

Mayors for Peace progress report and Hiroshima-Nagasaki 75



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3rd July 2020, Chapter Webinar**

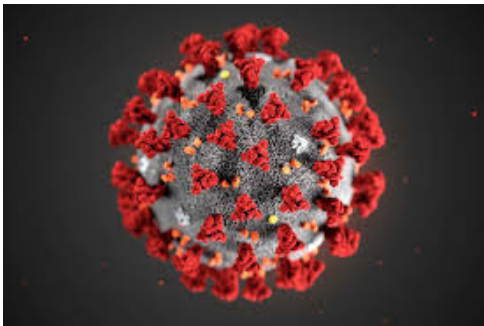
Agenda



- Mayors for Peace and issues with Covid-19
- European Mayors for Peace Chapter progress
- ICAN Cities Appeal and Parliamentarians Pledge
- Remember Srebrenica 25 years on
- 75th anniversary of Hiroshima & Nagasaki and end of WW2
- Local events – some suggestions
- International events
- Peace education and plans for the future
- Manchester's 'nuclear free' 40th anniversary & NPT Conference
- What you should do next



Mayors for Peace & Covid-19



- Covid-19 lockdown has decimated local and international meetings & conferences
- European visit to see Pope postponed
- NPT Review Conference moved to Jan 2021
- Mayors for Peace Executive and General Conference moved to August 2021
- 2020 Tokyo Olympics and their peace message move to July / August 2021
- Global ceasefire at UN finally agreed on July 1st
- Great uncertainty for the future – more conflict?

European Chapter of Mayors for Peace



- In November 2019 European Chapter was founded
- 4 years of funding from Provincial Council of Barcelona
- Logo and website agreed, terms of reference shortly
- Recruitment of Exec Advisor and other staff to come
- Focus on European security issues
- Strong support for peace education development
- Deepen interest in Mayors for Peace across Europe
- Expand activity to focus on the key issues affecting peace, tolerance and community cohesion across the continent
- Connect with UCLG, Mayors for Peace in Hiroshima, UN SDGs, ICAN and other like-minded groups

ICAN Cities Appeal signatories



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

Over 300 towns and cities –

- Hiroshima
- Nagasaki
- Washington DC
- Berlin
- Sydney
- Oslo
- Paris
- Toronto
- Barcelona
- Manchester
- Edinburgh
- Renfrewshire
- Norwich
- Fife
- East Ayrshire
- Oxford...and shortly many more

Remembering Srebrenica 25 years on



- In July 1995 over 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men massacred as UN sponsored safe havens are overrun by Bosnian Serb forces
- Mayors for Peace Vice President Sarajevo will be cooperate with anniversary events in Bosnia and around the world
- 11th July is Srebrenica Memorial Day
- <https://www.srebrenica.org.uk/> - Remember Srebrenica website outlines events being held this year around the country
- National remembrance event is usually held in Manchester Cathedral – this year will be a virtual event – register at: <https://t.co/OajsEGKhI7>
- Events taking place across the UK and Ireland
- Chapter members are encouraged to attend them and issue media releases showing their solidarity and the need for tolerance between communities

Remembering Hiroshima & Nagasaki



- August 6th and 9th are 75th anniversary of the only use of nuclear weapons in conflict on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- Over 200,000 killed and both cities flattened
- As Cities of Peace they hold Annual Peace Ceremonies
- An opportunity to remember all civilian communities who are killed in war and say 'Never again!'
- 2020 ceremonies can only be at 10% capacity
- Both Mayors will deliver annual peace declarations
- Japanese PM Abe and UN Secretary General Guterres also speak
- Children's Peace Declaration, Choir, Peace Cranes and Lanterns
- Youth Education Webinar August 4th
- Shown live around the world



Local events - suggestions



- Social distancing makes larger public events more difficult
- Secretariat will issue report of events and weblinks Councils can promote later in July – please inform us of them
- IWMN project of soundscapes and digital commission of survivor testimonies - <https://www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-north> - 6-15/8/20
- Small or socially distanced events encouraged
- Issue a media release commemorating anniversary and your strong support for the Mayors for Peace
- Manchester planning recordings of readings, poems and its work on Project G – Hiroshima peace seeds in Manchester school
- In Bradford the peace symbol will be made up in City Park
- Peace lantern ceremonies, peace picnics, peace vigils
- Online webinars also encouraged

Global events & Peace Wave



- Across the world Mayors for Peace members will hold events on Hiroshima or Nagasaki Day
- German and Belgian members holding Flag Days and live events where safe to do so
- Hiroshima Prefecture, Peace Boat, grass-root groups and IPB supporting the 'Peace Wave'
- Events across the world from August 6th – 9th
- Any event you organise can go under this banner – see <http://www.ipb.org/yesterdays-news/the-ipb-supports-the-peace-wave-august-6-9-2020/>
- Also consult ICAN's 75th anniversary special website – <https://rise.icanw.org/> - launched yesterday



Remembering the end of WW2



- 15th August is the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War
- Remembrance events being held at National Memorial Arboretum and at faith based ceremonies
- Again live events will be limited
- VJ Day tends to be more sombre than VE Day
- Opportunity to publicise the need to remember all those who have died in conflict and the need for peace



Peace Education



- MFP Peaceful Towns Children's Art competition
- Ginkgo trees in Manchester, Edinburgh, Hull, Shetland, Oldham, South Ayrshire
- Peace Trails now in Bradford, Leeds, Manchester, London, Birmingham, Cambridge, Mayo
- New Peace Garden for Manchester
- New ethical / peace memorials in future?
- Peace projects being developed in schools around the UK and Mayors for Peace will provide links on its new European website – link around the UN SDGs
- Best practice in peace education will also be promoted
- Councils should look to support this with schools



Statue review and ethical issues



- National and international debate over ethics of statues & memorials in our town and cities
- Many Councils instigated reviews
- Manchester has installed 3 new statues in recent years – Peterloo, Pankhurst and Gandhi
- Abraham Lincoln and Peace Gardens 2021
- Arena memorial – Glade of Light in 2021
- Looking at international humanitarian aid workers memorial for 2021 as well
- Councils needs to carefully consider the values they want to promote in all public art



Manchester 'nuclear free' at 40



- November 5th is 40th anniversary of Manchester's famous declaration as a nuclear weapons free city
- Looking to hold a major webinar and other events to celebrate this with other UK, Irish and international cities
- Perhaps hosting a web conference on Europe and security with other groups and European Chapter
- Part of a year of events promoting Manchester as a city of peace – Ripples of Hope, new Peace Garden, Arena memorial unveiling, new memorial for humanitarian workers
- Public events as safe to do so
- More information in September



Conclusions – what you can do



- Covid-19 has had its impact on Mayors for Peace
- Events still happening and should be encouraged
- Council's should support the 75th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and their membership of Mayors for Peace
- Support other peace anniversaries and promote local ways that realise more peaceful and safer towns & cities
- Support the European Chapter as it starts to develop
- Work with grassroot groups on promoting peace and tolerance
- Join with Manchester and others to call for a more peaceful world free of nuclear weapons



Thank you for listening!

