



Hiroshima Day - August 6

Please join us on August 6 for the opening at 9am of the *Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum's poster display at City Hall, Grand Parade, Halifax*. Plans include music, speeches, poetry, and refreshments. The display is open to the public from 9am to 2pm for three days. Council regulations mean that a volunteer needs to attend the display for the full public time. *Might you be available?* At 11:30, a Peace Flag raising ceremony will start and Mayor Andy Fillmore will read a proclamation memorializing the significance of this day and this 80th anniversary. At noon the City Hall bells will chime.

HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

POSTER EXHIBITION

COMMEMORATING 80 YEARS FOR DISARMAMENT
HALIFAX CITY HALL 6-8 AUGUST,
1841 ARGYLE ST
KJIPUKTUK/HALIFAX
2025

OPENING CEREMONY: 9AM WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6
EXHIBIT OPEN DAILY 9AM -2PM FREE ADMISSION



80th Anniversary – Atomic Bombs¹

Eighty years ago this year, American forces dropped atomic bombs on Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. By the end of that year (1945), some 145,000 people died in Hiroshima and 74,000 in Nagasaki.

“In Hiroshima 90 per cent of physicians and nurses were killed or injured; 42 of 45 hospitals were rendered non-functional; and 70 per cent of victims had combined injuries including, in most cases, severe burns....Five to six years after the bombings, the incidence of leukaemia increased noticeably among survivors. After about a decade, survivors began suffering from thyroid, breast, lung and other cancers at higher than normal rates. Pregnant women exposed to the bombings experienced higher rates of miscarriage and deaths among their infants; their children were more likely to have intellectual disabilities, impaired growth and an increased risk of *developing cancer*.”²

The Hibakusha (survivors of the bombings) are integral to keeping alive these horrific events “because they are among the few true nuclear weapons experts to have experienced the actual impact of these weapons - but also because of the tireless

¹ Atomic bombs and nuclear bombs are often used interchangeably. An atomic bomb is a nuclear weapon that uses nuclear fission (splitting of atoms) to release energy. A nuclear bomb is a broader phrase meaning any

weapon that utilizes nuclear reactions (e.g., fission, fusion).

²

https://www.icanw.org/hiroshima_and_nagasaki_bombings

efforts of many Hibakusha to eliminate nuclear weapons.” In a 2018 Kyodo News poll, 80.2% of Hibakusha welcomed the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) that was adopted in 2017 by 122 of UN member states.^{3 4}

Their stories of hope and determination must never be forgot or lost. There are many testimonies: Hibakusha Stories and the 1945 project, and resources by the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum.⁵

Disappointingly, at the last two meetings of States Parties (2MSP 2023, 3MSP 2025) of the TPNW, Japan did not participate.⁶ However, there was a large civil society contingent including the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki⁷ who gave impassioned speeches about the need for ongoing education about nuclear weapons with a focus on youth involvement. This year with the 80th anniversary of the bombings, the Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture has created a special anniversary website “Hiroshima Organization for Global Peace (HOPe).”⁸

ICAN – International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons⁹

ICAN is a coalition of NGOs in 100+ countries promoting adherence to and implementation of the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

It was first launched in Melbourne, Australia in April 2007 to promote nuclear disarmament, and it was Melbourne-based obstetrician and former co-president of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), Ron McCoy, who first put this proposal forward. At IPPNW’s 17th World Congress in 2006 in Helsinki, Finland, it adopted ICAN as a priority action and the next year ICAN had its first office in Melbourne.¹⁰

Dr. Bill Williams, ICAN co-founder stated in 2006 that “[w]e need a determined worldwide movement to outlaw and abolish nukes. To get there in this generation, we need to build the wave of public opinion into a mighty crescendo: a massive, surging, irresistible force which carries us all the way to absolutely zero nukes. Without it, even the most inspirational of leaders will falter on the way.”¹¹

In 2017, ICAN received the Nobel Peace Prize “for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons”¹²

“Each person had a name. Each person was loved by someone. Let us ensure that their deaths were not in vain.” Setsuko Thurlow (Hibakusha) on accepting the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of ICAN.

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https://www.icanw.org/hiroshima_and_nagasaki_bombings

⁴ “No nuclear powers or NATO countries supported the Treaty. Of Nordic countries, only Sweden voted for the TPNW” (<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2017/ican/facts/>)

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https://www.icanw.org/hiroshima_and_nagasaki_bombings

⁶ <https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/15632375>

⁷ <https://www.icanw.org/japan>

⁸ <https://www.pref.hiroshima.lg.jp/site/peace80-en/>

⁹ <https://www.icanw.org/>

¹⁰ <https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/ican-wins-nobel-peace-prize>

¹¹ <https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/ican-wins-nobel-peace-prize>

¹²

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2017/ican/facts/>