



Briefing paper

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No.33

Subject: Chapter meeting, peace education and international progress with Mayors for Peace

1. Introduction

This report has been developed by the Chapter Secretary and it provides Chapter members with a progress report of recent and upcoming activity of the Mayors for Peace organisation at the cross-national, European and global level. The report particularly focuses on peace education organisations across the UK, and it also provides an update on developments in defence and security policy in the UK and Ireland, looking forward to a number of international nuclear proliferation and foreign policy conferences.

Issues considered in this report include:

- The UK & Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter spring meeting held on the 26th March 2021.
- Peace education programmes that members can access and liaise with in the UK and Ireland.
- Progress with the development of a European Chapter of Mayors for Peace to help coordinate cooperation across the continent.
- Plan for the global Mayors for Peace Executive Conference in July.
- A brief overview of relevant international developments, including the UN Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, the first States Parties Conference for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the UK Integrated Defence and Security Review and the ICAN Cities Appeal.
- Plans for commemorating key peace dates in August and September.
- Information on the 'Peace in Our Cities' initiative

2. UK & Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter spring webinar

On the 26th March, the Chapter Secretariat organised the spring web-based meeting of the UK and Ireland Chapter.

It was formally opened by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Tommy Judge. In his opening address the Lord Mayor welcomed the milestone of Mayors for Peace passing 8,000 members that was achieved at the end of 2020. It has now 8,024 members in 165 countries. Amongst its newest members in the UK and Ireland are Cornwall County Council, Galway County Council and Monaghan County Council – the Lord Mayor of Manchester welcomed them to the Chapter.

The Chapter webinar was chaired by Manchester City Council's nominated representative to Mayors for Peace Executive meetings, Councillor Eddy Newman. Cllr Newman congratulated the Lord Mayor on being one of five nominated members of Mayors for Peace to formally welcome the entry into force of Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons – the others being the Mayors of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Barcelona and Granollers (who chair the European Chapter). These messages can be found on the European Chapter website.

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Speakers at the meeting included:

- The Chapter Secretary, Sean Morris, providing an overview of Mayors for Peace activity at the cross-national, continental and global level. Much of his presentation is considered within this report.
- Dr Rebecca Johnson, Board Member of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), provided the meeting with an overview of international issues with the campaign to encourage multilateral moves towards nuclear disarmament. Some of those issues are discussed later in this report and a planned separate report.
- Anne Lubelska, Co-ordinator of the Peaceful Schools UK movement, gave an overview of the work of this group in encouraging schools around the country to develop peace education programmes. Their work is noted in section 3 of this report.
- Ulrike Eckhert, European and International Affairs Officer for the City of Chemnitz – who are one of Manchester's twin cities – gave a presentation on their 'Day of Peace' and some early peace-related events being considered in their role as a future European Capital of Culture. The 'Day of Peace' is held in Chemnitz on March 5th each year and commemorates the day the city was badly damaged in aerial bombing during the Second World War. Manchester and Chemnitz's other twin cities (who include Mayors for Peace Vice President Volgograd) were asked to contribute to the day by talking about what they do to promote peace. Manchester encourages all Chapter members to do similar activity with their own twin partner cities.
- Richard Outram, a Policy and Research Officer with Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council, outlined the projects the Council is developing to promote the ginkgo and other trees it has grown from seeds provided by Hiroshima. The seeds all come from mother trees that were damaged in the atomic weapon attack on Hiroshima, but which regrew in spring 1946.

Slides from the five presentations can be found at the following weblink:

<https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/presentations/uk-ireland-mayors-provosts-and-leaders-for-peace-chapter-spring-webinar-26-march-2021/>

In terms of the ginkgo seeds program, the following Chapter members are growing seeds / trees and using them within a local peace education scheme – Manchester, Edinburgh, Shetland Islands, Hull, South Ayrshire, Oldham, Hebden Royd / Calderdale and Rochdale. Following the meeting, Norwich and Hastings inquired into applying for seeds from the scheme and are in the process of considering an application to Hiroshima.

Internationally, over 80 Mayors for Peace are growing seeds and developing peace education schemes around them.

