



# Mayors for Peace News Flash

April 2024 / No.172

## Mayors for Peace Member Cities

**8,378** cities

in **166** countries and regions

(as of April 1, 2024)

Help us achieve **10,000** member cities!

Check our website and follow us on social media:

**Website** 

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/>

**Facebook** 

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace>

**X (Twitter)** 

<https://x.com/Mayors4Peace>

“Like” and **share** our Facebook and X (Twitter) posts to help spread awareness of our mission.

## Table of Contents


- Join us in promoting the culture of peace
- Request for payment of the 2024 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee
- Invitation for the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2024
- Member city activities
- Regional chapter activities
- Mayors for Peace member cities: 8,378 cities in 166 countries/regions
- Reports from the Executive Advisors
- Request to implement initiatives outlined in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan
- Call for input: examples of peace education initiatives
- Peace-related news from Hiroshima  
(provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)
- Announcement from Hiroshima City University

## Join us in promoting the culture of peace

Mayors for Peace outlines three objectives in the *Vision for Peaceful Transformation to a Sustainable World (PX Vision): Peacebuilding by Cities for Disarmament and Common Security*. One of them is to promote the culture of peace, which the PX Vision explains as follows:

[W]e will cultivate peace consciousness and cause the culture of peace—the culture in which the everyday actions of each member of the public are grounded in thinking about peace—to take root in civil society as the foundation of lasting world peace.

This April Issue of the Mayors for Peace News Flash features some of Mayors for Peace initiatives promoting the culture of peace. We hope these examples will inspire your city to implement initiatives.

 *Vision for Peaceful Transformation to a Sustainable World (PX Vision): Peacebuilding by Cities for Disarmament and Common Security* and *Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2021 – 2025)*:

[https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/file-PX\\_Vision\\_Action\\_Plan\\_en.pdf](https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/file-PX_Vision_Action_Plan_en.pdf)

### Celebrate the Month for the Culture of Peace

We encourage your cities to celebrate one particular month of the year as the “Month for the Culture of Peace” holding a variety of cultural events to raise peace awareness among citizens. The aim is to have them think about the importance of peace through music, fine art, and other forms of art expressing desire for peace, as well as through sports and other activities that emotionally connect people across language barriers.

The City of Hiroshima, since 2021, has designated November as the “Month for the Culture of Peace.” This Month sees a variety of events under the theme of the culture of peace held intensively in cooperation with private sector companies and groups of citizens. These events include, for example, lectures on the culture of peace and stage performances and art exhibitions by youths. To raise the public awareness of This Month, we also put banners and run digital signage in some gathering sites and streets of city center.

 “Month for the Culture of Peace 2023” by the City of Hiroshima (in Japanese): <https://heiwabunka.info/>



Hiroshima: Events of “Culture of Peace”

## **Organize Events to Commemorate the International Day of Peace**

We recommend your cities organize outreach activities and commemorative events on the UN’s International Day of Peace, which is observed on September 21st every year, to have as many citizens as possible share in the wish for the abolition of nuclear weapons.



Events commemorating the UN’s International Day of Peace in 2023 at:  
(from left to right) the City of Hiroshima, Manchester (UK), Malakoff (France), and Grigny (France)

## **Pass down Atomic Bomb Experiences through Testimonies**

We encourage member cities to provide their citizens with opportunities to hear *hibakusha*’s testimony while using online video conference platforms or on video to have as many people as possible share in the *hibakusha*’s sincere desire for the abolition of nuclear weapons and to encourage them to take action for peace.

If your city wishes to set up an opportunity to hear a testimony online, please contact the Secretariat.

