



2023

# Young people's statement for peace



IYCPF 2023

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# Introduction

## Why is peace so important?

As a group, we define peace as the absence of violence. For this statement, we focus only on the physical nature of violence. Peace is objectively desirable because it serves as precondition for prosperity (economically as well as socially) and avoids unnecessary suffering. During the conference we had the chance to hear first-hand accounts of the after effects of nuclear weaponry, which were devastating to soldiers and civilians alike. Those after effects continue on to this day, and we can only imagine what modern weapons are capable of.

## What are the aims of this report?

This report aims :

- To explore young peoples perspectives on peace
- To give young peoples voices a platform
- To conclude the IYCPF conference but also to look towards the future.

This report is not intended to :

- Provide a perfect solution
- To speak on the experience of the entire world, but rather focuses on the perspective of those at the conference
- Represent the views of an individual or country but rather to conclude our weeks worth of work together.

# Ongoing war in Ukraine

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The collective response to Russia's war against Ukraine holds immense significance for the future of Europe and the world.

We acknowledge the impact of Russia's war in Ukraine on every delegation involved in the discussions this week. Poland, with their historical struggle against fascism, inspires us with their unwavering support for Ukraine and resilience against Russian nuclear intimidation. We also recognize the indirect consequences suffered by Malawi, a country dependent on Ukrainian grain. Japan, the UK, Germany, France, and Thailand, once a Russian ally, stand in strong support of Ukraine, firmly opposing any territorial surrender. The Ukrainian people have shown remarkable resilience and determination in their resistance against Russian aggression.

We recognize the immense contribution of Ukrainians who are fighting every day not only for their own values but also to prevent the spread of the war to other parts of the world. Their resilience serves as a beacon of hope, demonstrating the importance of standing up for our shared principles.

It is crucial for us, to join in this resistance. This war tests our collective ability to stand against aggression and prove that we can defend our democracies. We reject the narrative that truth and peace are matters of belief, and attempts to persuade us that there is no difference between peace and occupation. We stand firmly in support of a free and independent Ukraine, unequivocally opposing any calls for the surrender of territories.

We unanimously agree that in our pursuit of peace, nations must not compromise their integrity by appeasing authoritarian regimes. Our response to Russia's war determines whether a nation can achieve its objectives through violence, war crimes, and nuclear blackmail. It will determine whether the destruction of entire cities and the deportation of children in the 21st century will go unanswered. We cannot permit any country to perpetrate such acts, as it sets a dangerous precedent for future conflicts. Therefore, it is essential for the every one of us to stand united against Russian influence and pervasive propaganda.

We call upon all individuals and nations to actively engage in international efforts to hold Russian war criminals accountable and ensure justice for the Ukrainian population. In unity, we urge citizens, mayors, and politicians across all nations to extend support to their local Ukrainian communities, include Ukrainians in discussions, and provide both humanitarian and military aid. Together, we will resist aggression and work towards a future where peace is brought back to its original meaning and justice and the integrity of nations prevail.

# Hiroshima



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1945年8月6日、午前8時15分、一発の原子爆弾により、広島は廃墟と化した。推定14万人もの命が失われ、20万人を超える人々が負傷し、放射能の被害を受けた人々も多くいた。2022年8月6日の平和記念式典で奉納された原爆死者名簿には、33万3907名の名前が記帳されている。また、被爆から78年近くたった現在でも、原爆に関する問題が数多く残されている。

現在、広島の人々は被爆者たちとともに、広島の被爆の実相と復興を国際平和文化都市広島として、伝えることを使命としている。平和を希求し、これ以上核による惨禍が起きないことを望む広島の人々は、人類と核兵器は共存できないこと、そして、核は廃絶されなければならないことを世界へ訴えている。したがって、広島は、核兵器廃絶のシンボルであり、国家或いは地域間の戦争や紛争を望まない平和構築のシンボルでもある。

本会議（IYCPF）は、広島の被爆60周年である2005年に、若者の平和活動を促進すべく産声を上げた。世界の国々の青少年たちが集い、世界平和について考え、意見を交換し合うことにより、核兵器廃絶と世界恒久平和の実現を願うことを目的としている。2019年の会議開催を最後に、2020年は、新型コロナウイルス感染症の影響で、会議の開催が危ぶまれた。しかし、2019年のIYCPFの参加者を中心に、オンライン会議を開催し、その成果として動画を作成、世界中に発信した。それを契機に、オンライン形式での活動を続け、2023年、無事19回目を迎えた。

