



# Briefing paper

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Date: 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020

No.31

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Subject: The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to enter into force and high-profile Mayors for Peace / ICAN European webinar

## 1. Introduction

This report has been developed by the Chapter Secretary and provides its members with an update of the 50<sup>th</sup> state ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which will mean it will enter into force as part of international law in January 2020. The report profiles a high-profile webinar being organized between the Mayors for Peace, ICAN and NFLA on December 4<sup>th</sup> which profiles the ICAN Cities Appeal and ways to develop safe, resilient and more peaceful towns and cities. Relating to this is additional information to encourage members to pass resolutions to support the TPNW. There is also a progress report on the Chapter.

## 2. The 50<sup>th</sup> state ratified the TPNW meaning it can enter into force

At a special United Nations conference in July 2017, 122 nations agreed to support the development of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). This international agreement would seek to create new momentum for global nuclear disarmament, as well as remembering and supporting those who had been negatively affected by the testing and use of nuclear weapons – the hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the servicemen exposed to radiation from nuclear weapon tests and the communities around testing sites in the likes of southern Australia, Kazakhstan, Nevada and other states of the USA and pacific island nations like the Marshall Islands.

For its activity in this area, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), of which the Mayors for Peace is a strategic partner, received the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.

The next part of this process was to get as many of these states to agree to ratify the TPNW into their national law. When a minimum of 50 states ratify such a treaty it then becomes a part of international law. The momentum to reach this milestone has been steady, and it has grown at a similar rate to international treaties that have banned other weapons of mass destruction, such as landmines, cluster munitions, chemical and biological weapons.

During the United Nations special conference commemorating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the 48<sup>th</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> states formally ratified the TPNW at the UN – Jamaica, Nauru and Honduras. A special event co-organised by some of the leading states that have supported the TPNW, such as Ireland, Austria, Mexico, Costa Rica and New Zealand welcomed this milestone with these three states. A considerable number of the 50 ratifying states are from Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and the Pacific Islands, as well as some core states from Asia and Europe.

ICAN's Executive Director Beatrice Fihn commented: "This is a new chapter for nuclear disarmament. Decades of activism have achieved what many said was impossible: nuclear weapons are banned."

## THE UK & IRELAND CHAPTER OF MAYORS FOR PEACE

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Setsuko Thurlow, a survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bombing, who gave a speech at ICAN's Nobel Peace Prize ceremony, added:

“The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has entered into force! This truly marks the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons! When I learned that we reached our 50th ratification, I was not able to stand. I remained in my chair and put my head in my hands, and I cried tears of joy. I have committed my life to the abolition of nuclear weapons. I have nothing but gratitude for all who have worked for the success of our treaty. I have a powerful feeling of solidarity with tens of thousands of people across the world. We have made it to this point.”

With the 50<sup>th</sup> ratification, a 90-day period has begun to allow the United Nations to prepare for its formal entry into force, which will take place on **January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**. As the Arms Control Association note, the TPNW is the first international instrument to comprehensively ban the development, testing, production, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use, and threat of use of nuclear weapons. All states-parties engaging in these activities are now bound to submit and implement a plan to divest themselves completely of nuclear weapons upon ratification.

The Austrian Government, who have been instrumental in the development of the TPNW, have said they would be happy to host the first conference on States Parties within a year of it entering into force. It needs to be noted that 82 states have to date formally signed the TPNW, so it is expected that a considerable number of additional states will join the States Parties over the next year. For example, Cambodia is in the final processes of ratifying the TPNW in its national Parliament.

## **2. What happens next, and to those who have not supported the TPNW?**

Amidst the excitement of reaching this milestone is also the realism that much still needs to be done to persuade those states who have opposed it – the existing nuclear weapon states, members in defence organisations like NATO and those in agreements with nuclear weapons states (often referred to as umbrella states) like Australia, South Korea and Japan.

The Mayors for Peace Executive Committee, which includes Manchester City Council, agreed on a joint statement of what it would like to see happen next. This welcomes the TPNW whilst acknowledging the wider challenges that exist elsewhere and have been preventing significant disarmament in recent years. The letter is attached as Appendix 1.

