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Aan: Burgemeester <burgemeester@huizen.nl>; griffie <griffie@huizen.nl>

Onderwerp: Uitnodiging tot deelname Mayors for Peace en ICAN Cities Appeal

Geachte burgemeester Meijer, Geachte leden van de gemeenteraad,

Namens de stad Ieper (Lead City voor Mayors for Peace België) en Mayors for Peace Nederland nodigen wij u uit om deel te nemen aan Mayors for Peace, een wereldwijd netwerk van burgemeesters dat zich inzet voor nucleaire ontwapening. In een tijd waarin conflict alomtegenwoordig lijkt en de dreiging van nucleaire wapens nog altijd bestaat en verder escaleert, is het van essentieel belang dat lokale leiders zich verenigen om de boodschap van vrede en veiligheid uit te dragen.

Mayors for Peace, opgericht in 1982 door de burgemeesters van Hiroshima en Nagasaki als een reactie op de verschrikkelijke gevolgen van nucleaire wapens, heeft zich ontwikkeld tot een wereldwijd netwerk van meer dan achtduizend steden die zich sterk maken voor nucleaire ontwapening en wereldvrede. Als lid van Mayors for Peace zult u deel uitmaken van een wereldwijde beweging die zich inzet voor het voorkomen van nucleaire catastrofes en het bevorderen van internationale samenwerking voor vrede en veiligheid.

Door lid te worden van Mayors for Peace kunt u:

- Uw gemeente verbinden met een wereldwijd netwerk van steden die dezelfde **waarden van vrede en veiligheid** delen.
- Deel uitmaken van een **krachtige lobby** voor nucleaire ontwapening op internationaal niveau.

Bijgevoegd vindt u de uitnodigingsbrief van de burgemeester van Hiroshima, waarin ook het registratieformulier te vinden is. Voor meer informatie over Mayors for Peace kunt u terecht op www.mayorsforpeace.org. Ook bijgevoegd de lijst van de Nederlandse leden van Mayors for Peace.

Daarnaast moedigen wij u aan om het ICAN Cities Appeal te ondertekenen, een initiatief dat wereldwijd steden en gemeenten oproept om zich uit te spreken tegen nucleaire wapens en zich te verbinden aan het Verdrag inzake het Verbod op Kernwapens. Door het ICAN Cities Appeal te ondertekenen kunnen steden een sterk signaal sturen naar nationale en internationale beleidsmakers over de urgentie van nucleaire ontwapening. Als vertegenwoordiger van de lokale gemeenschap is uw betrokkenheid van grote waarde voor het bevorderen van vrede en veiligheid op lokaal en mondiaal niveau.

Bijgevoegd vindt u het ICAN Cities Appeal, dat u kunt ondertekenen om deel uit te maken van de steden die zich inzetten voor nucleaire ontwapening. Gelieve het document in te vullen en terug te sturen naar nukes@paxforpeace.nl om uw ondertekening te bevestigen. Voor meer informatie over het ICAN Cities Appeal kunt u terecht op <https://cities.icanw.org/>. Voor algemene informatie over de missie van ICAN kunt u terecht op <https://www.icanw.org/>.

Gelieve bij deelname aan zowel Mayors for Peace als het ICAN Cities Appeal burgemeestersvoorvrede@gmail.com in de CC te zetten voor administratieve doeleinden.

Wij kijken ernaar uit om u te verwelkomen als lid van Mayors for Peace en als ondersteuner van het ICAN Cities Appeal en samen te werken aan een vreedzamere toekomst voor ons allemaal.

Met vriendelijke groet,

geanonimiseerd ,

stagiair Vrede en internationale solidariteit stad Ieper
stad Ieper/Mayors for Peace Nederland





Mayors for Peace

Secretariat

c/o Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, 1-5 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730-0811 JAPAN
E-mail: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp Website: www.mayorsforpeace.org

April 2024

Dear Fellow Mayor,

I trust this letter finds you well.

In August 1945, two atomic bombs instantly reduced the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to rubble, taking more than 210,000 precious lives by the end of the year. The *hibakusha*—those who barely survived—still suffer from the harmful aftereffects, notably of radiation. While their minds and bodies are in pain, they continue to make their appeal that “no one else should suffer as we have.”