Any member that would be interested in attaining seeds to be grown locally and used as part of a peace education scheme should contact the Chapter Secretary – sean.morris@manchester.gov.uk – and further information on it and other Mayors for Peace youth education programmes can be found at this weblink:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/vision/initiatives.html#section04>

3. Peace education programmes that Chapter members can access in the UK and Ireland

Since the creation of the UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter, regular meetings have sought to highlight best practice examples of peace education that member Councils can engage with. Indeed, some of them actively do have partnership events with local authorities across the UK and Ireland.

Those that have been highlighted in previous meetings include:

- **Foundation for Peace / Warrington Peace Centre** – the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Peace Foundation was established in 2000 as a response to encouraging non-violent conflict resolution. It came about after a bomb in Warrington town centre killed two young boys, Tim Parry and Johnathan Ball on March 20th, 1993 and was founded by Tim's parents Colin and Wendy Parry.

Since its establishment the Foundation has established a multi-disciplinary peace centre in Warrington that has brought together many people from divided communities affected by conflict.

The Foundation's core programme, 'For Peace', consists of a portfolio of projects, resources, and services. Its work has three core components: prevention, resolution, and response. The aim is to break the cycle of violence in communities. As a result, the projects overlap and intersect, allowing participants to learn from one another and play their role in achieving this.

Further information: <https://www.peace-foundation.org.uk/>

- **Peace Jam UK** – this is the national branch of the global group, Peace Jam Foundation. The Foundation is an international organization whose mission statement is "to create young leaders committed to positive change in themselves, their communities, and the world through the inspiration of Nobel Peace Laureates who pass on the spirit, skills, and wisdom they embody." It was launched in 1996 to provide the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates with a programmatic vehicle to use in working together to teach youth the art of peace. This foundation supports young people working for change through peaceful acts, giving them a platform by which they can be heard.

In the UK, its peace education programme consists of three components: Education, Inspiration and Action. The Education aspect is delivered through a set of comprehensive learning materials. The Inspiration is provided by the Laureates themselves through the learning materials and when they meet young people at Youth Conferences. The third key aspect of the programme, Action, consists of a social change project devised and carried out by young people to tackle the root cause of the most pressing issue in their community, as part of the One Billion Acts of Peace campaign.

To date, Peace Jam UK have run fourteen high-energy, interactive youth conferences, each with a different Nobel Laureate, with around 300 young people between 14-18, plus university mentors and volunteers, and teachers and youth leaders. They also run one-day events, known as Peace Jam Slams, to introduce young people to its work. These can be run in a school or a community space.

Further information: <https://peacejam.org.uk/>

- **Peace Education Scotland** – this is a Scottish Charity who aim to advance knowledge of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. They are the charitable trust arms of the Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND).

Peace Education Scotland seek to provide an objective and balanced programme through the creation of education packs and visits to schools across Scotland; with the underlying principle that young people should be encouraged to have knowledgeable debates and opinions about nuclear weapons.

The education packs they have developed have been used by a number of schools across Scotland and are regularly updated with new information, such as in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. PES have also conducted summer camps called 'Generation Y' that encourage free thinking and conflict resolution discussion amongst young people.

Further information: <https://www.peaceeducationscotland.org/>

CND Peace Education – England, Wales, Ireland - <https://cnduk.org/education/>

- **CRESST** – this is a charitable trust based in Sheffield that started its peace education work in 2004 from an initial legacy provided by individuals linked to the Quakers. The trust has developed a peace education programme aiming to develop conflict resolution and peer mediation in a sustainable way in schools. Initially began in Sheffield, it has delivered such training in over 60 schools and other youth organisations.

It has grown significantly since 2014, having achieved funding to launch a new project with secondary schools. CRESST has now directly trained over 1,000 young mediators. They estimate that the total number of children and young people who have learnt and practiced conflict resolution skills as a result of CRESST's support is now over 3,000. Each year over a hundred peer mediators from local active schools attend our annual conference at Sheffield University.

CRESST has three programmes – a Young Peacemakers programme for primary school children, a Youth Resolving Conflict for secondary school children and Staff Training for adults and teachers to help them conduct local programmes.

Further information: <https://www.cresst.org.uk/>

- **Pledge to Peace / Peace Partners** – these two groups work with support from the Prem Rawat Foundation (TPRF) and were established following a peace conference at the European Parliament in 2011 which launched the Brussels 'Pledge to Peace' Declaration. The aim of this pledge is to encourage projects and actions that promote peace in its most universal meaning, based on the significance of each individual person.