Just prior to the accession of the 50<sup>th</sup> states, the Associated Press published a leaked letter that showed that the United States Government under President Trump had been putting pressure on states that had ratified the TPNW to reverse such processes. This perhaps suggests that nuclear weapon states are nervous that the TPNW could get a momentum that could impinge on them. It certainly suggests that previous statements that the TPNW is an irrelevance is far of the mark.

The wider nuclear weapons disarmament regime is currently not in good health. A key factor will be what the new US President Joe Biden determines US nuclear strategy will be for the future. There are ongoing discussions with Russia over whether the START Treaty is to be renewed, and if other treaties that have been previously abrogated, like the INF Treaty, can be revived. Biden's election as US President may provide some renewed hope that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iran's nuclear programme can be restored. The position of North Korea's nuclear weapon programme also remains unclear after previous talks with the Trump administration have stalled. There remain the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan over the Kashmir region which have not been resolved to anyone's satisfaction.

The 2020 Review Conference of the parallel and core nuclear disarmament treaty, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), has recently had to be cancelled for the second time due to the ongoing issues created by the Covid-19 virus outbreak. Originally planned for May 2020, it was put back to January 2021, but as international travel remains difficult to do in a world where social distancing measures are still in place, it has now been moved again to August 2021. This clearly does not help in unlocking some of the real stalemate and reducing the tensions that exist within the treaty arrangements. Ironically though, it allows a new US administration to have the time to

potentially set a new agenda on the nuclear weapons debate and it permits those who support the TPNW greater latitude to develop it as a parallel policy process at the United Nations.

Supporters of the TPNW argue that it is complimentary to the NPT and both could encourage in different ways a renewed move towards disarmament. Indeed, the preamble to the TPNW makes specific reference to actively supporting the NPT. It reaffirms "...the full and effective implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which serves as the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, has a vital role to play in promoting international peace and security."

Prior to what would have been the May 2020 NPT Review Conference, the States Parties adopted by consensus a document that sought to work for global nuclear disarmament through the UN Secretary-General's Five Point Proposal for Nuclear Disarmament, which has been noted in a previous Chapter Policy Briefing. This proposes the consideration of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or a framework of separate mutually reinforcing instruments backed by a strong system of verification. In this context, the TPNW could be seen as a 'good-faith' measure by non-nuclear States under Article 6 of the NPT.

This is a matter that will be discussed in the upcoming joint Mayors for Peace / ICAN / NFLA webinar in December where a Senior Researcher from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute will discuss the interactions between the TPNW and the NPT.

### **3. Mayors for Peace European Chapter / ICAN / NFLA webinar on peace and security in Europe in the 2020s, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Just over a year ago, the European Lead Cities of Mayors for Peace came together to develop and enhance activity through a new European Chapter. Funding to move this concept further has been provided by the Provincial Council of Barcelona.

Over the year, a European Lead Members Working Group has been developing legal statutes, a website and wider structure. To some extent, like with many other initiatives, this activity has slowed down a little due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as it prevented face-to-face Mayors for Peace meetings planned around the NPT Review Conference and the planned Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace, both of which had to be postponed to 2021. However, the Lead Cities have been keen to hold some high-profile events before the year is out.

Last month, the Mayor of the Croatian Lead City in the Chapter, Biograd na Moru, represented the European Chapter in an audience with Pope Francis, who has been a strong advocate of nuclear disarmament and for encouraging a new type of politics centred on peace-making, as noted in his encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti'. Pope Francis visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki in November 2019 and has also met with a number of disarmament groups. 'Fratelli Tutti' has detailed sections within it on the need to remember the devastating use of nuclear weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and to work tirelessly for global disarmament.

The city councils of Manchester and Granollers (a small city within the Barcelona Provincial region) have cooperated with ICAN and the UK & Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) to deliver a special joint webinar that is entitled: **European peace and security through the 2020s – how do we create a safer, more peaceful continent free of nuclear weapons?** The Mayors for Peace also thank the Provincial Council of Barcelona for providing support for the webinar. The webinar will be held on the morning of December 4<sup>th</sup>.