With our *hibakusha* aging, we are determined to have their experiences and strong desire for peace shared and wholeheartedly accepted by future generations, and to have those commitments spread throughout the world. I am convinced that spreading their message will eventually lead to the realization of their most cherished will, the abolition of nuclear weapons.

In 1982, Hiroshima and Nagasaki established Mayors for Peace to achieve this goal. It is a non-partisan, global network of municipalities that is registered at the UN with ECOSOC. Since its establishment, Mayors for Peace has expanded its membership and worked in solidarity with its member cities to call for the realization of a world free from nuclear weapons and lasting world peace. Presided by the Mayor of Hiroshima and vice presided by the Mayor of Nagasaki along with 10 other mayors of cities from across the world, as of April 1st of this year, Mayors for Peace has grown to 8,378 member cities from 166 countries and regions.

In January 2021, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force, which is the first multilateral treaty to clearly and fundamentally define that nuclear weapons are subjected to total prohibition. This is a proof that voices of *hibakusha* and those who share their fervent wish for the total elimination of nuclear weapons pushed international society forward. In this context, Mayors for Peace adopted the Vision for Peaceful Transformation to a Sustainable World (PX Vision) and Action Plan (2021-2025) in July of the same year. The Vision sets forth three objectives: “Realize a world without nuclear weapons,” “Realize safe and resilient cities,” and “Promote a culture of peace.” In order to pursue these objectives, we have decided to put a greater emphasis on the expansion of our membership.

The growing number of Mayors for Peace member cities is a powerful force building real momentum toward peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons. To this end, I humbly ask that you share in our sincere message from the atomic bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and join Mayors for Peace to support our initiatives toward genuine and lasting world peace.

Sincerely yours,

Geanonimiseerd

MATSUI Kazumi
President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor of Hiroshima



Mayors for Peace Registration Form

To Mr. MATSUI Kazumi
Mayor of Hiroshima
President of Mayors for Peace

I hereby express my city/municipality's support for the abolition of nuclear weapons and desire to join Mayors for Peace.*

Name of the city/municipality**: _____

***This is the name we will use to refer to your city/municipality in our database.*

Name of country: _____

Mayor's name: _____

Title: _____

Mayor's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Mayor's office address: _____

TEL: _____ FAX: _____

E-mail: _____

Website: _____

Municipal Population: _____ (as of _____)

Contact person

Name: _____

Title: _____

Position: _____

E-mail: _____

Questionnaire

How did you find out about Mayors for Peace?

- Member City: (Name) _____ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of your country
- NGO/Organization: (Name) _____ Meeting with Mayor of Hiroshima
- Other: (please specify) _____

Please send this form to:
Mayors for Peace Secretariat
FAX : +81-82-242-7452
E-mail : mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

Note

*This registration form implies your city/municipality's decision to join Mayors for Peace. If your city/municipality requires specific procedures, including approval from your city/municipal council, please submit this form after such procedures are completed.

*Mayors for Peace runs several social media sites (Twitter @Mayors4Peace, Facebook @mayorsforpeace) where we would like to introduce our new member cities. We ask your permission to share information about your new membership with our followers. If you agree to the above, we ask that you please provide (1) a photo of the current mayor and (2) a photo that represents your city (landmark, landscape, etc.). Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Mayors for Peace

1. Outline

In August 1945, atomic bombs dropped on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki instantly reduced them to rubble, taking more than 210,000 precious lives. With more than 75 years since the bombings, many survivors (*hibakusha*) still suffer from the physical and emotional aftereffects of radiation. To spread throughout the world the *hibakusha*'s ardent wish symbolized in the message that "no one should suffer as we have," and to ensure it is passed on to future generations, Hiroshima and Nagasaki remain steadfast in our assertion to the world that nuclear weapons are inhumane and continue to call for their abolition.

On June 24, 1982, at the 2nd UN Special Session on Disarmament held at the UN Headquarters in New York, then Mayor Takeshi Araki of Hiroshima called for cities throughout the world to transcend national borders and join in solidarity to work together to press for nuclear abolition. Subsequently, the Cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki established "The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity" (now, Mayors for Peace), composed of mayors around the world who formally expressed support for this call. In 1991, the organization was registered as an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

*On August 5, 2001, the organization changed its name from "The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity" to "Mayors for Peace."