🔗 Providing opportunities to hear *hibakusha*’s testimony (Mayors for Peace website):

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/testimonies/>



Online *hibakusha* testimony at Cervia (Italy)

## **Hold Mayors for Peace Atomic Bomb Poster Exhibitions**

Mayors for Peace provides member cities with “Mayors for Peace Atomic Bomb Posters,” which visually present the realities of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, consequences of nuclear weapons use, and Mayors for Peace initiatives, featuring photos, drawings created by *hibakusha*, and other images. Posters are available in the following nine languages: English, German, French, Russian, Dutch, Spanish, Catalan, Portuguese, and Japanese. To have more citizens deepen their understanding of the realities of the atomic bombings and share in the wish for the abolition of nuclear weapons, we encourage member cities to organize poster exhibitions at facilities to which many residents have access, such as city halls, community centers, and public libraries.



Mayors for Peace Atomic Bomb Poster Exhibition at G7 Health Ministers’ Meeting in Nagasaki (Japan)

🔗 Mayors for Peace Atomic Bomb Poster Exhibition (Mayors for Peace website):

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/posters/>

To download the posters from the above webpage, please contact the Mayors for Peace Secretariat to obtain a user ID and a password.

Exhibition organizers are encouraged to set up a petition booth at the venue for visitors to sign the petition calling for all states to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) at the earliest day. The petition form and the poster encouraging people to join the petition are available on the Mayors for Peace webpage below.

🔗 Petition drives calling for all states to join the TPNW at the earliest date (Mayors for Peace website):

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/petitions/>



**Nurture seeds and seedlings from atomic bomb survivor trees**

We distribute to member cities seeds from *hibaku* trees—atomic bomb survivor trees which have survived the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We encourage you to raise second-generation *hibaku* trees, which serve as symbols of peace, to help raise citizens’ peace consciousness.

Should you wish to receive seeds from *hibaku* trees, please contact the Secretariat.

🔗 Distribute and nurture seeds from atomic bomb survivor trees (*hibaku* trees) (Mayors for Peace website):

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/trees/>



Planting Ceremony in Rockingham (Australia)

**Participate in the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns”**

Mayors for Peace organizes the annual Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” for children in all the member cities to further promote peace education in the member cities.



2023 Mayors for Peace President’s Award/  
Prize-winning work: 6-10 years old

<Message from the artist>

I made sunflowers by cutting paper. In the language of flowers, sunflowers have a meaning of “Looking into the future”. I created this work hoping that the peaceful days, when we hold hands with our family and people around us and smile together, will continue forever.



2023 Prize-winning work: 11-15 years old

<Message from the artist>

On the earth, there are peaceful worlds where people can live happily and safely and dark worlds where people live in fear every day. The dove living in a dark world always looks at a peaceful world and hopes that their world will become peaceful someday.

We organize the competition this year, too. Please see the next page (p.5) for details.

**Request for Payment of the 2024 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee**

In order to facilitate future activities and strengthen the sense of solidarity amongst member cities, Mayors for Peace introduced an annual Membership Fee in 2015.

This year again, we ask each member city to pay a fee of 2,000 Japanese yen (about 14 USD/13 Euro as of March 22, 2024) per city. If your city has not paid the Membership Fee in previous years, we ask your city to pay the total amount owed for each unpaid year since 2015. The collected Membership Fees will be allocated toward new and existing projects listed on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan.

A request for payment of the 2024 membership fee was sent to each city by email on April 1. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

🔗 Request for the 2024 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website):

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/about-us/joins/fees/>

## Invitation for the Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" 2024



In order to expand peace education efforts in its over 8,300 member cities in 166 countries and regions around the world, Mayors for Peace holds a children's art competition on the theme of Peace, for children from 6 to 15 years old in all these cities.

### Categories:

[Category 1] 6-10 year olds

[Category 2] 11-15 year olds

### Number of applications allowed per city:

Up to 5 artworks for each category

### Submission Deadline:

5:00 PM (Japan Standard Time), October 31, 2024

### Submission:

Via Google Forms: <https://forms.gle/X4FMTDq7VXk9YDss7>

To ensure that submissions are only received from member cities, we have password protected. The password for Google Forms were emailed to respective member cities. Please contact the Secretariat for any inquiries.

