

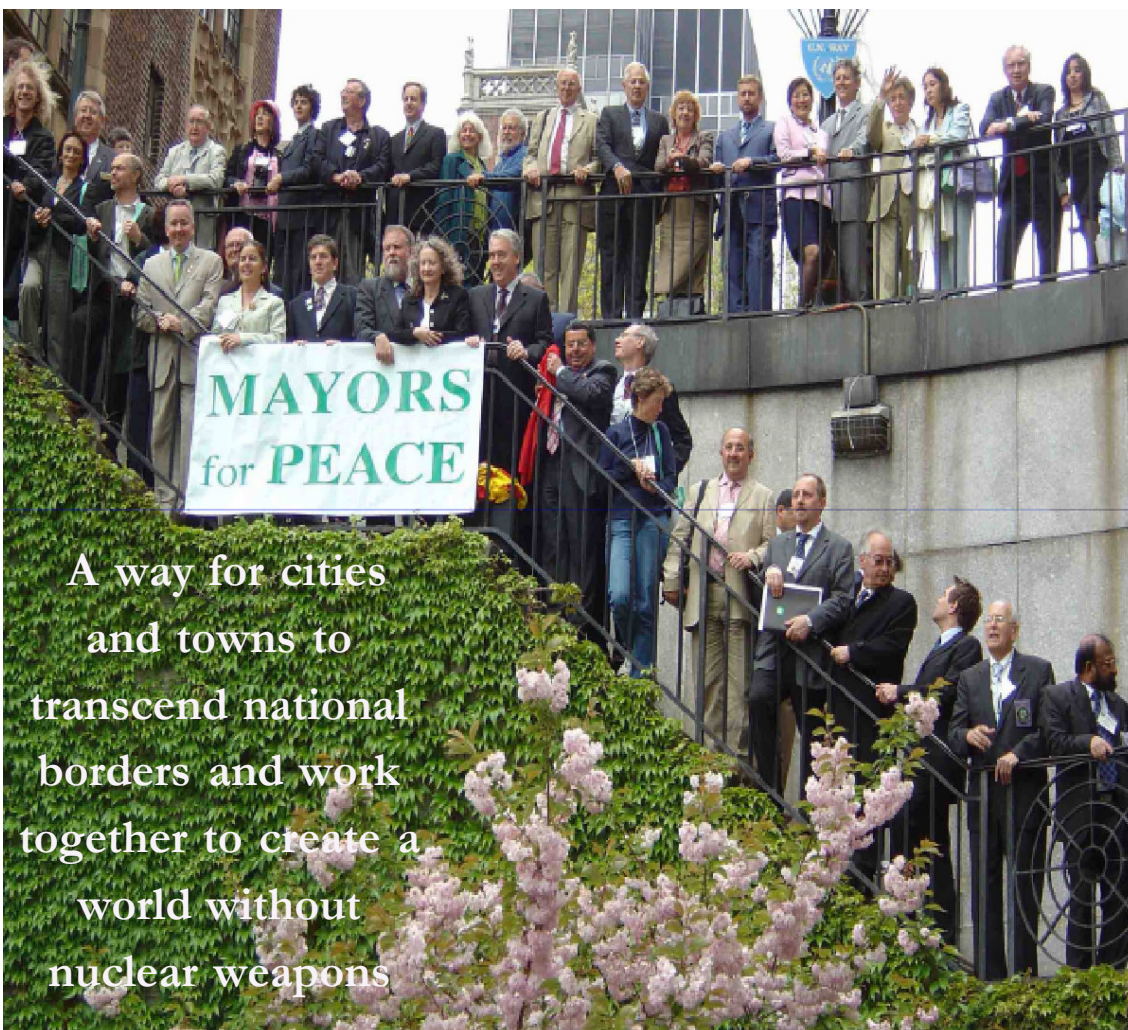
Mayors for Peace UK Working Group

Secretary: Sean Morris, Mayors for Peace/o Room 6005, Town Hall Extension, Manchester M60 3NY,
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Mayors for Peace

A Guide for Councillors



A way for cities
and towns to
transcend national
borders and work
together to create a
world without
nuclear weapons

As of October 5th 2010 4,207 member cities towns and localities in 144 countries & regions have become members of Mayors for Peace.