The programme is attached below at Appendix 2, and can be found online at:

[https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/M4P\\_NFLA\\_ICAN\\_BPC\\_European\\_Webinar.pdf](https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/M4P_NFLA_ICAN_BPC_European_Webinar.pdf)

To register for the webinar please go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.es/e/european-peace-and-security-through-the-2020s-tickets-127709294939>

The webinar seeks to bring together prominent Mayors or Councils Leaders and leading councillors and council officers with disarmament experts and groups. It will consider three principal areas of Mayors for Peace policy – its role in supporting peace and disarmament in general, ways it can pass resolutions to support the TPNW and other global disarmament initiatives, and a consideration of the important role of municipalities in supporting safe, resilient, sustainable and more peaceful cities. In terms of safe cities, the Mayors for Peace is delighted to work with the Global Parliament of Mayors - <https://globalparliamentofmayors.org/>. GPM is a governance body of, by and for mayors from all continents with a vision to the world in which mayors, their cities and networks are equal partners in building global governance for an inclusive and sustainable world.

Amongst the speakers at this webinar are:

- The Mayors of Hiroshima, Granollers, Manchester, Oslo, Barcelona and Grigny.
- The Mayor of Braga, representing the Global Parliament of Mayors; and a former Lord Mayor of Manchester during the year of the Manchester Arena terrorist attack.
- The Executive Director and the Campaigns Director of ICAN, Beatrice Fihn and Daniel Hogsta.
- A Senior Researcher in the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Dr Tytti Erasto, who specialises on international disarmament treaties like the TPNW and the NPT.

Members of the UK & Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter – whether they are Mayors, Council Leaders, senior councillors or senior council officers – are strongly encouraged to attend. An invitation is being sent to the 3,098 European members of Mayors for Peace. The invitation is also going to members of the Global Parliament of Mayors, to all ICAN affiliated groups and to disarmament think-tanks.

This webinar is the first of what the Chapter hopes will be a regular series of events that will increase its profile, engage with its members and encourage a deepened involvement from members in the activities of Mayors for Peace. We hope you as members can engage with it.

#### **4. Progress with encouraging towns and cities to support the TPNW – new briefing pack**

Over the past 2 years, towns and cities around the world have been able to show their solidarity with moves to encourage disarmament by passing resolutions to support the TPNW and call on their governments to actively engage with such processes.

In an initiative that begun in the United States with cities like Los Angeles, Baltimore and Washington DC, Mayors for Peace Vice President cities Manchester and Granollers were the first European cities to pass resolutions formally supporting the TPNW. Cooperating with ICAN, in an initiative called the ICAN Cities Appeal, there have now been over 400 towns, cities and county councils that have passed such resolutions. This initiative particularly focuses on states who have not engaged with the TPNW, such as nuclear weapon states and their supporters.

Amongst prominent towns and cities to have passed resolutions includes:

- Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney (Australia);
- Bruges, Ghent and Ypres (Belgium);
- Toronto and Vancouver (Canada);
- Biograd na Moru (Croatia);
- Grenoble, Lyon and Paris (France);
- Berlin, Dortmund, Hannover, Leipzig and Munich (Germany);
- Kannur (India);
- Brescia (Italy);
- Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Japan);
- Luxembourg City and Dudelange (Luxembourg);
- Nijmegen and Rotterdam (The Netherlands);
- Bergen, Oslo and Trondheim (Norway);
- Barcelona, Granollers and Zaragoza (Spain);
- Gothenburg (Sweden);
- Berne, Geneva and Zurich (Switzerland);

- and Baltimore, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Washington DC (USA).

In the UK the following cities, large towns and counties have passed similar resolutions - East Ayrshire, Edinburgh, Fife, Hastings, Manchester, the London Boroughs of Newham and Tower Hamlets, Norwich, Oxford and Renfrewshire. In addition, the smaller towns of Hebden Royd Town Council and Shaw and Crompton Parish Council have also passed resolutions. The Secretariat has not engaged on this matter with Irish Councils as the Republic of Ireland ratified the TPNW on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020, and there is cross-party support for nuclear disarmament.

