

Commitment to Peace

War is the work of man.
War is destruction of human life.
War is death.

To remember the past is to commit oneself to the future.
To remember Hiroshima is to abhor nuclear war.
To remember Hiroshima is to commit oneself to peace.

These words are taken from the message Pope John Paul II, who passed away this year, spoke to the world in February 1981 from the Cenotaph for the Atomic Bomb Victims here in Peace Memorial Park.

Hiroshima has called continuously for world peace, yet nuclear weapons still exist in a world with unceasing war and terrorism. Children just like us are losing their lives to bullets and landmines. And what about our own communities? Incidents occur in which children are injured and killed. Violence and bullying continue.

What must we do to build a genuinely peaceful world?
War, fighting, bullying, violence—all are the work of human beings. All occur in the minds of men. Therefore, we must cultivate minds that value life and empathize with others. First, we must get to know others and understand our differences. Then, we must resolve those differences not through violence but through dialogue. This is where we can begin.

We heard a *hibakusha* tell her story. She had never spoken to anyone about the bombing because she always thought, “No one could ever understand what happened at that time.” But now, having passed the age of 70, she speaks to groups of local junior high school students. She is determined to tell us what happened on August 6, that the A-bomb is unacceptable, and that war is unacceptable.

In honor of the 60th anniversary of the bombing, we renew our determination to carry on the quest of the *hibakusha*,
to continue telling the world about the horrors of nuclear weapons,
to learn and pass on the Hiroshima story,
until we build a world at peace.

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Children’s Representatives
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