

# Mayors for Peace Joint Appeal

Calling for peaceful resolution of armed conflicts and the elimination of nuclear weapons

February 22, 2024

It has been almost two years since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began. While this protracted war shows no signs of coming to an end, the global state of turmoil has intensified even further due to the conflict between armed forces in Israel and Palestine, and ongoing warfare continues to deprive countless citizens of their lives and livelihoods. On behalf of the Mayors for Peace network, we offer our sincerest condolences to all of the victims and call for a ceasefire at the earliest possible date.

Before these conflicts, the nuclear-weapon states—the US, Russia, the UK, France, and China—issued a joint statement reaffirming that “a nuclear war cannot be won.” Despite this assertion, the use of nuclear weapons has been implied as a concrete and realistic option during the course of these conflicts. Moreover, programs for the expansion and modernization of nuclear arsenals are underway, as if they are countermeasures against such intimidation. These tactics have the potential to trigger a nuclear arms race.

For many long years, the atomic-bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have advocated that nuclear weapons are weapons that must never be used. Thus, we are profoundly concerned to see the public perception of nuclear weapons drastically change from weapons that must never be used to weapons that might be used amidst the current international circumstances. For all these reasons, the atomic-bombed cities are greatly concerned about the increasing risk of creating another Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Now is the time for the whole of civil society to unite in fostering peace consciousness: to put an end to the use of force against cities that kills countless innocent civilians, to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and to resolve issues through dialogue.

Fellow peace-loving people of the world, we urge you to join Mayors for Peace in its efforts to create momentum to gain global support for the promotion of the culture of peace—a culture in which each of us thinks about peace in our daily lives and puts it into practice—to take root across civil society. Let us foster this shared value to create an environment that does not legitimize war, conflict, discrimination, prejudice, or any other forms of violence.

We urge all policymakers to fully embrace the voices of civil society for peace, and to further engage in diplomatic efforts to pursue the peaceful resolution of conflicts through dialogue, not the use of intimidation or force. Amidst our earnest appeal, we hereby call upon the leaders to take concrete steps toward the realization of a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.



MATSUI Kazumi  
President of Mayors for Peace  
Mayor of Hiroshima



SUZUKI Shiro  
Vice President of Mayors for Peace  
Mayor of Nagasaki