The Chapter Secretariat is working with a number of other Councils who are in the process of passing TPNW resolutions. Now that the TPNW is entering into force an updated briefing pack with model resolutions has been developed by the Chapter Secretariat for use by councillors, and to NGOs who may wish to lobby their local Council. It is attached as Appendix 3. Members of the Chapter are strongly encouraged to try and pass such resolutions.

## **5. Progress with developing the UK and Ireland Chapter and other initiatives that could take place in 2021**

With the parallel development of the European Chapter, the UK and Ireland Chapter of Mayors for Peace will also see progress ongoing ways to support peace education initiatives, webinars and events. The Chapter Secretariat is very keen to hear from members on relevant issues they are pursuing in these areas of policy.

One good example is with Coventry City Council, who this month are remembering the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the destruction of large parts of the city, often referred to as the Coventry Blitz including its cathedral. This took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 1940 and over 500 people were killed in a huge aerial bombardment of the city. The rebuilding of Coventry, and particularly of its new cathedral, with the creation of twinning links with similar cities like Dresden, Volgograd and Hiroshima, was done in a spirit of peace and reconciliation. Coventry holds an annual Peace Festival around this anniversary and, despite Covid-19 affecting many planned live events, a number of events still took place including:

- The Lord Mayor's Peace Lecture was given by Sir David King, former UK Chief Scientific Advisor, on the impact to peace of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- A Positive Images Peace Poetry Competition.
- Messages of peace from around the world were placed on its World Tree of Peace in the Memorial Park.
- A Peace of Mind workshop helping people to find some type of inner peace and good mental health in these challenging times.
- A Twin Cities Poetry and Friendship event with its partner city of Cork, who are also a member of the Mayors for Peace UK & Ireland Chapter.
- A new edition of the Coventry City Centre Peace Trail was published. It can be downloaded from - <http://coventrycityofpeace.uk/coventry-peace-trail/> which also outlines the Lord Mayor's Peace and Reconciliation Committee activities.

Another example, which an increasing number of UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace members are involved in, relates to the receiving of ginkgo seeds from Hiroshima. The seeds are harvested from a mother tree that was damaged in the atomic bombing of the city in 1945, but regrew the following spring giving the people of Hiroshima the sign they could rebuild their city. The seeds are a powerful symbol of peace and the role of nature in regeneration. Such seeds have been sent around the world, with notable sites at the United Nations in Geneva and in Oslo around ICAN's Nobel Peace ceremony.

Members of the Chapter who have received ginkgo seeds from Hiroshima include Manchester, Edinburgh, Shetland Islands, Hull, South Ayrshire and Oldham. Each of them have planted the seeds and have used them in different ways, but particularly with schools in a peace education programme. The latest members to receive ginkgo seeds from Hiroshima are Hebden Royd Town Council and Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council. Their seeds will be grown at Manor Heath Gardens in Halifax and at Rochdale Council's Parks and Countryside greenhouses in Heywood. Events with their Mayors will be organised when the Covid-19 lockdown is eased.

To get a flavour of how Manchester has developed a peace education project with schools, this webpage from St Margaret Mary's Primary School in Manchester is worth reading:

<https://www.st-margaretmarys.manchester.sch.uk/news/project-g---a-plan-for-peace/29206>

If any member is interested in receiving ginkgo tree seeds from Hiroshima please contact the Chapter Secretary, Sean Morris - [sean.morris4@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:sean.morris4@manchester.gov.uk)

The Chapter Secretariat envisages the next Chapter online meeting to be held in February 2021. As a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Manchester City Council is involved in at least three core peace events in 2021 –