An Invitation

Mayors for Peace works for the abolition of nuclear weapons by international agreement. It is led by Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima and supported by more than 4207 cities towns and localities in 144 countries and regions. Mark Hackett Mayor of Manchester is a Vice-President of the organisation.

The UK Working Group of Mayors for Peace is asking Mayors and councils in the UK to join 63 other local councils in Britain, including several major cities, in signing up to this global network.



Mark Hackett,
Mayor of Manchester

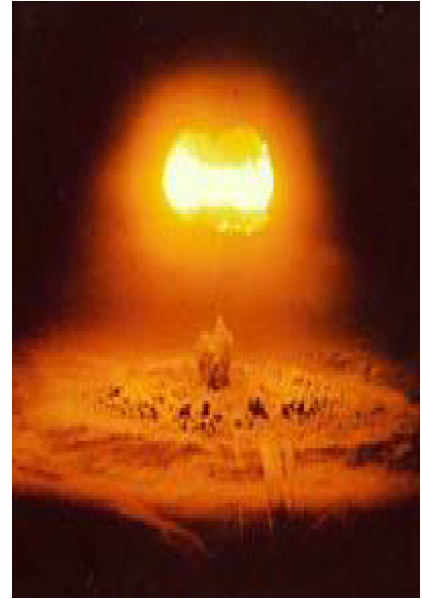
Local Authorities supporting Mayors for Peace in the United Kingdom as of 5th October 2010

Aberdeen	East Dunbartonshire	London	Ramsgate
Aberystwyth	East Lothian	Londonderry	Reading
Bala	Eastbourne	Lydney	Redbridge
Belfast	Edinburgh	Manchester	Renfrewshire
Birmingham	Exeter	Medway	Rochdale
Bradford	Falkirk	Middlesbrough	Rotherham
Brighton&Hove	Fife	Midlothian	Seaford
Bristol	Fylde	Milton Keynes	Sheffield
Caerphilly	Glasgow	Mold	Shetland Islands
Cambridge	Gwynedd	Nailsworth	Slough Borough
Chepstow	Hebden Royd	Newport	South Ayrshire
Chester	Kirklees	Northampton	Stockport
Coventry	Lambeth	North Tyneside	Strabane
Derby	Leeds	Norwich	Stroud
Dudley	Lewisham	Oxford	Tower Hamlets
Dundee	Lincoln	Perth and Kinross	



Why Mayors for Peace?

In August 1945, atomic bombs instantaneously reduced the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to rubble, taking hundreds of thousands of precious lives. Today, more than fifty years after the war, thousands of citizens still suffer the devastating after effects of radiation and unfathomable emotional pain. To prevent any repetition of the A-bomb tragedy, the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have continually sought to tell the world about the inhumane cruelty of nuclear weapons and have consistently urged that nuclear weapons be abolished.



On June 24, 1982, at the 2nd UN Special Session on Disarmament held at UN Headquarters in New York, then Mayor Takeshi Araki of Hiroshima proposed a new Program to Promote the Solidarity of Cities toward the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons. This proposal offered cities a way to transcend national borders and work together to press for nuclear abolition. Subsequently, the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki called on mayors around the world to support this program.



Engraved heat shadow at the moment of the Hiroshima detonation

Mayors for Peace is composed of cities around the world that have formally expressed support for the program Mayor Araki announced in 1982. In March 1990, the Mayors Conference was officially registered as a UN NGO related to the Department of Public Information. In May 1991, it became a Category II NGO (currently called a NGO in "Special Consultative Status") registered with the Economic and Social Council.



Why Now?

Nuclear weapons have not been used in war since 1945. For many years the nuclear-armed states claimed that they were only weapons of last resort – in spite of the massive build-up of sea, land and airborne warheads primed for launch at a moment's notice. The enormity of nuclear weapons and human fallibility do not sit well together. We avoided a nuclear catastrophe only through good fortune.

We lived in dread for decades. But since the end of the Cold War the public's fear of nuclear weapons has diminished and they only feature on the political agenda spasmodically. Even so, nuclear weapons have not gone away. Arsenals have been slimmed down but they remain an ever-present menace to all our futures. There are still about 26,000 of them, many on hair-trigger alert. This is enough to destroy all the cities of the earth many times over.