Peace Partners present a 10-part peace education programme, created by TPRF, that helps participants explore the possibility of personal peace, providing them with the tools they need to address life's challenges, such as inner strength.

Each session (approximately one hour) of the course is focused on one of 10 core themes - peace, appreciation, inner strength, self-awareness, clarity, understanding, dignity, choice, hope, and contentment. Sessions consist of video segments, times for reflection, and reading material.

Peace Partners also support humanitarian aid projects in the UK and around the world, and it further supports a 'Food for People' global programme to reduce food poverty in a number of countries.

Pledge to Peace is an Italian based group that connects with municipalities around Europe to promote structured peace education programmes. There is an active group in Oldham that has worked with many of its local schools and connects in with the local Council. Local activities in Oldham have included a peace week, peace gardens, peace assemblies and involvement in the gingko tree seeds project organised by Mayors for Peace.

Further information: <https://www.peacepartners.co.uk/>
<https://www.associazionepercorsi.com/en/pledge-to-peace-2/>

- **Peaceful Schools** is a UK based charitable trust which seeks to help create a network of schools and organisations putting peace into practice through peace education and peaceful learning environments. It is seeking to help create new generations of peacebuilders who are bringing more peace and harmony to the world. The group provides a number of peace education tools and guidance to help teachers make their school as a Peaceful School.

Peaceful Schools also have an Awards Scheme to encourage local initiatives and endeavours. There are three types of award – a Beacon Peaceful School, a Peaceful Project in a School and a Local Peacemaker.

Further information: <https://www.peacefulschools.org.uk/>

There are other groups the Chapter Secretariat is hoping to highlight at future Chapter meetings. Chapter members are also encouraged to consider contacting the relevant group for them in gaining advice and assistance in developing peace education programmes.

They include:

- **Peace Direct** – an international charity that is dedicated to supporting local people to stop war and build lasting peace in some of the world’s most fragile countries. In the past 14 years it has supported local peacebuilding organisations in over 25 countries around the world, providing vital assistance to ensure grassroots action stopping conflict and violence can continue, and grow. As a core part of its work, it has developed a network of student ambassadors who promote the ways to develop local peace building around UK universities - <https://www.peacedirect.org/>
- **Welsh Centre for International Affairs (WCIA)** – founded in 1973, the WCIA is a charitable trust that encourages international actions for a fairer and more peaceful world. They have three core programmes – Global Learning, Global Action and Global Partnerships – that helps to encourage peace education and internationalism in Wales. They work with many schools in Wales and this includes a ‘Peace Schools’ strand within such activity – <https://www.wcia.org.uk/global-learning/peace-schools-in-wales/>
- **Coventry City of Peace and Reconciliation** – a group organised in cooperation with the Mayors for Peace member Coventry City Council. It is chaired by the Lord Mayor of Coventry. It seeks to promote the city’s agenda as a city of peace and reconciliation both within Coventry and more widely. It organises several annual events and projects including the Lord Mayor’s Peace Lecture, Hiroshima Peace Commemoration, Coventry and Warwickshire School’s Peace Poem and the Coventry Peace Award. It also runs a website containing peace educational resources for local schools - <https://coventrycityofpeace.uk/>
- **Quaker Peace Education Trust** – as a Christian denomination, Quakers have always been known for challenging war and reducing violence. They promote education rooted in positive peace and justice. They also actively work with educators, young people and partners to develop and share creative peace education resources and practice – <https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/peace/peace-education>
- **Pax Christi** - this Catholic Christian group works to promote peace and justice particularly in the Catholic Schools sector and in Catholic parishes. They support many schools with a structured peace education programme. They also develop solidarity between people who are working non-violently around the world for justice and peace, whilst promoting an understanding of sustainable security - <https://paxchristi.org.uk/>
- **Glencree Peace Education Centre** - Glencree has been involved in the delivery of peace education projects and programmes across the island of Ireland for almost 40 years. Their current work in the area of Peace Education and Young Adults connects and engages students and young adults on a cross border, north-south basis. This work has been largely funded by the Reconciliation Fund of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. It works with students and young adults - <https://www.glencree.ie/programmes/peace-education-and-young-adults/>
- **Peaceful Schools Programme** – Northern Ireland Programme - Peaceful Schools International is a Canadian charitable trust that works with schools around the world to help them become more peaceful places. For the past 15 years, PSI partners with Saint Mary’s University students to facilitate workshops about conflict resolution and peace education in elementary and primary schools in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Belfast, Northern Ireland. More than 5000 children participate in workshops and learn lessons about anti-bullying, standing up for themselves, listening, and dealing with emotions – <http://peacefulschoolsinternational.org/northern-ireland-program>
- **Corrymeela Community** – Since 1965, the Corrymeela community based in Belfast and at their dedicated site in Ballycastle, Northern Ireland have provided a place of gathering, work, and discussion that has brought people together of different backgrounds, different political and religious beliefs and different identities into a peaceful environment. Over 11,000 people each year have taken part including schools, families, communities and through international education to look at structured programmes dealing with sectarianism, marginalisation and the legacies of conflict - <https://www.corrymeela.org/about>
- **Anne Frank Trust UK** - The Anne Frank Trust UK is an educational charity that empowers young people with the knowledge, skills and confidence to challenge all forms of prejudice and discrimination. It was established in 1991. The Trust has a structured education programmes that uses Anne Frank’s powerful life story and diary as its starting point to look at a wide range of issues around challenging racial or faith prejudice and direct / indirect