2023年のIYCPFは、ドイツのハノーバー市で4年ぶりに対面形式で開催された。開催都市のハノーバー市は、広島市の姉妹都市であり、2023年は、姉妹都市締結40周年である。このような記念の年に世界中の若者が集い、平和について思案することは、これからの姉妹都市で連携し、平和活動を推進する一助となるだろう。

私たち若者は、IYCPFを通じて、都市間交流を促進させると同時に、「ヒロシマの心」を世界の人々と共有し、平和の輪を広げていく所存である。

# Hiroshima

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On 6 August 1945, at 8.15 am, Hiroshima was reduced to ruins by a single atomic bomb. An estimated 140,000 people lost their lives, more than 200,000 were injured, many of them from radiation; 333,907 names were recorded in the list of the atomic bomb victims dedicated at the Peace Memorial Ceremony on 6 August 2022. In addition, many issues related to the atomic bombing still remain, even today, nearly 78 years after the bombing.

Today, the people of Hiroshima, together with the hibakusha, have made it their mission to convey the reality of the atomic bombing and the reconstruction of Hiroshima as an International City of Peace and Culture. The people of Hiroshima, who desire peace and wish to see no further nuclear catastrophes, appeal to the world that humanity and nuclear weapons cannot coexist and that nuclear weapons must be abolished. Hiroshima is therefore a symbol of the abolition of nuclear weapons and a symbol of peace-building that does not want war or conflict between nations or regions.

The IYCPF was born in 2005, the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, to promote peace activities among young people. It aims to bring together youth from countries around the world to think about and exchange views on world peace, in the hope of abolishing nuclear weapons and achieving lasting peace in the world. After the last conference in 2019, the 2020 conference was in jeopardy due to the new coronavirus infection. However, an online conference was organised with the participants of the 2019 IYCPF, and a video was created and disseminated worldwide as a result. This was the beginning of a series of activities in the online format, which successfully reached its 19th edition in 2023.

The 2023 IYCPF was held in Hannover, Germany, in a face-to-face format for the first time in four years. The host city, Hannover, is a sister city of Hiroshima, and 2023 marks the 40th anniversary of the sister city relationship. The gathering of young people from all over the world to contemplate peace in such a commemorative year will help to promote cooperation and peace activities among sister cities in the future.

Through the IYCPF, we, the youth, intend to promote inter-city exchanges and at the same time share the 'Heart of Hiroshima' with the people of the world and expand the circle of peace.

**ICYPF 2023**

**IYCPF REPORT 2023**

# Hannover, Germany

Frieden ist für uns, wenn wir uns in Freiheit und ohne Gewalt entfalten können. Wir müssen uns der Realität unserer Welt bewusst sein und dürfen nicht wegschauen. Als die jüngere Generation ist es unsere Aufgabe Frieden zu sichern. Hierfür braucht es den Austausch mit Anderen.

Kommunikation ist der erste Schritt, um Frieden zu schaffen. Ihn tatsächlich durchzusetzen und zu erhalten ist eine komplexe Aufgabe, die generations- und kulturübergreifend, sowie international stets weitergeführt und aktiv gefördert werden muss.

Peace for us is a world in which we can develop in freedom and without violence. We must be aware of the reality of our world and not look away. As younger generation it is our task to ensure peace in the future and In order to do that it needs exchange with others.

Communication is the first step in creating peace. To actually enforce and maintain it is a complex task that must be constantly pursued and actively promoted across generations and cultures, as well as internationally.



**”Kommunikation  
ist der erste  
Schritt, um  
Frieden zu  
schaffen.”**

# Leipzig, Germany

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Wenn etwas Positives aus Russlands Krieg in der Ukraine hervorgeht, dann, dass unsere Werte es wert sind, verteidigt zu werden. Eine friedliche Gesellschaft ist für uns daher eine wehrhafte, demokratische Gesellschaft, die einen breiten Meinungsspektrum Raum bietet, doch in ihren Grundwerten geschlossen zusammensteht. Hier sehen wir Jeden und Jede in der Verantwortung das eigene Handeln kritisch zu reflektieren, aber auch Autoritäten zu hinterfragen.

If anything positive comes out of Russia's war in Ukraine, it is that our values are worth defending. For us, a peaceful society is therefore a defensible, democratic society that offers space to a broad spectrum of opinions, but stands united in its fundamental values. Here we see each and everyone has the responsibility to critically reflect on their own actions, as well as questioning authorities.