Note: In the case that it is difficult to submit artwork via Google Forms, member cities are able to send submissions by email. Please send the scanned artwork and application form, along with a cover sheet to the secretariat.

### Inquiries:

Email the Secretariat: [mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto:mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

### Details of the competition:

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/arts/>

## Member city activities

### ● **Mayors for Peace delegations visit Manchester in February**

Mr. Richard Outram, UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary

In February, Manchester hosted two important visits from dignitaries from Norway and Japan.

On the 20th February, we welcomed Deputy Mayor Ahmed Lindov and former Mayor Svein Are Jerstad from Kvinesdal. The Norwegian delegates met with the Lord Mayor of Manchester Councillor Yasmine Dar for an energised discussion before meeting with officers from agencies in the city working to combat youth crime.



Kvinesdale Delegation

In late October, Manchester will host the next Mayors for Peace Executive Cities Conference. In advance of this important event, on the 27th February, we were honoured to greet the Secretary General of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, Takehiro Kagawa, to discuss arrangements.

Mr. Kagawa also met with the Lord Mayor, and with the Honorary Consul of Japan in Manchester, Ms Jo Ahmed. Later, Mr. Kagawa met with academics at the University of Manchester to talk about student exchanges and establishing links with universities in Hiroshima. They also visited the peace exhibition in the Manchester Museum and the university building in which the atom was first split.



with Secretary General Kagawa

Both delegations also received briefings from the Manchester's Permanent Representative to Mayors for Peace, Councillor Tommy Judge, and the UK/Ireland Chapter Secretary, Richard Outram, on our work.

### ● **Peace Pole erected in Abingdon on Saturday 6th April at 3pm**

Councillor Gwyneth Lewis, Mayor of Abingdon on Thames, UK

More than 50 people of many different nationalities gathered in the tranquil garden of St Ethelwold's House in central Abingdon to witness the unveiling of Abingdon's Peace Pole by the Mayor.

Councillor Gwyneth Lewis said that the Peace Pole had the full support of the Town Council, as "Abingdon is a town of peace, represented by a Mayor of Peace". She had seen many Peace Poles in other countries during her work for the United Nations, and was delighted to hear that there are now Peace Poles in over 200 countries; the Peace Pole movement is an NGO recognised by the United Nations. During her time as Mayor she has also started the process of applying to become a recognised "Town of Sanctuary", another global movement which promotes peace and support for those suffering the consequences of conflict or oppression around the world.



Mayor Gwyneth Lewis



Reading the Community Affirmation together

The simple but moving ceremony was concluded with a reading of a poem, after which everyone present spoke together a Community Affirmation which started, "We who stand here in sorrow for the victims of all violence today declare our hope in the future."



## Regional chapter activities

### ● Mayors for Peace France held its General Assembly and planned new projects for 2024

Ms. Lorena Schlicht, Mayors for Peace France (AFCD RP)

Mayors for Peace France held its General Assembly on March 14, 2024, both in-person (Malakoff) and via video conference, to review past activities and plan for the future.

The organization's ongoing commitment to peace and solidarity despite economic challenges and global crises, such as those in Palestine and Ukraine, was emphasized. Members were commended for their dedication and financial support, and new members were welcomed, further strengthening the collective voice for peace.

Looking ahead to 2024, participants discussed upcoming projects, including commemorative events, international days, and awareness initiatives, showcasing the organization's continued dedication to peace.



active discussion among participants



Mayors for Peace France  
General Assembly in Malakoff

Of particular note are the commemorative events planned for the year, including the Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorations in August, and the International Day of Peace in September. These events serve as poignant reminders of the importance of nuclear disarmament and the pursuit of global peace.

Additionally, with the upcoming Olympic Games in France, Mayors for Peace France is poised to leverage this international platform to advocate for peace and disarmament on a global scale.

The General Assembly marked a pivotal moment for Mayors for Peace France, underscoring both past achievements and future aspirations in promoting peace and solidarity at both local and international levels.