discrimination. They also play a prominent role in supporting activity around Holocaust Memorial Day - <https://annefrank.org.uk/>

- **Peace Education Programme** – PEP is a project of Minhaj-ul-Quran International. Launched in 2015, it has developed an Islamic Curriculum on Peace & Counterterrorism. This provides peace education programmes to schools, educational institutes, and professionals, including teachers, social workers, imams, clerics, emergency and frontline workers, within government and non-governmental organisations – <https://www.peaceeducationprogramme.co.uk/>

The Chapter Secretariat is interested to know from members and supporters of any other groups to add to this list. The list is my no means exhaustive. The Chapter Secretariat also encourages all Chapter members who do not have any local peace education programmes in place to consider contacting one of these groups in order to partner with them.

4. Progress with the development of a European Mayors for Peace Chapter

As noted in previous Policy Briefings, European Lead Members of Mayors for Peace, including Manchester (representing the UK & Ireland Chapter), have been developing a European Chapter of Mayors for Peace. This was agreed at the Mayors for Peace Executive Conference held in Hannover, Germany in November 2019 as it was felt there were many common issues of concern affecting towns, cities and counties across Europe.

Since then, an Officers Working Group has been gradually developing a structure, funding and support for the Chapter. A major webinar with ICAN was held in December 2020 as part of promoting its work.

This work will now be formalised in the first Board Meeting of the European Chapter, which has provisionally been set for June 10th and will include the European Lead Cities of Granollers (Spain / Catalan Chapter), Manchester (UK & Ireland Chapter), Malakoff & Grigny (French Chapter), Hannover (German Chapter), Ypres / Ieper (Belgian Chapter), Cervia (representing Italian members), Biograd na Moru (representing Croatian members) and Sarajevo (representing Bosnian members).

The Board Meeting will agree to a legal statutes and terms of reference, an Operational Plan, discuss financial support in cooperation with the Provincial Council of Barcelona, a Chapter website and social media channels. It will also discuss its close interaction with the global Mayors for Peace Secretariat in Hiroshima, its activity over the next 12 months and how it can encourage more Lead Cities in other European countries.

The key motivation behind the European Chapter is to increase and deepen interest in Mayors for Peace whilst providing a European perspective on the nuclear weapon issue and in the real need across Europe to promote safe, resilient and more peaceful towns, cities and counties.

Further information will be provided after the Board Meeting has taken place.

5. Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace taking place in early July

Due to the Covid-19 global pandemic, it proved impossible to hold the planned Executive and General Conference in Hiroshima on the 5th – 8th August 2020 as part of the 75th anniversary of the atomic weapon attack on the city.

With ongoing issues over a 'second wave' of the Covid-19 virus in many countries around the world, the Hiroshima-based Mayors for Peace Secretariat has again decided to cancel the General Conference rescheduled for August 2021, and it has been moved to August 2022.