2. Mission

The purposes of "Mayors for Peace" are to contribute to the attainment of lasting world peace by arousing concern among citizens of the world for the total abolition of nuclear weapons through close solidarity among member cities as well as by striving to solve vital problems for the human race such as starvation and poverty, the plight of refugees, human rights abuses, and environmental degradation.

3. Structure

1) Member Cities (as of April 1, 2024)

8,378 cities in 166 countries & regions	Area	Countries & Regions	Member Cities
	Asia	39	3,355
	Oceania	9	137
	Africa	49	438
	Europe	41	3,365
	North America	3	341
	Latin America and the Caribbean	25	742

Regions: Taiwan / Palestine / Northern Cyprus (Asia), Northern Mariana Islands / French Polynesia (Oceania), Somaliland (Africa), Kosovo(Europe), Greenland (North America), Puerto Rico (Latin America and the Caribbean)

2) Executive Cities

The following 21 cities are executive cities (From oldest to newest).

President City:

Hiroshima (Japan)

Vice President Cities:

Nagasaki (Japan)

Hannover (Germany)

Malakoff (France)

Muntinlupa (Philippines)

Manchester (UK)

Ypres (Belgium)

Granollers (Spain)

Halabja (Iraq)

Biograd na Moru (Croatia)

Des Moines (US)

Montreal (Canada)

Executive Cities:

Santos (Brazil)

Wellington (New Zealand)

Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Bangkok (Thailand)

Cartago (Costa Rica)

Tehran (Iran)

Grigny (France)

Cervia (Italy)

Evora (Portugal)

*Underlined are Lead Cities in charge of their regional chapter:

19 cities

3) Secretariat

Address : c/o Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation

1-5 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730-0811 JAPAN

E-mail : mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

Website : www.mayorsforpeace.org

4. How to Join

1) Registration Process

- i. If your city/municipality would like to join us, please send a "Registration Form" to the Secretariat.
- ii. The Secretariat registers its new member cities once a month (around the 20th).
- iii. Date of affiliation is the 1st day of the month following the date registration procedures are completed by the Secretariat. "Certification of Membership" will be sent out to newly affiliated cities after the date of affiliation.

2) Membership Fee

2,000 yen/year *However, when deemed appropriate, Member Cities can be exempt from Fee payment.

Member Cities will not lose their membership if they do not pay the Fee.

3) Member Cities' Activities (Examples)

- i. Promote the petition drive calling for all states to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as soon as possible
- ii. Hold peace-related events such as the Mayors for Peace Atomic Bomb Poster Exhibition and share reports
- iii. Invite mayors of your sister cities and neighboring cities who are not yet members to join Mayors for Peace
- iv. Attend the General Conference

*Please see "Peace-Related Activities Offered to Members of Mayors for Peace" for more activities that member cities will get the opportunity to participate in.

5. Conferences

1) General Conference

Mayors for Peace holds a General Conference once every four years in principle. Hosted alternately between Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the General Conference is an opportunity for member cities to decide and adopt agenda items significant to the organization.



10th General Conference
(October 2022, Hiroshima)

2) Executive Conference

Mayors for Peace holds an Executive Conference generally once every two years in one of the executive cities, where executives discuss future initiatives and plans for the next General Conference.

6. Vision for Peaceful Transformation to a Sustainable World (PX Vision)

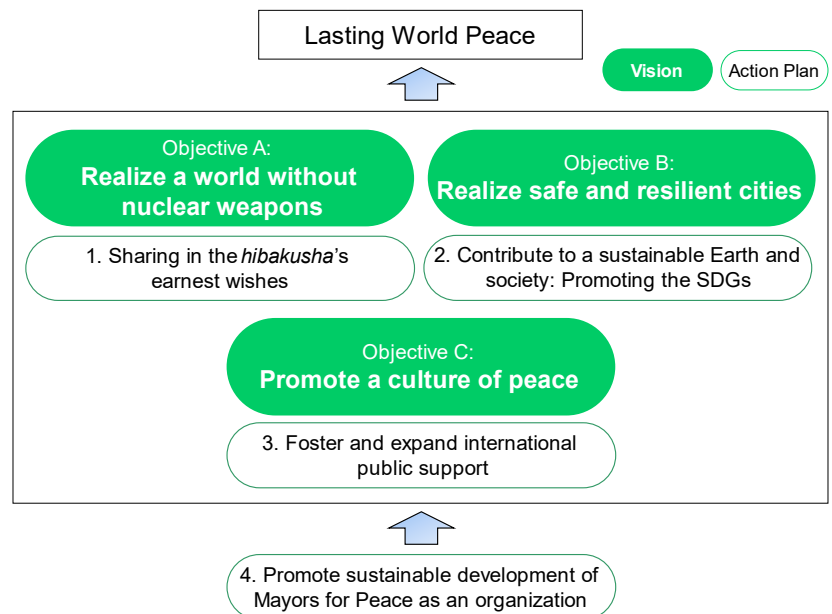
- Peacebuilding by Cities for Disarmament and Common Security -