### Please send us a report on your city's peace activities

Share your city's peace activities with fellow member cities! Please send the Secretariat a short report on a peace activity or initiative by your city based on the Action Plan so that we can share it on our [website](#) or the News Flash. Reports on your city's activity or initiative that stimulate youth to be engaged in peace activities or promote 'the culture of peace' are especially welcome! We look forward to your submissions!

Email: [mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto:mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

\* Please write a **SHORT** (up to 200 words long) report in English, and send it to the above email address with photos (if any). Please include key information such as the date, venue, description, and result.

**Mayors for Peace member cities: 8,378 cities in 166 countries/regions**

On April 1, we gained 4 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,378. We thank all involved in promoting expanded membership for their invaluable support. Below is the breakdown of the new members.

Country/Region	New Members	Total No.	Remarks
Germany	Kolkwitz	882	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
Turkey	Finike and 2 other cities	26	Upon a request from Ambassador of Türkiye to Japan, who met with Deputy Mayor Susume of Hiroshima last November, Türkiye’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a letter urging municipalities to join Mayors for Peace.

## 4 new cities from 2 countries

**Germany 1 City**

**Türkiye 3 Cities**

Member Cities

8,378

member cities

166

countries & regions

As of April 1, 2024

**Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!**

List of new members (PDF):

[https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/file-2403-newmembers2404\\_en.pdf](https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/file-2403-newmembers2404_en.pdf)

Membership by country (PDF):

[https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/monthly/file-07\\_membership\\_by\\_country\\_en.pdf](https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/monthly/file-07_membership_by_country_en.pdf)

**Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!**

Mayors for Peace aims to achieve **10,000 member cities** to foster international public support for the realization of a world without nuclear weapons. Invite other cities in your country, as well as your sister cities and any other cities with which you have relations to join Mayors for Peace. You can download a letter of request and document pack below.

The document pack is available in 11 different languages: Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese (BZ), Portuguese (EU), Russian, and Spanish.

Letters of request to join Mayors for Peace and document pack

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/about-us/resources/#recruit>

Your continued cooperation is highly appreciated!



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## Reports by Executive Advisors

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### ● UN Security Council Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

Dr. Randy Rydell, Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace

Under Japan’s presidency, the Security Council met on 18 March to address “nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation”. All 15 members spoke, as did Secretary-General Guterres and officials of the CTBT Organization (CTBTO) and the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP).

Guterres affirmed disarmament’s urgency, adding, “Humanity cannot survive a sequel to *Oppenheimer*.” The CTBTO executive secretary discussed test verification and the need for the CTBT’s entry into force, while a VCDNP director urged efforts to maintain the taboo on use.

Japan’s Foreign Minister Kamikawa Yoko stated that the tragedies at Hiroshima and Nagasaki must never be repeated. *Inter alia*, she reaffirmed Japan’s commitment to nuclear disarmament and announced a group of “FMCT Friends” (re a fissile material treaty), and a draft Council resolution against nuclear weapons in orbit.

The US, France, and UK reaffirmed support for disarmament, with conditions to make it possible. They criticized the DPRK and Iran on proliferation, Russia for its nuclear threats during the Ukraine crisis, and China for its nuclear buildup. The latter two criticized the US for its own nuclear buildup.

Nine additional speakers came from four regions, with most for both disarmament and development.

### ● Marshall Islanders still suffering from nuclear tests 70 years ago

Amb. Thomas Hajnoczi, Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace

On March 1st, 1954, the US tested a hydrogen bomb with a destructive force of 1,000 Hiroshima type bombs on the Bikini Atoll. The radioactive fallout reached further atolls. Still today some are so contaminated that the former inhabitants and their families cannot return safely.