Hiroshima though sees a real need to hold an Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace to bring together its Executive Members to agree an Action Plan for the period 2021 – 2023. As international travel remains impractical, this will be held online and will take place in early July.

Hiroshima are currently putting together discussion materials for this meeting and Manchester will take part in it on behalf of all members of the UK and Ireland Chapter.

Further information on its outcomes will be provided after it has taken place.

6. ***A brief overview of international developments involving Mayors for Peace***

There are a number of international developments Mayors for Peace are currently involved in, and here is a short update on them.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty has been the major pillar of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime since its inception in 1970. Every five years there is a full review of the treaty, and this should have taken place in 2020. However, it has had to be twice postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It has tentatively been rescheduled to meet 2–27 August 2021.

In recent years there has been little progress with moves towards verification, non-proliferation and disarmament at the NPT conferences, so this planned conference was seen as of real importance. It comes at a time now with a new US President, and some hope of progress with reinstating the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action over Iran's nuclear programme. There was also some optimism after the United States and Russia agreed to renew the START nuclear weapons reduction treaty. However, there remain deep concerns over North Korea's nuclear weapons developments and ongoing tensions between the United States and Russia and between the United States and China. All of the existing nuclear weapon states are also developing expensive plans to renew their nuclear weapon programmes.

Given that a 'second wave' of Covid-19 infections has taken place across large parts of the world, and the vaccination programme has been slower in many countries than anticipated, it is looking increasingly unlikely that the review conference can take place in August. The Chair of the Conference is currently discussing the matter with States Parties and an announcement is expected in May. In an article published by the European Leadership Network, Tariq Rauf, a former Head of Verification and Security Policy of the IAEA, argues NPT States parties must seriously contemplate convening the postponed 2020 review conference in 2022, as well as future NPT conferences, in Vienna, where there is more chance of developing harmony rather than discord.

(See <https://www.europeanleadershipnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Tariq-2.pdf>)

The lack of discussion on these matters over the past two years is problematical as progress on finding harmony in this area is essential.

The first States Parties Conference for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

In January 2021, the parallel Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) formally entered into force given that over 50 states have now ratified it. The TPNW has been developed by non-nuclear weapons states, in close cooperation with civil society, as a way to create new momentum and positive energy into international nuclear disarmament talks, as well as breaking a long-standing stalemate in this policy area. At present, there are 54 States Parties with a further 32 signatory states in the process of ratification. However, all of the existing nuclear weapon states, as well as NATO states, and those states with security agreements with such states (like Australia and Japan), remain opposed to its development.

On the 16th April it was confirmed that the first meeting of States Parties to the TPNW will take place at UN buildings in Vienna in January next year, with the proposed dates of 12th – 14th January 2022. The President-designate of the meeting is Austria's Alexander Kmentt, who played a prominent role in the original development of the treaty.

ICAN commented on the announcement:

"This meeting is an important opportunity for states to commit to concrete actions to implement obligations like providing assistance to victims of nuclear weapon use and testing, beginning to remediate contaminated environments and universalising the treaty. It also gives states a chance to discuss some of the treaty's technical details, like setting a deadline for the elimination of nuclear weapons for nuclear-armed states that join."

(See https://www.icanw.org/tpnw_first_meeting_of_states_parties_vienna_january_2022)

Whilst those states who support the TPNW will be in attendance, a core issue of interest is whether those states who have been opposed to it may attend as observers. It is thought some NATO members like Finland, Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands may observe it and upcoming elections may determine if the likes of Germany may also attend.

The UK Integrated Defence and Security Review

On 16 March 2021, the UK Government published a comprehensive 'Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy'. Whilst the review has many detailed elements, one of the headline issues picked up across the media was its policy on the UK's nuclear weapons programme. It notes:

"In 2010 the Government stated an intent to reduce our overall nuclear warhead stockpile ceiling from not more than 225 to not more than 180 by the mid-2020s. However, in recognition of the evolving security environment (author's emphasis) including the developing range of technological and doctrinal threats, this is no longer possible, and the UK will move to an overall nuclear weapon stockpile of no more than 260 warheads."

The Chapter Secretary is putting together a separate overview of the review, but it is clear the section on the Trident programme has generated considerable international concern. A spokesperson for the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, for example, has said it could be "contrary to its obligations under Article VI and as damaging to global stability and efforts to pursue a nuclear weapon free world".

