

Commitment to Peace

Eight-fifteen a.m. on August 6, 1945. Everything in Hiroshima City was instantly destroyed. The atomic bombing ravaged bodies with extreme heat and powerful blast, contaminating the city with lethal radiation. By the end of the year, approximately 140,000 lives had been lost. Countless sorrows were born in the lost dreams, hopes, and futures of those 140,000 persons.

On November 22, 2005, a grievous, painful crime was committed in our community. That incident robbed us of the lifestyle that we had taken for granted. We could no longer walk home from school chatting with our friends, no longer go out alone. We learned from that incident the weight of a single human life.

Each of the countless lives stolen by the atomic bombing and lost in war is as valuable as the life stolen that day. Thinking about one life leads us to think about a great number of lives. Our lives belong not only to ourselves but to our families and everyone else who needs us.

What is peace?

Peace is the absence of fighting and war. It means no bullying, violence, crime, poverty, or hunger.

Peace is going to school, studying, playing, and eating without fear.

These day-to-day activities that we take for granted can be called peace.

To make every place in the world peaceful, each of us must communicate to others what we think, and then accept what they think—that is, to open our hearts to each other. Humans have words. If we open our hearts, we can discuss things. If we discuss, we will not fight.

Caring about others, not only ourselves, and getting along—these are also needed for peace.

When our grandparents and other *hibakusha* told us what they underwent during the atomic bombing and when we participated in peace studies, we learned about the atomic bombing and war. But there is still much we do not know. We must keep learning from what happened in Hiroshima and share this with others.

We pledge to cherish life and live our lives to the fullest.

We, the children of Hiroshima, pledge to serve as a bridge between countries and people around the world, and continue with each step seeking to open the door to peace.

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Children's Representatives

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