

The 75th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

ICAN Cities Appeal

On August 6th and 9th, the world will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings by the US which totally destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing or wounding hundreds of thousands of people. The average age of surviving Hibakusha is now 80 years; this year may well be the last major commemoration for many Hibakusha -- especially those with personal memories of the attacks.

ICAN's message for the 75th anniversary will be: *to honor the Hibakusha we must not simply **Remember** them, we must **Act**.*

As cities are the main targets of nuclear weapons, cities have a special responsibility to their constituents to speak out against any role for nuclear weapons in national security doctrines. The pressure from the grassroots, catalyzed by city governments, can contribute directly significantly to the success of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

ICAN partners have made significant progress in getting cities to join the ICAN Cities Appeal (ICA). In the run-up to the 75th Anniversary, we should continue to get more signatures from new cities and towns and, most importantly, encourage cities and towns who are on the appeal to speak out and take action in solidarity with Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Suggested actions

Cities and towns can:

- Publish a **statement or press release** commemorating Hiroshima and Nagasaki by announcing their support for the ICA and the TPNW;
- Publish an **op-ed or an open letter** in the run-up to or on the 75th expressing their solidarity with the Hibakusha and urging the national government to join the TPNW;
- Record a short **video message** from the Mayor on August 6th or 9th to express solidarity with the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and share this video with ICAN;
- Publish supportive message on **Social Media**, using #nuclearban, referencing the ICA and TPNW on August 6th or August 9th
- Co-sign a **joint statement** commemorating the 75th Anniversary, highlighting the urgency of prohibiting and eliminating nuclear weapons and the importance of the TPNW
- Host a **public event** in cooperation with a local ICAN partner; See for example: https://twitter.com/ican_australia/status/958959197340626944/photo/1
- Explore the possibilities of **using public spaces** to visually commemorate the anniversary, for example putting on an installation or exhibition at well-known public landmarks or hanging the ICAN flag above city hall;
- Announce a **policy on divestment** to ensure that funds administered by the city / town are not invested in companies that produce nuclear weapons.



Associated materials / plans

- End May: ICAN Staff to share **draft letter** to send to ICA signees with partners that have been active in getting cities / towns to sign ICA;
- Early June: ICAN Staff Team shares draft **exhibition boards** for joint actions with cities;
- Early June: ICAN Staff Team to **email letter** to all ICA signees (for which it has contact information) to encourage action for the 75th Anniversary;
- Early / mid-June: ICAN staff to share **sample Tweets and Facebook messages** with ICAN Partners for cities / towns to use on August 6th / 9th
- Early / mid-June: ICAN staff to share **template op-ed for Mayors** with ICAN Partners to encourage them to publish around August 6th / 9th.
- July – August: Follow-ups