The President of the Mayors for Peace, Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima, formally commented:

"The United Kingdom's announcement to increase its total nuclear warheads ceiling by over 40 percent is of great concern for us all who long for a world without nuclear weapons. Its implementation would run counter to the nuclear disarmament obligation of NPT States Parties and reverse three decades of nuclear weapon reduction policy by the United Kingdom. Such steps can only result in further acceleration of the arms race and weakening international security and stability. I strongly call on the UK government to fully understand that nuclear deterrence policy is utterly senseless, given the inhumanity of these weapons, and to commit to the realization of a world without them."

It would have been useful to see how the UK's policy change may have been presented to the NPT Review Conference, and as these above statements note, they have created some real concern at the international level. They appear to reverse UK Government policy of Labour and Conservative / coalition governments since the end of the Cold War, where there have been small but gradual reductions of warheads. The wider review also looks to be a partial response to the UK leaving the European Union and a clear pivot towards a focus on the Indo-Pacific region. It also shows changed defence thinking towards developing new technology around cyber-warfare, space and autonomous weapons whilst reducing staffing levels within the armed forces. This significant change in UK policy emphasises the ongoing real difficulty that remains in encouraging international multilateral nuclear disarmament amongst existing nuclear weapon states.

The ICAN Cities Appeal / TPNW resolutions

One of the ways Mayors for Peace members can make an important political statement of support for global multilateral nuclear disarmament is passing resolutions supporting the TPNW and calling on nuclear weapon states and their supporters to actively engage with this process.

There are over 400 towns, cities and counties around the world who have passed resolutions supporting the TPNW. The most recent, prominent cities to pass such resolutions include Montreal, who are a Mayors for Peace Executive City; the largest Dutch city Amsterdam and the US cities of Denver and Honolulu.

The Chapter Secretary has been asked by a number of civil society groups to provide information as they assist in lobbying Councils in the UK (the Republic of Ireland has ratified, and is a strong supporter, of the TPNW so Irish members do not need to get involved in passing such resolutions). An updated briefing pack has been developed by the Chapter Secretariat and is attached as Appendix 1.

The Chapter Secretary is aware that a number of Councils are considering passing TPNW resolutions, to join the 15 UK Councils who have already done so. If Chapter members require further information, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Secretary.

7. Plans for commemorating key peace dates in August and September

Each August 6th and 9th, Mayors for Peace members around the world are encouraged to hold events to commemorate the atomic weapon attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as linking it to the attacks on civilian populations that have taken place over the past 75 years. This August will end the 75th year of events around these attacks, which have been severely affected by the global Covid-19 pandemic, meaning only limited events could be held in August 2020.

The ongoing issues created by the Covid-19 pandemic will again affect how such commemorations can take place in August 2021.

The successful vaccination programme may allow more 'live' commemoration events to take place this year in the UK. At present, all adults are expected to have received at least one vaccination by the end of July, and major restrictions are due to be lifted at the end of June in England, and into July in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Vaccination levels are considerably slower in the Republic of Ireland so full restrictions may not be completely removed by early August.

If live events are planned, they require a full risk assessment and care is still required in putting them together. The Chapter Secretariat will keep a close eye on how public safety arrangements are publicised by each government and will provide updates when it is practical to do so. If members feel concerned, the Chapter Secretariat suggests online webpages or webinars are excellent and safe alternatives.

The next UK & Ireland Chapter meeting is being planned to take place on or close to International Peace Day, which is on September 21st. Further information and a full programme will be announced nearer to the time.

8. Peace in Our Cities

One area of the work of Mayors for Peace that is beginning to develop further is the consideration of how towns, cities and counties can develop safer, resilient and more peaceful places to live in.

At the November 2020 European Mayors for Peace Chapter webinar, cooperation was developed with the Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM), who are involved in activities seeking to reduce violence in the continent and around the world over the next decade. The Mayor of Braga, Portugal explained this in detail.

An initiative supported by GPM focuses specifically on this area, and it is called 'Peace in Our Cities'. The initiative is co-organised with Pathfinders, a group of 38 UN member states, international organisations, global partnerships, civil society and the private sector. It works to accelerate action to implement the UN's Sustainable Development Goals targets for peace, justice and inclusion (SDG16+). In September 2017, the Pathfinders launched the Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies. An updated version was published at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2019.