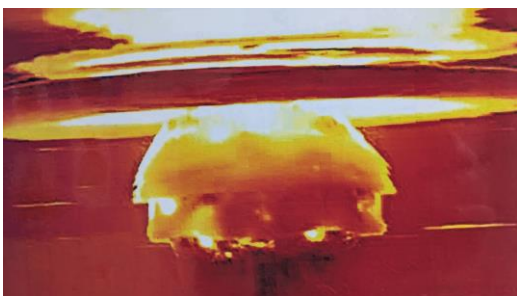
At the commemoration event of the 70th anniversary on March 1st, 2024, President Heine reminded of the many miscarriages and deformed babies that continue even in the fourth generation. The Marshall Islands has considerably more cancer than other countries. She called nuclear weapons an instrument of genocide and expressed support for the TPNW.

The engagement of youth is particularly strong. College students conducted a debate on the TPNW.



Talk with President Heine

The ongoing humanitarian consequences and the TPNW were the main topics in the meetings of Thomas Hajnoczi, Executive Advisor of Mayors for Peace, with mayors, senators and ministers. The huge task of victim assistance and environmental remediation has not been adequately addressed by the United States after their 67 nuclear test explosions from 1946 to 1958. The problems are compounded by the effects of global warming. It is predicted that in 80 years all the atolls might disappear in the Pacific Ocean.



nuclear test mushroom cloud of the hydrogen bomb Castle Bravo detonated over Bikini Island



School groups participating in the parade

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## Request to implement initiatives outlined in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan

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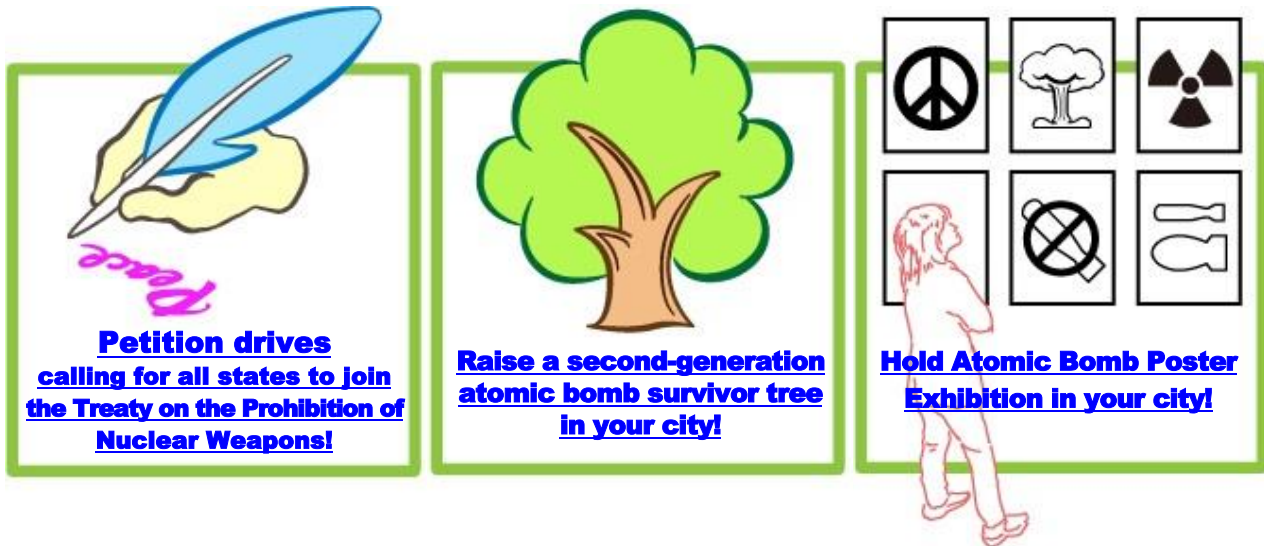
At the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held online in July 2021, we adopted the latest Action Plan (2021–2025). Together, let us continue our utmost efforts toward our ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace. Please implement initiatives outlined in the Action Plan within your own municipality or regional group.

