

2026 Citizens' Gathering

“Toward a Peaceful World Free of War and Nuclear Weapons”

(An Appeal from Hiroshima)

“Let all the souls here rest in peace; For we shall not repeat the evil.”

These words are inscribed on the Cenotaph for the Atomic Bomb Victims in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. They express a pledge made by all people to pray for the repose of the souls of the atomic bomb victims and to vow never to repeat the mistake of war. They embody the “Spirit of Hiroshima,” which endures past sorrow, transcends hatred, and expresses a hope for the coexistence and prosperity of all humankind, together with a prayer for the realization of true world peace.



Atomic Bomb Victims

On August 6, 1945, an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, claiming approximately 140,000 precious lives by the end of that year. Mothers who continued searching for their families, children who collapsed while holding the hands of their younger brothers and sisters, women preparing breakfast at home—remembering the anguish of each and every one of them and praying for the repose of all atomic bomb victims is the wish contained in this epitaph.

Yet since the beginning of the 2020s, conflicts such as the war in Ukraine and violence in the Middle East have taken the lives of hundreds of thousands of civilians. The use of armed force against other countries based on military superiority constitutes a violation of international law. The Preamble of the United Nations Charter upholds the principle of the equal rights of nations large and small and declares the determination to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice brought untold suffering to humankind.

Japan's Constitution, which forms the foundation of our daily lives, permanently renounces war and the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes, based on deep reflection on the last world war.

Never repeat the mistake of war—this is the message that Hiroshima conveys to the world.

Against this backdrop, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force in January 2021. It is a groundbreaking international treaty that, for the first time, comprehensively prohibits the use, development, and possession of nuclear weapons. It represents the achievement of an approach in which citizens of the world unite to overcome the threat of human extinction.

In addition, in December 2024, Nihon Hidankyo (Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. This honor reflects the achievements of the hibakusha's persistent testimony and serves as a warning to world leaders, while also embodying expectations for heightened awareness within

civil society toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Experts point out that if nuclear weapons were ever to be used, the result would be the destruction of the world and could lead to the extinction of humankind.

Armed with the justification of “deterrence,” global military spending now exceeds approximately 430 trillion yen (2.7 trillion U.S. dollars) annually, and about 12,000 nuclear warheads still exist on this planet.

Nuclear weapons not only claim countless lives in an instant, but also cause “endless suffering,” including poverty, discrimination and prejudice, and health problems caused by radiation. That reality exists here, in Hiroshima.

To the world’ s leaders and to all citizens:

Please listen to the Spirit of Hiroshima.

Please confront the reality of the atomic bombing.

Please recall the “pledge” that looks to the future, born from the tragic experiences of the past.

At a time when dominance by force is sweeping across the world, we urge you to actively advance peace diplomacy based on humanitarian principles, with the Three Non-Nuclear Principles as its foundation. We, as citizens, are determined to transcend differences in beliefs and ideologies, to stand in solidarity, and to press forward toward the realization of a world free of war and nuclear weapons, so that all people may live in safety and dignity. With this resolve, we issue the following appeal:



Atomic Bomb Dome

1. We will stand in solidarity beyond differences in beliefs and ideologies, based on respect for human dignity.
1. We protest against powerful states threatening other countries through military force and call for the immediate cessation of all ongoing conflicts.
1. We call upon the Government of Japan and all governments worldwide to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
1. As citizens actively engaged in Hiroshima, an atomic-bombed city, we will stand together and promote grassroots activities in our communities.

No More Hiroshima, No More Nagasaki, No More Hibakusha, No More War

April 18, 2026 Citizens’ Gathering

“Toward a Peaceful World Free of War and Nuclear Weapons”

To the world’ s leaders and to all citizens

This appeal is the “heart of Hiroshima” and “appeal from Hiroshima” confirmed at the “Peaceful World Without War and Nuclear Weapons” citizens’ gathering held in Hiroshima on April 18, 2026. It is the power of citizens who wish for peace that moves the world. Please read and agree.

Citizens’ Gathering

“Toward a Peaceful World Free of War and Nuclear Weapons”