

Hiroshima Appeal 2024

In a world where conflicts still happen, it's more important than ever that young people work together to achieve peace.

In Hiroshima, 25 young people from seven different cities from around the world gathered for nine days. We talked about peace and learned from each other. We are the 2024 International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future (IYCPF).

We visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum. There we learned about the tragic effects of the atomic bomb and the importance of peace. We gathered in group discussions where we talked about the challenges of peace and shared ideas on how to create a more peaceful world. We held workshops where we created action plans, and we spent time getting to know each other's cultures.

As we discussed, we agreed that the basic needs of peace—safety, food, and stability—are threatened by global challenges: conflicts, environmental problems, population problems, lack of knowledge, and extremism causing disruption to sustainability.

During wars such as the Ukrainian-Russian and Palestinian-Israeli, people suffer and are forced to part with their families. When the people lack even the basic needs to survive—shelter, security, and sustenance—how can we expect them to contribute to peace?

We noticed the population issue. As societies age, they lose their labor force, leading to decreased sustainability. Similarly, overpopulation in some parts of the world results in food shortages, endangering the basic needs of peace. With society lagging and people starving, how can we expect peace? These pressures are often worsened by immigration challenges, as people flee from conflicts or economic hardship, straining the infrastructure and resources of host countries. With societies struggling to provide for their citizens, dealing with the complexities of immigration, and people going hungry, how can we hope for peace to flourish?

Additionally, over-consumption across the globe is causing widespread pollution. Clean water is disappearing, air quality is declining, and the sea is being burdened with waste. When the environment is degraded and resources are depleted, how can we expect to

sustain peace?

What's more, the lack of access to quality education leaves millions without the knowledge and skills needed to succeed. In regions plagued by poverty and conflicts, children are often deprived of the opportunity to learn. Without education, people are vulnerable to manipulation, unable to advocate for their rights, and less likely to contribute positively to society. How can we expect a peaceful and prosperous future when so many are deprived of the tools they need to succeed?

We noticed that social inequality and misinformation fueled extremism. It is undermining global security. When divisions deepen and trust erodes, how can we build a peaceful and secure world?

As a result of our questions and discussions, we have concluded that education is the key to knowledge and communication. It is a powerful tool that could create positive change, that is why such a tool should be accessible for the public. Knowledge is not just gained inside the classroom, but also through participating and active engagement in the community. Having cheap and easy access to knowledge is a human right, and education should be open to everyone.

We are young people from China, Germany, Iran, Japan, the Philippines, and South Korea. Many countries and governments are causing war, encouraging war, or supporting war with weapons. What can we, as the youth, do that is different? We have chosen communication and understanding instead of violence. We have pledged to actively work for peace in the future, and we are willing to demand this from others.

Despite cultural differences, a bond has been formed through various perspectives, stories, and experiences. We have achieved a global vision through communication. We found solutions to the five challenges. We should all come together with our own pieces to create a global peace.

August 13th, 2024