- The Ripples of Hope Festival is provisionally planned now for the 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021. This Festival has been initiated by the Robert F Kennedy Human Rights Foundation UK and is led by the former CEO of the South Bank Centre, Jude Kelly. It will be focused at the city's main arts centre, HOME, but will also include local events around Greater Manchester. It will be based around five core themes of human rights education including dignity and justice, discrimination, participation, culture and the environment, with the aim of making people more aware that they have broad human rights. Over 3,500 students have been already engaged in the programme to date. For further details go to <https://www.ripplesofhopefestival.org/>.
- The official memorial to remember those who died in the terrorist attack on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 at Manchester Arena has been presented to the Council, and work on it is expected to being in early 2021. Known as the Glade of Light, in a site behind Manchester Cathedral, the memorial will have a white stone ring 'halo' bearing the names in bronze of those who lost their lives. Behind each name will be a personalised memory capsule held within the stone containing mementos and messages from their loved ones. Surrounding the halo will be a tranquil garden made of plants and flowers that grow naturally in the British countryside which will be changed with the passing seasons. It is anticipated it will be formally opened in autumn 2021.
- A redevelopment is also taking place that will reintroduce a Peace Garden into Manchester city centre. Being centred around a refurbished statue of the American President Abraham Lincoln, the area will also include Hiroshima ginkgo peace trees and inlaid messages of peace in an area which will seek to provide some peace and quiet in a busy city centre. It is expected this area in Lincoln Square will be completed as well in 2021. An appropriate opening ceremony will take place, depending on what social distancing measures are required at the time.

The Chapter Secretariat are always keen to hear from you of any relevant events, festivals and plans you have which are relevant to your membership of Mayors for Peace. Please get in touch if you have any news.

## 6. Conclusion and recommendations

The entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is an important milestone in the disarmament debate and is worth celebrating. It is only the next stage of a complex process, given the challenge in persuading nuclear weapon states and their supporters to engage more pro-actively in disarmament, but it shows there is renewed interest and strong support from a large group of UN member states. The election of President Joe Biden may see some hope for positive change, but it comes on the back of several years of negative unilateral actions from a number of states. Mayors for Peace will remain involved in that debate over the next year and engage in the NPT Review Conference and the first States Parties Conference of the TPNW in 2021.

The upcoming joint December 4<sup>th</sup> webinar organised by the newly-formed European Chapter of Mayors for Peace, with ICAN and NFLA, is an excellent opportunity to engage on these matters, as well as the promotion of safe, resilient and more peaceful cities. The Secretariat recommends that Mayors / Council Leaders and / or senior councillors and council officers sign up for the webinar. Members are also encouraged to attend the next UK & Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter webinar planned for February 2021. The webinar is also open to peace and disarmament groups as well.

Members are also strongly encouraged to pass a resolution of support for the TPNW and its entry into force in January. Please use the attached briefing pack and one of the suggested model resolutions and inform the Secretariat when a resolution is put forward and hopefully passed.

Finally, if your Council is planning any events relevant to the work of Mayors for Peace please inform the Chapter Secretariat who will be very happy to promote it.

## Statement of the Mayors for Peace Executive Committee on the accession of the 50<sup>th</sup> state to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

Mayors for Peace wholeheartedly welcomes the momentous occasion of the number of states ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) reaching fifty, ensuring its entry into force in ninety days. We would like to rejoice at this moment from the bottom of our hearts with our member cities, their citizens, our partner peace NGOs, and most importantly, with the hibakusha, who long more than anyone else for a world without nuclear weapons. They have each gone through the indescribably painful experience of the humanitarian devastation caused by the atomic bombings, yet continue their efforts based on their unshakable conviction that “no one else should suffer as we have.” We especially must never forget the historical fact that their voices have pushed international society forward and led to the conclusion of the treaty.

With the hope of realizing a world free of nuclear weapons while the hibakusha are still alive, in 2003, Mayors for Peace developed the “2020 Vision.” We have since then been working for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the implementation of legal measures to prohibit them.

At the First Session of the UN Negotiations on the TPNW in 2017, we made substantial proposals to achieve effective legal prohibition of nuclear weapons. After the treaty was adopted, we sent the United Nations and national governments a “Special Resolution Requesting the Early Bringing into Effect of the Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons,” and delivered speeches at sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference. Through these and other acts we extensively sought greater understanding of the reality of the atomic bombings and of the hibakusha’s desire for peace. In addition, we strongly appealed for the conclusion of this treaty, which is in line with the obligations imposed on all NPT States Parties to negotiate in good faith for nuclear disarmament. In our member cities all around the globe, we have stimulated citizens to be engaged in peace activities, such as carrying out petition drives calling for all states to join the treaty as soon as possible. We believe that these activities and concrete contributions have been successful in fostering and growing international public support for abolishing nuclear weapons and have led to the adoption of the TPNW, and now, its fiftieth ratification.