**“Jede\*r steht in der Verantwortung sein/ihr Handeln kritisch zu reflektieren und Autoritäten zu hinterfragen.“**

# Poznan, Poland

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**Pokój to stan bez przemocy i wojen, gwarantujący poczucie bezpieczeństwa.**

**Poznaliśmy perspektywy i kulturę ludzi z różnych części świata.**

**We define peace as a state without violence and wars that guarantees a sense of security.**

**Over the course of the week we got to know the perspectives and cultures of people from different parts of the world.**

**“Pokój to stan bez przemocy i wojen”**

# Bangkok, Thailand

สำหรับเราสันติภาพคือช่วงเวลาที่ทุกคน  
สามารถใช้ชีวิตได้อย่างมีความสุข ไม่ต้องกลัว  
อะไร ช่วงเวลาที่ได้อยู่กับคนที่รัก ครอบครัว  
เพื่อนๆ

การที่ได้มาเข้าร่วมโครงการIYCPFทำให้ได้เกิด  
การแลกเปลี่ยนวัฒนธรรมได้รู้จักเพื่อนใหม่ๆ  
และเข้าใจเกี่ยวกับสันติภาพและwork peace  
มากขึ้นค่ะ

For us peace is time when everyone  
can live happily with their families,  
their friends and loved ones  
without fear.

Participating at IYCPF we can  
exchange our culture with others  
and also make some new friends. It  
has helped our understanding of  
peace.



“สำหรับเราสันติภาพ  
คือช่วงเวลาที่ทุกคน  
สามารถใช้ชีวิตได้อย่าง  
มีความสุข ไม่ต้องกลัว  
อะไร ช่วงเวลาที่ได้อยู่  
กับคนที่รัก ครอบครัว  
เพื่อนๆ”

# Blantyre, Malawi

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Umodzi ndi  
mgwirizano ndi  
zinthu zofunika  
zimene  
zingathandizile  
kupewa mikangano  
ndi nkhondo  
mtsogolo.

Unity and  
cooperation is a vital  
way in which we can  
avoid conflict and  
war in the future.



**“umodzi ndi  
mgwirizano ndi  
zofunika”**

# Hiroshima, Japan

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被爆者が願う戦争も核兵器もない世界

人類共通の問題を多角的に捉え、現実的な  
解決策を求め、行動する必要性

A world without war and nuclear  
weapons, as desired by hibakusha

The need to take a multifaceted  
view of the common problems of  
mankind, to seek realistic solutions  
and to take action

被爆者が願う戦争  
も核兵器もない世  
界

# Rouen, France

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La conférence était très intéressante dans le partage de culture, dans le dialogue et dans l'évolution de la personne.

La paix pour moi est la manière d'où le conflit est résolu, il n'est pas seulement la réponse mais tout le processus pour atteindre une réponse positive.

Les acteurs peuvent faire des accords, collaborer et avoir une forme de dialogue.

The conference was really interesting in the sharing culture, in the dialogue and in which it helped our future self.

Peace is the way a conflict can be resolved. Its not only the answer but the whole process to attain a positive response. The actors can make an agreement, collaborate and have a dialogue.



**“La conférence  
était très  
intéressante  
dans le partage  
de culture, dans  
le dialogue et  
dans  
l'évolution” de  
la personne.**

# Bristol, England

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For us peace is an agreement between countries, communication around conflict to prevent harm to citizens.

It is also being able to compromise for the benefit of the greater good.

We have had an amazing week at IYCPF and have learnt a lot. Our biggest takeaway is that communication in all parts of life is the first step,

We have also seen first hand that a language barrier is not as big of an issue as you would think.

**“Our main  
takeaway is  
that  
communication  
is only the first  
step.”**

# Peace cannot be taken for granted



It takes effort to ensure peace. It is very fragile and can be lost easily. In the late 20th century, the western world experienced a Cold War; 40 years of nuclear paranoia full of fear, mistrust, and constant threat of escalation. Although most of us grew up in relative peace, we experienced the impacts of global conflicts through immigration and now have a war on our doorsteps. The USA and China are fighting for global dominance, which affects other nations such as Japan and Taiwan as well. In the meantime, the Russian Federation is waging a full-scale war against Ukraine. Through the changing of our international political landscape, the global tension is rising again. Another challenge we are facing is the progressing climate change. Climate migration and disputes over natural resources are likely to occur due to degenerating ecosystems.

