

Mayors for Peace progress report



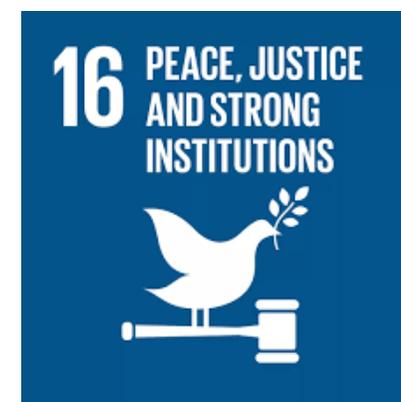
Sean Morris

**UK & Ireland Mayors, Provosts & Leaders for Peace Chapter Secretary
26th March 2021, UK & Ireland Chapter Webinar**

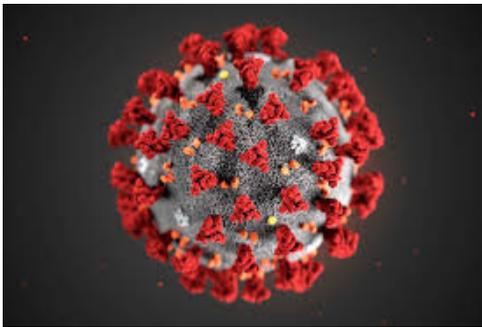
Agenda



- Mayors for Peace and issues with Covid-19
- European Mayors for Peace Chapter progress
- Major planned events in 2021
- TPNW, ICAN Cities Appeal and Parliamentarians Pledge
- UK & Irish defence and foreign policy changes
- Peace education and plans for the future
- Manchester's new peace garden and Glade of Light launch
- August and September meetings



Mayors for Peace & Covid-19



- Covid-19 lockdown has decimated international meetings & conferences
- European visit to see Pope Francis was scaled back to Croatian delegation
- NPT Review Conference moved to August 2021 (tbc)
- Mayors for Peace General Conference in August cancelled
- Executive Conference will be held online
- Will agree Action Plan for 2021 - 24



European Chapter of Mayors for Peace



- Founded in late 2019 to deepen European interest in M4P
- Funding from Provincial Council of Barcelona
- Terms of reference agreed, first board meeting in May / June
- Chapter website launched - <http://www.mayorsforpeace.eu/mayors-for-peace-european-chapter/>
- Thomas Hajnoczi, former Head of Austrian Government Disarmament Office appointed 3rd M4P Executive Advisor
- Held webinar with ICAN Europe in December – Mayors of Oslo, Barcelona, Braga, Hiroshima, Granollers, Manchester, ICAN and SIPRI speakers
- Support peaceful and resilient cities across Europe

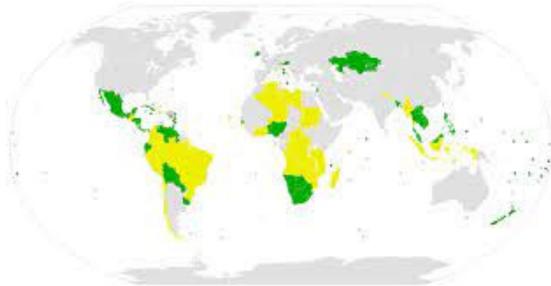
Major events in 2021 / early 2022



- May / June – First European Chapter Board Meeting
- August 6th & 9th – events to commemorate 76th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks
- August 2021 – expected conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference at UN in New York
- Around 21st September – events held around International Peace Day (including next UK & Ireland Chapter webinar)
- November / December – joint Mayors for Peace / ICAN webinar preparing for the TPNW States Parties Conference and promotion of peaceful cities
- January 2022 – States Parties Conference of TPNW at UN in Vienna

