NFLA remembers Hiroshima & Nagasaki 76th anniversary

Events were held in the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as around the world, to commemorate the 76th anniversary of the August 1945 atomic weapon attacks.

Despite events reduced to just 10% capacity in Hiroshima & Nagasaki, the Mayors of both cities gave impassioned pleas for renewed efforts for nuclear disarmament and support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Around 350,000 people died or were affected by these two attacks over the past 76 years.

Events were held around the UK and Ireland as well. Notable were those held in Dublin, London, Leeds, Manchester, Bradford, Lerwick, Llandudno, Glasgow, Paisley and Dundee.

In Edinburgh, a major ‘Peace Crane’ exhibition was opened at the home of Peace & Justice Scotland Centre, containing 140,000 cranes. See a report on this on the NFLA website.

IPCC report shows the urgency of getting to ‘net zero’

A new report by experts on the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has laid bare the challenges the world faces in tackling the problem.

The report notes that climate change is widespread, rapid and intensifying due to human actions. This will mean more extreme health effects like the record temperatures, flooding and wildfires taking place around the world this summer.

The report says a 1.5 degrees Celsius increase is looking increasingly likely by as early as 2030. This will lead to higher sea levels affecting all parts of the world.
NFLA publish report on divestment & Council pension funds

The NFLA is publishing in early September a report on the growing divestment movement and its impact on Council pension funds.

The report looks at the levels of investment such funds have in fossil fuels and nuclear weapons. Whilst this has decline in recent years, it is still over £16 billion across the Council pension funds of the UK. Ireland has divested its investment fund out of fossil fuels.

The NFLA report focuses on the discussion in many funds over whether to divest or to challenge internally all companies they invest in to change their policies.

The report looks at reports by the likes of UK Divest, Go Fossil Free, Don’t Bank on the Bomb and Move the Nuclear Weapons Money. It argues for a full and open debate and advocates change. It is on the NFLA website.

NFLA highly disappointed over Portishead dredge decision

In a media release, the NFLA is disappointed with the decision of the Marine Management Organisation to approve an application by EDF to dredge material from Hinkley Point and dump it off a site near Portishead Bay in North Somerset.

The two local Councils, NFLA and many groups submitted detailed evidence calling on the MMO to make a different decision.

NFLA is aware that both the Geiger Bay group and the Devon and Severn Conservation Authority are considering a legal challenge to the MMO decision. Local environmental and surfing groups have raised concern over it.

Large amounts of dumped mud will be dredged into the sea by Portishead, despite real concerns over its content. It is not clear now whether dredging will also take place off Cardiff Bay.

4 potential candidates for a deep underground repository?

Concerted local anger and opposition has arisen in Lincolnshire and Hartlepool as it emerges that discussions have taken place over expressing early interest in hosting a deep underground radwaste repository.

The Elected Mayor of Hartlepool, local MPs, councillors and community groups have put forward deep opposition to these early talks. The same has also occurred to a site in Theddlethorpe, Lincolnshire. If the interest develops, they may join interest in Copeland & Allerdale. An NFLA media release outlines its views.
NFLA co-organise prominent webinar on wildlife & nuclear

Advertising has begun for a high-profile webinar bringing out the biodiversity impacts of new nuclear on sensitive wildlife sites.

The webinar will be held on the 7th October. Its three core speakers include the prominent environmentalists Jonathon Porritt and Craig Bennett, and the former CEO of Good Energy, Juliet Davenport. The meeting will be moderated by Beyond Nuclear’s Linda Pentz Gunter.

The webinar will look at the sensitive biodiversity issues that exist in Somerset, Suffolk and Essex where 3 new nuclear plants are being planned for. It will look at issues around coastal erosion and climate change. These issues have been at the fore to those opposed to the push for new nuclear.

If you would like to attend it register at: https://www.gmdcnd.com/wildlife

Mayors for Peace / NFLA / ICAN webinar on the TPNW

The NFLA is joining with the Mayors for Peace European Chapter and ICAN to set up a webinar on the plans for the 1st States Parties Conference of the TPNW.

It has been announced by the UN that the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty will now take place on March 22nd – 24th in Vienna.

The Mayors for Peace / ICAN / NFLA webinar is provisionally set for the 21st October. It will be moderated by the Mayors for Peace’s new Executive Advisor, Thomas Hajnoki.

The 90-minute webinar will invite speakers from European countries who support the TPNW, as well as from the ICRC and hibakusha groups. It will also ask four prominent Mayors to say why their city has passed a TPNW resolution. A flyer will be issued for it in September.

Forthcoming dates or meetings of interest to NFLA members

| NFLA Steering Committee, 10th September | Mayors for Peace European Chapter, ICAN & NFLA webinar on the TPNW, 21st October | Other NFLA meetings will be scheduled in the autumn by the new NFLA Secretary |

- Radwaste repository challenges are all too predictable
- Landmark anniversary for a nuclear industry in real flux

NFLA letters to the media, August 2021 (emailed to NFLA members)
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