1) Outline

In order to achieve a world in which all people can perpetually benefit from peace by realizing the total elimination of nuclear weapons and by attaining and maintaining peaceful coexistence between the whole of humanity, subsequent to the 2020 Vision, Mayors for Peace adopted the *Vision for Peaceful Transformation to a Sustainable World (PX Vision): Peacebuilding by Cities for Disarmament and Common Security* at the 12th Executive Conference in July 2021. Based on this, we build cities where citizens act with a strong sense of solidarity for the ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace.

2) Initiatives

For cities to ensure the safety and security of their citizens from the great threat of nuclear weapons and to attain and maintain peaceful coexistence between the whole of humanity, under three objectives set forth in the Vision, Mayors for Peace member cities implement the initiatives outlined in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2021 – 2025) to promote peacebuilding by cities.



[Main Initiatives]

1. Appeal to the UN and national governments
2. Mayors for Peace Atomic Bomb Poster Exhibition
3. Providing opportunities to hear *hibakusha's* testimonies
4. Distribute and nurture seeds from atomic bomb survivor trees (*hibaku trees*)
5. Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns"
6. Peace Education Webinar
7. Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program
8. Collaboration with member cities



Speech by the President
at the first Meeting of States Parties to
the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear
Weapons
(June 2022, Vienna)



Meeting with Ms. Nakamitsu,
UN Under-Secretary-General and High
Representative for Disarmament Affairs
(June 2022, Vienna)



Meeting with national government
representatives
(June 2022, Vienna)



Presentation by a youth from
a member city at the Mayors for Peace
Youth Forum held in UNOG
(April 2018, Geneva)



Planting ceremony of a second
generation atomic-bombed Ginkgo
seedling by a member city
(April 2018, Guernika-Lumo)



Discussions at the Mayors for Peace
Youth Exchange for Peace: Support
Program for "HIROSHIMA and PEACE"
by youths from member cities
(August 2019, Hiroshima)



Petition Drive by the President
and high school students in the street
(August 2022, Hiroshima)



Presenting signatures to the
representatives of UN by high school
students participating in the petition drive
(April 2019, New York)



Holding the Mayors for Peace
Atomic Bomb Poster Exhibition
by a member city
(June 2015, Muntinlupa)



Mayors for Peace

Secretariat

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E-mail: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp Website: www.mayorsforpeace.org



Peace-Related Activities Offered to Members of Mayors for Peace

Upon joining Mayors for Peace, your city will have the opportunity to participate in activities and programs which reflect the ultimate goal of the Mayors for Peace Action Plan: lasting world peace. We hope you will join us and that together, we will make significant strides towards realizing our goal.

Below please find a list of activities which we offer to our member cities:

1. Seeds from Atomic Bomb Survivor Trees

Mayors for Peace distributes seeds from trees that survived the atomic bombings to all member cities who wish to receive them. It is our hope that by taking care of these trees, which serve as symbols of peace, member cities can foster the ideals of peace amongst their citizens.

Seeds are provided free of charge.



2. Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program

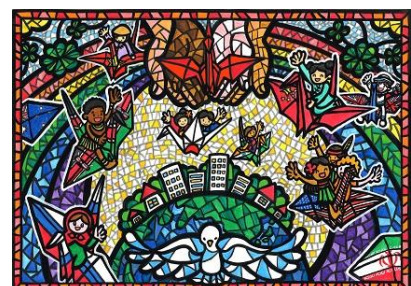
Mayors for Peace provides financial and other support to selected youth from member cities who would like to participate in the “International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future” and “HIROSHIMA and PEACE” programs aimed at fostering a better understanding of the realities of the atomic bombings and to inspire proactive contribution to nuclear abolition efforts in their home cities.