However, even while there are still many nuclear weapons existing on this planet, nuclear disarmament is now stagnant. It is also a fact that the TPNW’s entry into force does not bring us the immediate total elimination of nuclear weapons. Nuclear-armed states and their allies under the nuclear umbrella continue to be opposed to the treaty. Our forthcoming challenges are to make the treaty a comprehensive and fully effective legally binding instrument, including verification and other strong confidence-building measures. To this end we urge the nuclear-armed states and their allies to participate in discussions for effective implementation and development of the treaty, and to attend the meetings of States Parties as observers. From now on, initiatives promoting wider participation in the treaty must be implemented to gain its universal adherence and accelerate the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Mayors for Peace will therefore work for further expansion of our network, currently composed of nearly 8,000 member cities in 164 countries and regions. With this solidarity, we are determined to continue strengthening our efforts to widely convey to members of the public throughout the world that nuclear weapons are an absolute evil that must not exist, and also that this treaty establishes an unambiguous international norm for the abolition of nuclear weapons. We shall cultivate peace consciousness in civil society by promoting “a culture of peace”, in which each citizen thinks about and acts for peace in their daily lives. These actions will create real momentum for peace and will, in turn, help create an environment in which policymakers can take decisive leadership for policy changes to realize a world without nuclear weapons. Let us keep moving steadily toward our goal.

October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Mayors for Peace  
 President            Mayor of Hiroshima, Japan  
 Vice President      Mayor of Nagasaki, Japan  
 Vice President      Lord Mayor of Hannover, Germany

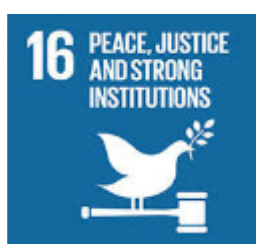


Vice President	Mayor of Volgograd, Russia
Vice President	Mayor of Malakoff, France
Vice President	Mayor of Muntinlupa, Philippines
Vice President	Lord Mayor of Manchester, U.K.
Vice President	Mayor of Ypres, Belgium
Vice President	Mayor of Biograd na Moru, Croatia
Vice President	Mayor of Granollers, Spain
Vice President	Mayor of Mexico City, Mexico
Vice President	Mayor of Des Moines, U.S.
Executive City	Governor of Bangkok, Thailand
Executive City	Mayor of Fremantle, Australia
Executive City	Mayor of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Executive City	Mayor of Semey, Kazakhstan
Executive City	Mayor of Cochin, India
Executive City	Mayor of Montreal, Canada
Executive City	Mayor of Wellington, New Zealand
Executive City	Mayor of Santos, Brazil
Executive City	Mayor of Cartago, Costa Rica
Executive City	Mayor of Tehran, Iran
Executive City	Mayor of Grigny, France
Executive City	Mayor of Cervia, Italy

## Mayors for Peace European Chapter / ICAN / NFLA webinar, 4<sup>th</sup> December

The formal flyer and registration details can be found at: [https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/M4P\\_NFLA\\_ICAN\\_BPC\\_European\\_Webinar.pdf](https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/M4P_NFLA_ICAN_BPC_European_Webinar.pdf)

### Mayors for Peace European Chapter, NFLA & ICAN joint webinar, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 9.15am–12pm GMT / 10.15am - 1pm (CET time) **European peace and security through the 2020s – how do we create a safer, more peaceful continent free of nuclear weapons?**



In the year of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first use of atomic weapons and of the largest public health emergency in known times, this joint webinar by the recently created European Chapter of Mayors for Peace, the UK & Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) focuses on the European peace and security agenda prior to the next Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and the imminent entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It will also concentrate on the important role of local towns and cities in creating safe, resilient, sustainable and more peaceful communities.