In many ways the situation has become more dangerous and urgent since the end of the Cold War. The nuclear club is growing. At first only the U.S had nuclear weapons. By 1968, the first proliferators, Russia, U.K., France and China had joined. Then came Israel, India, and Pakistan. Now additional states could decide to go nuclear and terrorists groups may well have nuclear ambitions.

"We cannot expect to successfully exercise moral and political leadership in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons if we ourselves do not demonstrate leadership on the question of disarmament of our weapons."

***Former Prime Minister
Gordon Brown***

These dangers challenge all humanity. It is our common task to confront this self-inflicted threat. Cities and towns who have joined *Mayors for Peace* believe that no human being, and no state, can be trusted with nuclear weapons. There are no "responsible" nuclear states. Nuclear weapons are immoral and unlawful. The only rational policy is their total abolition under the law.

The view that the time has come for the global abolition of nuclear weapons is shared by a wide spectrum of opinion, including US President Obama and former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

"I state clearly and with conviction America's commitment and desire to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons."

President Obama



The Mayors for Peace 20/20 Vision Campaign

The Mayors for Peace 20/20 Vision Campaign aims at the total abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020. It is designed to lift the voices of cities and citizens to say, “No! You may not target cities. You may not target children.” Through these activities, we intend to bring to the attention of mayors, citizens and national leaders the fact that cities are, in fact, still being targeted for annihilation and the International Court of Justice has found this threat itself to be a war crime.

Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, 2007



Cities are Not Targets A Message from Dr. Tadatoshi Akiba Mayor of Hiroshima and President Mayors for Peace

Dear fellow mayor,

Peace is precious! Cities Are Not Targets!

When a city becomes a battleground, everything generations of mayors and citizens have worked so hard to build is destroyed. When international stability supposedly depends on mutual assured destruction, the hostages – cities – are in grave danger.

Mayors for Peace is the leading international organization devoted to protecting cities from the scourge of war and mass destruction. Our effectiveness depends crucially on the allegiance and solidarity of cities throughout the world. ...

... Our message is simple: eliminate the nuclear threat. Since this can technically be done by the year 2020, it would, in our view, be criminal to hold cities in jeopardy any longer. The immediate task at hand is to begin joint planning now. In a multilateral world, that means negotiating a legally binding agreement that establishes the international institutions required to achieve and maintain a nuclear-weapon-free world. This is our 2020 Vision, and we are so confident of success that Hiroshima and Nagasaki are now exploring the feasibility of hosting the 2020 Olympic Games as a global celebration of the end of the nuclear threat to cities and the world.

The International Decade for Disarmament begins in 2010. Mayors for Peace and the 2020 Vision Campaign will provide member cities with ideas and examples of how cities can and are helping to make the Decade a success – indeed, the decisive decade for nuclear disarmament.

But the first step we are hoping you will take is to join Mayors for Peace. I have attached a Registration Form for you. Please return it now, so we can count you among the 5000 strong in May.

Thank you!

Most sincerely,

Dr. Tadatoshi Akiba
Mayor of Hiroshima
& President Mayors for Peace



Nuclear-free world ultimate aim of new cross-party pressure group

Julian Borger, diplomatic editor
Guardian, Tuesday 8 September 2009

A cross-party group of ex-ministers and former generals will be launched next month to push for global nuclear disarmament.

The group, chaired by a former defence secretary, Des Browne, will seek to rally European support for a US-led initiative to work towards the abolition of nuclear weapons through radical, co-ordinated cuts in the arsenals of existing nuclear states, in an effort to persuade emerging powers to forgo such weapons.

The nuclear non-proliferation treaty is up for review next May, at a time when it is in danger of falling apart under pressure from aspiring nuclear states such as Iran, North Korea and their regional neighbours. Hopes of strengthening the treaty have been bolstered by the election of Barack Obama and initial progress in bilateral disarmament talks between the US and Russia.

"There is a window of opportunity, but it is a limited window of opportunity," Browne said. "It's a big opportunity for nuclear weapons states ... to make a contribution to improving the confidence the rest of the world has in the non-proliferation treaty."

The parliamentary group will seek to rally European support for the long-term goal of a nuclear-free world promoted by the Obama administration and Gordon Brown's government, and arrive at a common European position on the eventual withdrawal of the remaining US nuclear weapons in Europe.

