of human trauma, death and destruction, as well as advocating peaceful solutions for the future. That is what the Mayors for Peace is essentially in existence to achieve.

Chapter members are strongly encouraged to take an active part in these anniversary events, and to support the need for promoting peace education at the local level. The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War, and of the first use of the most destructive weapon used in human history, is really important to remember, and call for a different way forward.

Since the recent Chapter meeting, a number of Councils have approached the Secretariat to take up ginkgo seeds as part of a local peace education programme. Over the next year, as the UK and Ireland Chapter and the European Chapter develop further, it is hoped and planned that further detail will be provided to encourage further activity by member authorities. Members are also encouraged to pass ICAN Cities TPNW resolutions, and to also consider holding appropriate events for International Peace Day on September 21<sup>st</sup> in a similar manner as remembers the importance of August 6<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup> 1945.

**Selected list of events in the UK and Ireland to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks**

**Details of most of these events have kindly been provided by UK CND and Scottish CND, or the host Councils.**

**England –**

- Manchester City Council will have an online Hiroshima and Nagasaki Mayors for Peace commemoration webpage at <https://www.manchester.gov.uk/Lettherebepeace> from August 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Leeds City Council Peacelink Group will have a socially distanced Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemoration event on the 9<sup>th</sup> August at 10.30 – 11.30am in Park Square by the Mayors for Peace plaque and tree.
- The Mayor of Camden will lay a wreath at the official Hiroshima and Nagasaki event in London from 12pm onwards in Tavistock Square.
- Yorkshire CND commemoration for Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Bradford will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> August, 11am – 12pm in the peace garden behind the City Hall.
- Sheffield's Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemoration event will be held in the Peace Gardens, Sheffield Town Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> August from 12.30pm – 1.30pm.
- Liverpool CND will hold a vigil event in St John's Gardens in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Liverpool on the 6<sup>th</sup> August at 10.30am – 11.30am.
- Bromley will hold a Hiroshima Day vigil on the 1<sup>st</sup> August from 12pm – 3pm with the Mayor of Bromley invited.
- Crawley will held a Hiroshima Day vigil on the 6<sup>th</sup> August from 7- 7.30pm with the Mayor of Crawley invited.
- The Isle of Wight Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemoration will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> August at 11am – 12pm.
- Lewisham CND has invited the Mayor of Lewisham to attend a socially distanced commemoration on the 9<sup>th</sup> August, 1.30pm – 3pm for Nagasaki Day.
- Oxford CND has invited the Lord Mayor of Oxford to attend a socially distanced commemoration in Bonn Square on the 9<sup>th</sup> August from 11am – 12pm.
- Wimbledon CND is holding a Hiroshima Day commemoration on the 6<sup>th</sup> August from 8.30 – 9.30pm.

**England online events (go to CND website or relevant Facebook / web page for log-in details) -**

- CND UK have placed a photographic exhibition on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on its website.
- London CND have a Hiroshima commemoration webinar on the 6<sup>th</sup> August, 12pm – 1.30pm: Hiroshima Commemoration by London CND.
- South East London CND have a Hiroshima commemoration webinar on the 6<sup>th</sup> August, 6pm – 7.30pm.
- CND UK have a webinar on 'Hiroshima and Nagasaki – ever again' on the 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2–3pm.
- Southampton CND are hosting a Nagasaki Day commemoration webinar on the 9<sup>th</sup> August from 7.30 – 8.30pm.
- Greater Manchester and District CND webinar 'The Bomb on my Back' on the 9<sup>th</sup> August from 1 – 3pm.
- A live-streamed performance of 'The Priest's Tale – Hiroshima Day' from the stage of Sands Film Studios Theatre, Rotherhithe, London on the 6<sup>th</sup> August, 7.30 – 8.30pm and 'The Doctor's Tale - Nagasaki Day' at the same venue 7.30pm – 8.45pm. Go to the theatre website for more details.

**Scotland -**

- Aberdeen CND are organising a webinar on the 6th August at 7:30pm, followed by a talk by Rika Hirose, a Japanese national living in Scotland.
- Ayrshire CND will be issuing special online messages on the 6th and 9th August.
- Cromarty Peace Group will be hosting a commemoration event on the 6th August.
- Dunbar vigil for Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be on Sunday 9th August at 2.30pm at the peace pole by St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Westport, Dunbar. [dmumford@phonecoop.coop](mailto:dmumford@phonecoop.coop)
- Edinburgh CND Zoom meeting on the 6th August. 6pm– 7pm. Check on the Edinburgh CND Facebook page for update and to register for Zoom.
- Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre will host two events on 6th August – a Zoom Origami Peace Cranes workshop with Shoji Masuzawa from 10 to 11am. (book on Eventbrite) 7.30pm - The Priest's Tale streamed live from Sands Films check out Edinburgh Peace & Justice Facebook page.
- Faslane Peace Camp will hold a special vigil at 4 pm on the 6th August at the North Gate of Faslane Naval Base which will not involve any activity liable to lead to arrest. All welcome.
- Glasgow - 6th August commemoration event at noon on at the Kelvingrove Park Peace Tree. 9<sup>th</sup> - online Nagasaki Commemoration at 2 p.m. Jitsu platform (link <https://meet.jit.si/glesca>) Glasgow. Christian CND is proposing to replace a Peace Tree that they gifted to Victoria Park in Glasgow in the 1990s. They are also launching a new statement on the bombings, and you can find out more here <https://christiancnd.org.uk/2020/07/02/statement-on-bombing-of-hiroshima-and-nagasaki/>
- Peebles - 6pm August 6 Tweeddale Peace Group will hold an event on the north bank of the River Tweed including a silent vigil at 6.30, and the dropping of rose and flower petals into the river in memory of all those who died 75 years ago in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- Stirling CND will hold an event at 7 pm on Thursday 6th August in the Peace Garden, Pullar Memorial Park, Bridge of Allan. See the Stirling CND Facebook page.
- Scottish CND online event at 7 p.m. on the 9th of August. What next to eliminate nuclear weapons. SCND Facebook page or Twitter for details on how to join the meeting.