#### **Programme**

(Timings around Europe: Western European Time for UK, Ireland, Portugal and Iceland 9.15am – 12pm; Central European Time 10am – 1pm, Eastern European Time 11am – 2pm, Eastern Standard / Moscow Time 12pm – 3pm)



The webinar will be moderated by the UK & Ireland NFLA and Mayors for Peace Secretary, Sean Morris, Manchester City Council.



9.15am Recorded video message from the Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor Kazumi Matsui.



9.20am Opening comments to introduce the webinar –

- President of the Mayors for Peace European Chapter, Mayor Josep Mayoral, Mayor of Granollers
- Executive Director of ICAN, Beatrice Fihn



9.30am Is a new Cold War of 'self-centred nationalism' putting European security at threat? Dr Tytti Erasto, Senior Research, Nuclear Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)



9.50am Short presentations on why leading European cities supports the TPNW / ICAN Cities Appeal –

- Mayor Ada Colau of Barcelona (invited)
- Mayor Marianne Borgen of Oslo
- Mayor Philippe Rio of Grigny & Chair of Mayors for Peace France



10.20am The role of the ICAN Cities Appeal in challenging European NATO states to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons – Daniel Hogsta, ICAN Campaigns Coordinator

10.40 Panel discussion



11.00am What is the role of towns and cities in developing safe, resilient and more peaceful communities?

- How Manchester responded after the May 2017 Arena terrorist attack, Councillor Eddy Newman, Manchester City Council and Lord Mayor of Manchester at the time of the attack
- Developing safer, resilient and more peaceful cities: the work of the Global Parliament of Mayors – Mayor Ricardo Rio, Mayor of Braga and Executive Member of the Global Parliament of Mayors



11.35am Panel discussion



11.55am Closing comments by European Chapter and Mayors for Peace Vice President, the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Thomas Judge

**This meeting will be held on the Zoom web conference platform and will also be streamed live on You Tube. The meeting will be held in English, though there will be the opportunity for English-Spanish simultaneous translation offered by the City of Granollers.**

**Eventbrite link for registration:**

<https://www.eventbrite.es/e/european-peace-and-security-through-the-2020s-tickets-127709294939>

## Updated briefing pack seeking Councils to support the TPNW / ICAN Cities Appeal

### ICAN CITIES APPEAL - A global call from cities and towns in support of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (see <https://cities.icanw.org/>)

#### 1. About the ICAN Cities Appeal

Nuclear weapons pose an unacceptable threat to people everywhere. After many years of stalemate in trying to get progress with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, many non-nuclear weapon states with a large amount of civil society groups like Mayors for Peace and ICAN, started a new policy process considering the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. This process led on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017 to 122 nations voting to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) as a new disarmament process to encourage new ways to bring about a nuclear weapons free world. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020, the 50<sup>th</sup> state ratified the TPNW into their national law, which means on January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021 it will now enter into force as part of international law under the United Nations. Other national governments are expected to sign and ratify this crucial global agreement, which prohibits the use, production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and lays the foundations for their total elimination.

Cities and towns where their states have opposed the TPNW can help build support for the treaty by passing resolutions of support for it, as well as endorsing the ICAN Cities Appeal.

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 ICAN launched the Cities Appeal, as a commitment by cities and towns to show support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and call on their governments to join. The basic Appeal put forward by ICAN states:

“Our city/town is deeply concerned about the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world. We firmly believe that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this threat. Any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for people and the environment. Therefore, we support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and call on our governments join it.”

#### 2. Information for local groups encouraging your Council to pass a resolution

Whilst the UK & Ireland Chapter of Mayors for Peace and the UK & Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities groups are encouraging this process with its members, they welcome local groups to lobby their Councils to pass TPNW resolutions and support the ICAN Cities Appeal.

We encourage groups to look at the ICAN Cities Appeal's resources website which gives a template letter and useful information. It is also useful to see the range of cities that have passed resolutions.

Mayors for Peace and ICAN suggest a step-by-step process in encouraging a Council to pass a resolution and / or individual councillors to support the TPNW.