We are alarmed by the ongoing political polarization, that divides modern societies. Radical ideas seem increasingly popular and nationalistic tendencies are on a rise. The unjust war in Ukraine made us painfully aware, that international law and security guarantees sometimes fail to prevent military conflicts. Once again, it was proven that diplomatic solutions are only effective when all parties involved can trust one another.

The biggest challenge in our fight for mutual disarmament are weapons of mass destruction. During the conference, we learned about the devastating consequences of the usage of nuclear weapons in Hiroshima and hope that they will not be used again. Also, we had the chance to explore different perspectives on global zero, a campaign fighting for the abolition of nuclear weapons all together. While many countries ratified treaties banning nuclear weapons we do not believe, that it will be possible to disarm completely in the foreseeable future. The complete disarmament would require a broad consensus among every country. A single unwilling country would therefore pose a threat to all the others.

We recognize that personal connections created through international exchanges, such as this conference, contribute to peace, but do not ensure it. Personal connections help overcome prejudices and recognize each other's individuality. Without critical reflection and a lasting commitment, these learnings are lost.

# How can we take a realistic approach to ensure peace?

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As we have identified the problems, we want to suggest the solutions we have worked on. As mentioned above we define peace as an absence of violence, but simultaneously the preservation of our shared values is also important. Therefore, spreading awareness and education is the first step to enforce peace globally. As youth, we can use social media to disseminate stories of survivors of tragic events like the atomic bombing in Hiroshima and the Holocaust. We also encourage schools to educate students on the horrifying history of the world to prevent it from repeating itself. We hope education will lead to cooperation on both an economic and official state level. The cooperation among countries will provide a route to disarmament, especially of nuclear weapons. We have learned of both the short and long term effects of these weapons through what happened in Hiroshima in 1945. While Global Zero is an ideal concept worth striving towards we would like to see more tangible short term solutions. Two important policy's are no first use policy's and more transparency in ESG criteria. The ESG criteria are important to allow autonomy and transparency over consumer and investor decision. Overall, we hope to achieve peace by actively involving the youth and networking the twin cities present here today, to ensure the voices of young people are heard.

# Recommendations

This week we got to know different perspectives on the threats our democratic societies are facing today. We have explored and discussed various solutions. As a diverse group of young people from most parts of the world we have gathered and written down recommendations that we urge you to consider for the sake of our future.

Acknowledging the different realities in each country, we recommend keeping our shared values central.

We want to emphasize that we ought to maintain our values and integrity even when threatened by autocratic countries. This includes supporting and cooperating with our partners and being supportive with other nations in times of need. We are conscious of the current threats to our democracies, and we want a world that is willing to engage in difficult conversations.

As we want the exchange and cooperation that took place this week to be sustainable, we suggest establishing a IYCPF alumni network.

Furthermore, we encourage Mayors for peace member cities to actively use their twin city/partner city network and promote peace cooperation.

The state of constant crisis, fuelled led by armed conflicts and the looming threat of nuclear proliferation, significantly impacts the outlook of young people on the future. Therefore young people have the responsibility to do everything in their power to ensure peace, as it is us that determine our future.

By leading by example, politicians can show the young generation how to face crisis and to stand for what you believe in. By doing so, politicians can instill hope, inspire engagement, and empower young people to envision a future free from the shadow of violence and destruction.



# Peace

By Abdelali Feqqoussi

If you ask us about "peace"  
We will answer you with a happy face  
Just listen to us really carefully  
Because it represents the topic the most importantly  
Just ask Hiroshima about the year 1945  
When everybody's dead instead of being alive  
When everybody goes to heaven: women, old and young  
And then you can hear the city singing a sad song  
Just ask Baghdad about the year 2003  
When everybody becomes prisoner instead of being free  
When all the houses disappear and fall down  
And all the citizens leave their own town  
Just ask Al Quds and Tel Aviv about the war  
When you can only see blood and debris from far  
And finally ask Kiev about the year 2022  
When everybody leaves his country because he has to  
There is so many other cities that we didn't mention  
Because we're sure that we'll not finish this conversation  
So why we can't ramp it up and stop all the damage  
And share the value of peace as a message  
Live free, without any racism and violence  
Because we're all the same without any difference  
Love the others like you love your self  
And imagine them like your other half  
Then you're going to understand what does peace mean  
A world without wars, hatred, a world who's simply clean.