Financial support will partially cover expenses associated with the programs, such as travel, accommodation, daily allowances, and other various expenses based on Mayors for Peace guidelines.



3. Children’s Art Competitions

Based on the art prompt “Peaceful Towns”, Mayors for Peace has held an art competition for children ages 6 to 15 in member cities since 2018 with the aim of furthering the promotion of peace education in younger generations around the world.



4. Atomic Bomb Poster Exhibitions

Mayors for Peace calls on member cities to hold exhibitions of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Posters and other related materials to foster a deepened understanding of the realities of the atomic bombings and strengthen the resolve towards nuclear abolition among their citizens.

Posters are available in: Japanese, English, German, French, Russian, Dutch, Spanish, Catalan, and Portuguese

Posters are provided free of charge (files can be downloaded from the Mayors for Peace website).



5. Online *Hibakusha* Testimonies

By request, Mayors for Peace can help connect venues in member cities to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum so they can experience online *hibakusha* testimonies.

Available free of charge.



For more information, please contact:

Mayors for Peace Secretariat
c/o Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation
1-5 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730-0811 JAPAN
E-mail: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp



NOBEL
PEACE
PRIZE
2017

ICAN CITIES APPEAL

Een wereldwijde oproep van steden en gemeenten ter ondersteuning van het VN-Kernwapenverbod

Over het Appel

Kernwapens vormen een onacceptabele dreiging voor iedereen wereldwijd. Dit is waarom op 7 juli 2017, 122 landen voor aanneming van het VN-kernwapenverbod hebben gestemd. Alle nationale overheden worden uitgenodigd om dit verdrag te ondertekenen en te ratificeren. Het verbiedt het gebruik, productie en opslag van nucleaire wapens en legt een stevig fundament voor de totale eliminatie van deze wapens. Steden en gemeenten kunnen meehelpen de steun voor het VN-kernwapenverbod te vergroten door het ICAN Cities Appeal te ondertekenen.

Tekst van het Cities Appeal

"Onze stad/gemeente heeft grote zorgen over de ernstige bedreiging die kernwapens vormen voor mensen wereldwijd. We geloven dat onze inwoners het recht hebben om te leven in een wereld zonder deze dreiging. Ieder gebruik van kernwapens, opzettelijk of per ongeluk, zou catastrofale, wijdverbreide en langdurige gevolgen hebben voor zowel mensen als het milieu. Daarom verwelkomen we het VN-Kernwapenverbod dat in 2017 door de Verenigde Naties is aangenomen en roepen we onze regering op dit Verdrag zo snel mogelijk te ondertekenen en te ratificeren."

Hoe het Appel te ondertekenen

De burgemeester, griffier of een andere vertegenwoordiger van de gemeente kan laten weten dat zijn of haar gemeente het Cities Appeal ondersteunt door een mail sturen naar nukes@paxforpeace.nl. Deze oproep is in het bijzonder gericht aan steden en gemeenten in landen, zoals Nederland, die het VN-kernwapenverbod nog niet hebben ondertekend.

Suggesties voor verdere actie

- 1. Laat het de Nederlandse overheid weten:** informeer de Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken of een andere relevante vertegenwoordiger dat uw gemeente het ICAN Cities Appeal heeft ondertekend.
- 2. Informeer de media:** stuur een persbericht uit waarin wordt aangekondigd dat uw gemeente het Cities Appeal heeft ondertekend en daarmee de Nederlandse overheid oproept het VN-kernwapenverbod te ondertekenen en te ratificeren.
- 3. Informeer de inwoners:** verspreid informatie of organiseer een tentoonstelling over de dreiging van nucleaire wapens en de wereldwijde spanningen om deze dreiging weg te nemen.
- 4. Desinvesteer publieke gelden:** neem maatregelen om ervoor te zorgen dat fondsen die door uw gemeente worden beheerd, niet worden geïnvesteerd in kernwapenproducenten. Zie voor meer informatie: www.dontbankonthebomb.com.

Ondertekend door:

Namens:

Naam & functie

Stad / Gemeente