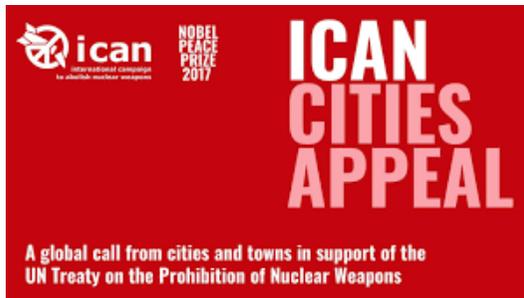


Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons



- On January 22nd TPNW became part of international law
- 53 states ratified and a further 33 states doing so
- Include Ireland, Austria, Vatican State, South Africa and much of Africa, Latin America and Oceania
- Nuclear weapon states, NATO states and nuclear umbrella states remained opposed to TPNW
- Will be a big part of the discussion in the August NPT
- Gives clear guidance on how to create a nuclear weapons free world through multilateral nuclear disarmament
- A number of resistant states likely to attend first State Parties Conference – Sweden, Switzerland, possibly Spain, Netherlands, Portugal, Norway, Germany

ICAN Cities Appeal on the TPNW



Over 400 towns and cities in 17 countries; in the UK:

- Manchester
- Edinburgh
- Renfrewshire
- Norwich
- Fife
- East Ayrshire
- Oxford
- Leeds
- Brighton & Hove
- Hastings
- Newham London Borough
- Tower Hamlets London Borough
- Hebden Royd
- Shaw & Crompton

<https://cities.icanw.org/>

UK & Irish defence & foreign policy



- Ireland is one of the most supportive non-nuclear state of the TPNW – ratified it on Hiroshima Day, 2020
- Working with Austria and others as leading members of the TPNW
- UK Defence Review includes startling decision to increase the cap on Trident warheads from 180 to 260
- After 30 years of gradual reduction since the Cold War, this has been reported as a significant policy change
- The review also encourages large spending on Trident replacement, space, cyber, drone and robotic weaponry
- Makes the UK the largest military power in Europe after Russia
- Trident increase criticised by UN, Mayor of Hiroshima, The Elders, several Foreign Ministers



Peace Education



- Ginkgo trees in Manchester, Edinburgh, Hull, Shetland, Oldham, South Ayrshire, Hebden Royd / Calderdale, Rochdale and shortly Cornwall
- All linked projects in with schools / parks - children
- Peace Trails now in Bradford, Leeds, Manchester, London, Birmingham, Cambridge, Mayo
- Chapter promotes peace education best practice – Foundation for Peace, Peace Education Scotland, CRESST, Peace Jam, Together for Peace, Peace Partners
- Today we will hear from Peaceful Schools
- European Chapter promoting projects to reduce violence in cities over next decade by 50% - more to follow



Peace Garden and Glade of Light



- We would like to hear from you of 'peace' memorials etc in your area to promote
- Manchester will be reinstating a peace garden in Lincoln Square later this year
- Anchored by Abraham Lincoln statue, Hiroshima ginkgo tree, plaques and messages of peace
- Arena memorial – Glade of Light will be partially opened in May 2021
- Include memory capsules in tribute to the 22 people that died
- Many Manchester schools now have peace gardens and memorials
- Covid-19 memorials in Manchester cemeteries



August and September events



- Each August Mayors for Peace members are encouraged to hold events for the anniversary of the Hiroshima & Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks
- With Covid-19 issues these could be online, or carefully done in a live way
- The next Chapter meeting will be on or close to International Peace Day on September 21st
- Other anniversaries you could consider supporting –
 - International Day Against Racial Discrimination – 21 March
 - World Refugee Day – 20th June
 - Srebrenica Memorial Day – 11th July
 - Remembrance Sunday – 14th November
 - Holocaust Memorial Day – 27th January



Conclusions – what you can do



- Consider passing a resolution supporting TPNW and divestment from nuclear weapons / arms producers
- Hold events or commemorate peace anniversaries
- Contact peace education providers / develop your own
- E.g. peace art, poetry, assemblies, gardens, memorials
- Receive ginkgo peace seeds from Hiroshima
- Commemorate Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day
- Promote the ways you are supporting peaceful and resilient towns, cities or counties
- Consider ways to promote the International Day of Peace and attend Chapter's webinar for it



Thank you for listening!