- a) Get inspired: dive into the stories behind the latest cities taking the ICAN Cities Appeal. Contact the UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Secretary, Sean Morris, to discuss which Council(s) you are planning to contact to encourage them to support the TPNW – [sean.morris4@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:sean.morris4@manchester.gov.uk).
- b) Do your research: How does decision-making work in your town, city or county? Understand the political control of the Council and try and identify sympathetic councillors who may be interested – then contact them. Are there any similar initiatives in the Local Authority and do they take an interest in international affairs? Has your city spoken out on nuclear disarmament already? Is your city a member of Mayors for Peace or NFLA, as this will show some engagement in these issues? If they are not in either organisation, it may be useful as a first part of the process to encourage them to join. The Chapter

Secretary or the Mayors for Peace website (<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>) can provide a briefing pack.

- c) Find your allies: get in touch with other ICAN partners / local peace groups and reach out to your local councillor to put a resolution on the legislative agenda. The councillor may need to get internal approval within their own party grouping and speak to councillors in other groups to ensure a resolution would be approved, so this can take a little time (particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic). The Chapter Secretariat also encourages you to request individual councillors to make a pledge to support the Treaty – there is an excellent Local Council Communities pledge at this Yorkshire CND weblink: <https://yorkshirecnd.org.uk/take-action-nuclear-ban-communities-pledge/>
- d) Get social: use social media to share why you love your city or to support the Councils taking action in this area.
- e) If you have any further queries please get in touch with the Chapter Secretary, Sean Morris, or ICAN UK - [infouk@icanw.org](mailto:infouk@icanw.org)

### **3. Suggested model resolution for UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace members**

The UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Secretariat offers two model resolutions, one which simply seeks to support the TPNW and endorse the ICAN Cities Appeal, and a broader resolution that makes a more direct challenge on UK nuclear weapons policy. Councillors should consider which is more appropriate for them and likely to pass through their Council. As the Irish Government has ratified the TPNW resolution is not requested of Irish Councils, though they are welcome to pass resolutions supporting this action if they feel it is necessary.

#### **a. Model resolution to support the TPNW / ICAN Cities Appeal**

“(N) Council is a member of the Mayors for Peace organisation, established by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the only cities attacked with the devastating power of nuclear weapons. (Note: If the Council is not a member of Mayors for Peace please adapt this resolution to start with an encouragement to the Council to join the organisation)

Mayors for Peace works with the Nobel Peace Laureate group the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), to encourage states to agree, sign and ratify the International Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which enters(ed) into force as a part of international law on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

In the 75th anniversary of the first use of nuclear weapons, N Council supports this Treaty and the initiative to encourage towns and cities to pass resolutions of support for it, through the ICAN Cities Appeal.

Over 400 towns and cities have passed resolutions to support the ICAN Cities Appeal, including Paris, Berlin, Washington DC, Oslo, Barcelona, Toronto, Sydney, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. UK towns and cities to have passed resolutions include Manchester, Edinburgh, Norwich, Oxford, Renfrewshire, Fife, Hastings and Hebden Royd. By supporting this resolution (N) Council fully backs moves towards multilateral nuclear disarmament and a more peaceful world, and shows its solidarity with the Mayors for Peace.

The Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat in Hiroshima and the ICAN Secretariat in Geneva to inform them of its support for the ICAN Cities Appeal and the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.”

#### **b. Broader resolution also commenting on UK nuclear weapons policy:**

“(N) Council is a member of the UK & Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities and the Hiroshima-led Mayors for Peace (delete as appropriate); both of which have been working for 4 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 and is pleased it will / has enter(ed) into force on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021.

The Council also calls on the United Kingdom Government to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear conflict 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.

The 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; and to ICAN to endorse their Cities Appeal supporting the TPNW.”

#### **4. Towns and Cities that have supported the TPNW / ICAN Cities Appeal:**

The full list of Councils who have passed resolutions supporting the TPNW and supporting the ICAN Cities Appeal can be found on the ICAN website: <https://cities.icanw.org/>