Following the first SDG Summit in September 2019, the Pathfinders continues to act as a platform for action. It aims to demonstrate measurable change against the SDG16+ targets in Pathfinder countries by the second summit in 2023 by working on three objectives:

- National delivery – increase national ambition, coherence, innovation, and reporting, so that a growing number of Pathfinder countries fulfil commitments to implement SDG16+.
- International delivery – strengthen strategies and momentum at international and regional levels, so that partners more effectively support implementation of elements of the roadmap.
- Grand challenges – raise ambition, increase political will, and set a policy and learning agenda in three key areas: promoting justice for all, preventing violence, and tackling exclusion and inequality.

The UK and Ireland Governments are members of the Pathfinders group.

The 'Peace in Our Cities' initiative comes out of the real concerns with increased urban violence around the world. It is known that 9 out of 10 instances of lethal violence takes place outside of conflict zones in locations broadly considered to be 'at peace'. Much of this violence takes place in cities where the majority of humanity is projected to reside in the coming decades. While urban violence is often as complex a phenomenon as violence in conflict zones, the reaction to violence in cities too often provokes overly simplistic responses that do little to prevent and reduce violence in the near to long term. Peace in Our Cities seeks to reverse this trend by creating concrete, participatory, and evidence-based platforms that make progress toward SDG16+ with an initial focus on SDG16.1 (to significantly reduce all forms of violence).

Like the C40 Cities Climate Change Leadership Group, 'Peace in Our Cities' seeks to become a preeminent organizing body to address one of today's most pressing challenges: violence that threatens individual lives and undermines the very growth and prosperity of the urban world.

There are 18 initial core member cities of this initiative, and a lot of wider collaborative work is taking place as well. There are also connections with the global local government group UCLG, who are particularly interested in activity that reduces violent acts. Barcelona, who are providing strong support to the development of the Mayors for Peace European Chapter, is actively involved in this work, and the Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Granollers (part of the Barcelona region) is engaging with these developments as well.

Some of these matters may be discussed further at the upcoming Mayors for Peace meetings noted above. The Chapter Secretary is also looking to provide some focus to promoting such work for the next UK and Ireland Chapter meeting.

For further information on the excellent work of the 'Peace in Our Cities' initiative go to the weblinks: <https://pluspeace.org/peace-in-our-cities> or <https://www.sdg16.plus/peaceinourcities>

9. Conclusions and recommendations

This report has focused particularly on providing information to Chapter members on the development of peace education programmes at the local level. Such work has great worth and real value as part of promoting more peaceful communities at the local level. There are some excellent examples in the report that can provide active support and cooperation across all parts of the UK and Ireland. Chapter members are strongly encouraged to engage with them. Senior Mayors, Provosts, Chairpersons and Council Leaders should contact relevant officers in Education Departments to help facilitate cooperation between schools and these groups.

The upcoming international meetings of the Mayors for Peace European Chapter Board and the Global Secretariat will help to focus its wider policy and will be communicated in further Chapter Policy Briefings. The difficult international policy context is clear to see, but the Covid-19 pandemic has shown the need for bringing communities together at all levels.

Chapter members are encouraged to consider passing resolutions supporting the TPNW and promote other ways to show their interest in these issues, such as taking ginkgo seeds from Hiroshima and promoting initiatives like the Peaceful Schools art project – for further details see: http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/vision/initiatives/2021_Art_Competition.html

Chapter members are also encouraged to support prominent peace anniversaries such as the Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemoration days in August and the International Peace Day on September 21st, a date the next Chapter meeting will be situated around. This meeting will seek to look in more detail at promoting the second core pillar of Mayors for Peace activity – how to promote safer, more resilient and peaceful towns, cities and counties.

Updated briefing pack on TPNW resolutions / 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 7th 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 22nd October 2020, the 50th state ratified the TPNW into their national law, which means on January 22nd, 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 7th, 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.”

More detailed resolutions are also possible and are noted in Section 3.

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
- 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

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 22nd, 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 it 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 entered into force on the 22nd 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, Cities, Counties and Federal States that support 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/>