The group will be called the Top Level Group of UK Parliamentarians for Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, and as well as Browne will bring together former Labour ministers Margaret Beckett, John Reid and Lord Robertson; senior Tories including Malcolm Rifkind and Michael Ancram; and three former chiefs of the defence staff, General Lord Guthrie, Field Marshal Lord Inge and Admiral Lord Boyce. It will also include Lady Williams, the prime minister's adviser on nuclear proliferation.

The members have expressed different opinions in the past over Britain's arsenal, and it is unclear whether they agree on when and how it should be put on the table in multilateral talks.



Henry Kissinger

The group will seek to emulate the impact that a handful of US statesmen, including Henry Kissinger, George Shultz, William Perry and Sam Nunn, have had in the US. Their open letter in the Wall Street Journal in 2007 calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons started a national debate. Their position was ultimately embraced by the Obama administration.

Browne said the group hoped to provoke a similar debate in Britain, and a handful of members were in Washington to consult senators and members of the Obama administration. "These weapons are so dangerous, their power is so lethal, that comparatively small numbers, comparatively small developments will make the world a much less safe place than it currently is," he said.



Former Defence Secretary
Des Browne



UK Mayors for Peace Working Group

Extracts from letter

Room 6005, Town Hall, Manchester M60 3NY

Date: 26 February 2007

To: Mayors and Council Leaders of local authorities in England & Wales

Dear Colleagues

Mayors for Peace membership appeal

Following is an appeal from Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima to join international Mayors for Peace under his leadership. We have already pledged our support and are proud to stand alongside Mayor Akiba with over 40 other UK local authorities and more than 1,732 cities towns and localities in 122 countries. [*Now 63 other UK local authorities and more than 4,069 towns and cities in 144 countries*].

Mayors for Peace works for the abolition of nuclear weapons by international agreement (a Nuclear Weapons Convention) to establish a timetable for multilateral disarmament by 2020. This is an ambitious objective, but the alternative to not pursuing it is a proliferating and destabilised world where the danger of nuclear weapons use increases. In the words of the 6th World Summit of Nobel Peace Prize Winners meeting in Rome last November: "Nuclear weapons are more of a problem than any problem they seek to solve."

Will you pledge your support for Mayors for Peace? The US Conference of Mayors gave a ringing endorsement last year and across continental Europe the campaign is rapidly gathering momentum. There is no cost though plans are in hand to raise funds by voluntary donation so that Hiroshima and Nagasaki do not have to shoulder all the campaign costs.

Let's be optimistic about the future and not pessimistic. Let's do everything we can to ensure there are 'no more Hiroshimas'. Let's back Mayor Akiba's campaign for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Shabbir Ahmed
Lord Mayor of Coventry
(Conservative)

Ken Livingstone
Mayor of London
(Labour)

Cllr Jim Campbell
Lord Mayor of Oxford
(Liberal Democrat)

Joining Mayors for Peace is easy and costs nothing. The council can discuss the Model Resolution on Page 7 and amend it if they wish. The Mayor or Council Leader can then sign the Registration Form and return it to the Mayors for Peace headquarters in Hiroshima.*

As of 2010, each member council is provided with a suggested campaign contribution amount, calculated by the GNI of the country and the population of the town/city. This is only a suggested amount; contribution to the campaign is **completely voluntary.*



A Model Council Resolution

This Council acknowledges the current danger of nuclear weapons proliferation, and recognises the achievement of Mayors for Peace in coordinating more than 4,069 cities towns and localities in 144 countries to promote the total abolition of nuclear weapons and pursue lasting peace in the world.

This Council pledges its support for, and undertakes to join, the 62 local authorities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland who are members of international Mayors for Peace.



Mayors for Peace Registration Form

To Dr. Tadatoshi Akiba
Mayor of Hiroshima
President of Mayors for Peace, Mayors for Peace Secretariat
1-5 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima, Japan
TEL: 81-82-242-7821, FAX: 81-82-242-7452, mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

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

Name of your country: _____

Name of your city/municipality: _____

Mayor/Council Leader's name: _____ Gender: Male Female

Address: _____

TEL: _____

FAX: _____

E-mail: _____

Contact person

Name: _____ Gender: Male Female

Position: _____

E-mail: _____

Website: _____

Population: _____

Date: _____

Mayor or Council Leader's Signature: _____

*This registration form is to express 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.