🔗 Mayors for Peace Action Plan (PDF):

[https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/file-PX\\_Vision\\_Action\\_Plan\\_en.pdf](https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/file-PX_Vision_Action_Plan_en.pdf)

🔗 Initiatives implemented under the Action Plan:

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/>




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## Call for input: examples of peace education initiatives

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The Mayors for Peace Secretariat has been seeking examples of peace education initiatives conducted by any organization (city government/school/NGO, etc.) in Mayors for Peace member cities. The Mayors for Peace Secretariat accepts reports on a rolling basis, so please send your report whenever your project is completed. The submitted reports will be posted on our website and in the Mayors for Peace News Flash as a source of information for other member cities that are planning to launch their own peace education programs.

🔗 Call for Input on the Mayors for Peace website:

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/edu-examples/>

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## Peace-related news from Hiroshima

(provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

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There might not be another movie about the atomic bombings that has drawn as much attention in Japan and the United States. “Oppenheimer,” a film that was released in America last summer, hit theaters in Hiroshima and across Japan on March 29. In the A-bombed Hiroshima, people seem to be of different opinions about the movie. Some have been critical. “The film did not portray at all the kind of devastation in Hiroshima and Nagasaki that resulted from the atomic bombs developed by Mr. Oppenheimer and his team,” is their line of reasoning. On the other hand, some of the feedback has been positive — “Dealing with a complex history, the film does a good job of conveying the reality that the fear surrounding nuclear weapons is not a thing of the past.”

Made from the perspective of Mr. Oppenheimer himself, the film fails to touch on numerous aspects of the atomic bombings. For that reason, the movie can be seen as an attempt to leave it up to viewers to “want to learn more.” We hope it will serve to encourage discussion about what was not covered in the film, and about the possibility of understanding what was left out through the examples of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Trinity Site — the location of world history’s first A-bomb test — and the victims of other nuclear tests conducted around the world.

Please access the following websites and read our peace-related news.

Hiroshima audience of movie “Oppenheimer” say, “The movie will boost interests in the A-bombed city of Hiroshima,” “I wish devastation caused by the atomic bombings were depicted in the movie”

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=140707>

Visitors to Peace Memorial Museum reach record 1.98 million in fiscal 2023, with overseas guests exceeding 30 percent of total number

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=140511>

UNITAR Hiroshima office relocated to south of Peace Memorial Park—holds opening ceremony

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=140450>

Silent Witness: Set of golf clubs

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=140093>

Survivors’ Stories: Minoru Hataguchi, 77, Hatsukaichi City—Overcoming undying hatred, he shares his A-bomb account

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=140343>

Questions from Marshall Islands 70 years after Bikini Atoll disaster, Part 1: Residents of test site

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=140255>

Hiroshima Christ Church Convention releases statement calling for immediate halt to Gaza attacks, conveying wish for peace from A-bombed city

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=140448>

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**Call for Participants in Hiroshima Short-Term Residency Program “HPI Fellowship”**  
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Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) of Hiroshima City University invites young scholars who have been engaged in peace studies and peace research for less than five years after receiving their doctoral degree or who are enrolled in a doctoral course to Hiroshima for a short-term stay to conduct research activities. The HPI Fellowship provides round-trip airfare from the international airport nearest the participant's place of residence to Hiroshima Airport and accommodation (1-3 months) to create a research environment for the visiting young researchers.

For more information on the program and the call for applications for AY2024, please refer to the following link. We look forward to receiving applications from young researchers from around the world.

▼ HPI Website

<https://www.peace.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp/research/hpi-fs/>

**Mayors for Peace Official Social Media Accounts**

〈X (Twitter)〉  @Mayors4Peace  
<https://x.com/Mayors4Peace>



〈Facebook〉  @mayorsforpeace  
<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace>



 The latest and archived issues of Mayors for Peace News Flash are available at:  
<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/news/newsflashes/>

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If you have any comments or questions, please contact us at:

**Mayors for Peace Secretariat**

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

Tel: +81-82-242-7821 Fax: +81-82-242-7452

Email: [mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto:mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

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