

Commitment to Peace

We will never forget what happened in Hiroshima on August sixth 62 years ago. That day, the city became a red sea of fire, and everything burned away to nothing. The rivers filled with corpses and those who survived were so badly wounded in body and spirit they could not even shed a tear.

Burns rendered eyes, noses and mouths unrecognizable. Countless shards of glass pierced arms and legs.

That day, Hiroshima was a terrible place of anger and sorrow.

This is atomic bombing. This is war. This is something that really happened.

Yet there was one thing that was not lost, even to the atomic bombing.

That was hope for life.

Amid the ruins, our grandparents retained this hope for life, even though their bodies and spirits were in shreds, even though they endured great suffering. They rebuilt Hiroshima on the land scorched by atomic bombing, driven by the desire to make their city, reborn after great sacrifice, shine brighter. Today, Hiroshima is a very peaceful place, rich in nature and bustling with people, filled with smiling faces.

Now, television and newspapers tell of endless wars claiming many lives throughout the world, producing children who do not know if they will survive until tomorrow, or if they will be able to eat today.

Close to home, bullying and quarrelling damage the bodies and spirits of many people around us. Everybody is capable of feeling a desire for revenge when wronged. However, nothing will come of inflicting the hardship and sadness that we suffer onto others—doing so will only cause an endless continuation of the same suffering.

The creation of a peaceful world requires that each of us display kindness and strength to become the final link in the chains of hatred and sorrow that we encounter. It is also important that we transcend cultural and historical differences, accept each other, and understand each other's thoughts and feelings.

We are here today because our grandparents fought to hold onto lives that nearly slipped away. It is our mission to convey the terrifying reality and sadness of atomic bombing and war to as many people as possible.

We cannot save the people who suffered on that day, but we can save the people of the future.

We will not turn Hiroshima's experience into a story of long, long ago.

We will continue our appeal, "End war and scrap nuclear weapons!"

And we pledge to use the Flame of Peace to join the hearts of people throughout the world.

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Children's Representatives

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