



The Honorable Fumio Kishida  
Prime Minister of Japan  
G7 Presidency, 2023

12<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

Greetings to you from leaders of the Catholic peace movement, Pax Christi International. Our worldwide membership includes peace organisations in each of the G7 countries which Japan will soon host in Hiroshima.

We would like to commend you for hosting the G7 summit in the first city to be attacked by an atomic bomb. You as Prime Minister, Hiroshima as a city and Japan as a nation are uniquely placed to ensure that the G7 addresses today's grave nuclear threats with a call-to-action worthy of the city where it meets.

Momentum is building for consequential new measures to abolish nuclear weapons. There is no better place to take such steps than in a city they have destroyed.

Threats made during the war in Ukraine have made it clear that possession of nuclear weapons is not a deterrent. Nuclear-armed states and their allies are on alert to respond.

Yet 147 states declared at the NPT Review Conference in August 2022: "The very survival of humanity" requires that "nuclear weapons are never used again". NATO's Secretary General stated in October 2022: "Any use of nuclear weapons is absolutely unacceptable". In November 2022 Chinese President Xi Jin Pin said he and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, "jointly oppose the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons".

Then the G20 summit in Bali declared: "The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible." We note that the G20 includes six nuclear-armed states and six states which rely on the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

The G7 Summit in Japan is a strategic opportunity to build upon these declarations of "never again," "unacceptable," "inadmissible" and neither "threat" nor "use".

We would therefore call your attention to Pope Francis' declaration in Hiroshima in November 2019. The pope called "the possession" of atomic weapon "immoral," as well as their use.

Phone : +32 (0)2 502 55 50 • [hello@paxchr](mailto:hello@paxchr)

[www.paxchristi.net](http://www.paxchristi.net)



Surely, the greatest honour the G7 could offer the people of Hiroshima is to acknowledge in their city that no city is truly safe as long as any country possesses nuclear weapons.

We therefore respectfully suggest that all possible consideration be given for the G7 to take the following positive actions in Hiroshima:

- The G7 leaders meet with atomic bomb survivors in Hiroshima;
- The G7 leaders resolve to adopt collective, verifiable steps to reduce nuclear arsenals;
- G7 leaders agree to cooperate with states-parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in providing victim assistance and environmental remediation for people harmed by nuclear weapons;
- G7 leaders undertake to pursue and set a common deadline for the elimination of all nuclear arsenals.

In closing, we would like to offer a word of hope regarding the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. At the first meeting of the new TPNW in Vienna last June, states-parties agreed on steps to help people and places harmed by nuclear weapons. Kazakhstan, Kiribati and other affected countries were encouraged. Japan would be uniquely welcome in this initiative too.

With best wishes for the Hiroshima Summit and for Japan's G7 Presidency, in the service of peace;

Sincerely yours,

Martha Inés Romero (Colombia),  
Secretary General of Pax Christi International

Teresia Wamuyu Wachira (Kenya) and Bishop Marc Stenger (France)  
Co-Presidents of Pax Christi International

**France –**

Bishop Hubert Herbreteau, Bishop of Agen, President of Pax Christi France  
Bishop Michel Dubost, Bishop Emeritus of Army  
Alfonso Zardi, General delegate of Pax Christi France  
Patrick Hubert, Member of the Community "Mission de France"

Phone : +32 (0)2 502 55 50 • [hello@paxchr](mailto:hello@paxchr)

[www.paxchristi.net](http://www.paxchristi.net)



**Germany –**

Bishop Peter Kohlgraf, Bishop of Mainz, President of Pax Christi Germany

**Italy –**

Bishop Giovanni Ricchiuti, Bishop President of Pax Christi Italy

**Japan –**

Archbishop Nakamura, Archbishop of Nagasaki

Archbishop Takami, Archbishop Emeritus of Nagasaki

Bishop Shirahama, Bishop of Hiroshima

Bishop Wayne Byrndt, President Bishop of Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP)

Bishop Edgar Gacutan, Bishop in charge of the CCJP

Father Mitsunobu, SJ, Secretary of the CCJP

**United Kingdom –**

Archbishop William Nolan, Archbishop of Glasgow

Bishop Brian McGee, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, Bishop President of Interreligious Dialogue

Bishop John Keenan, Bishop of Paisley

Bishop Joseph Toal, Bishop of Motherwell

Father David Stewart, Jesuits Edinburgh & Justice & Peace Scotland

Father Jim Clarke Chaplain, Pax Christi Scotland & Provincial, Xaverian Missionaries

Marian Pallister, Chair of Pax Christi Scotland

Andrew Jackson, Chief Executive of Pax Christi England and Wales

Ann Farr, Chair of Pax Christi England and Wales

Emma Cockburn, Scotland Coordinator at Campaign Against Arms Trade

Jill Kent, Chair of Justice & Peace Scotland

David Mackenzie, Secretary of Secure Scotland

**United States of America –**

Archbishop John Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe

Archbishop Paul Etienne, Archbishop of Seattle

Bishop John Stowe, Bishop of Lexington, Bishop-President Pax Christi USA

Bishop Thomas Zinkula, Bishop of Davenport

Father John Dear, Beatitudes Center

Marie Dennis, Co-President Emerita, Pax Christi International

Johnny Zokovitch, Executive Director Pax Christi USA

Nick Mele, Volunteer Advisor to Pax Christi USA on nuclear abolition

Phone : +32 (0)2 502 55 50 • [hello@paxchr](mailto:hello@paxchr)

[www.paxchristi.net](http://www.paxchristi.net)



Charlene Howard, National Council Chair

**Republic of Korea -**

Bishop Timotheus Yoo, Auxiliary Bishop of Seoul

**CC:**

**France –**

Emmanuel Macron, Président

Alexis Kohler Secrétaire général du Président

Catherine Colona, Ministre des affaires étrangères

Sébastien Lecornu, Ministre des Armées

Christian Carbon, Président de la Commission de la défense et des Affaires étrangères, Sénat

Jean-Louis Bourlanges, Président de la Commission des Affaires étrangères, Assemblée

Thomas Gassilloud, Nationale la défense Président de la Commission de la défense, Assemblée Nationale

Benoît Ostertag, President La Vie Nouvelle

Chantal Koenig, La Vie Nouvelle

Daniel Lenoir, President Démocratie et Spiritualité

Laurence Vernant-Faber, General Secretary of Démocratie et Spiritualité

Christian Mellon, CERAS

**United Kingdom –**

Rishi Sunak MP, Prime Minister

Humza Yusaf, First Minister of Scotland

James Cleverley MP, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs

Ben Wallace MP, Secretary for Defense

**United States of America –**

Joseph Biden, President

Kamala Harris, Vice President, President of the Senate

Anthony Blinken, Secretary of State

Lloyd Austin, Secretary of Defense

Kevin McCarthy, Speaker of the House of Representatives

Phone : +32 (0)2 502 55 50 • [hello@paxchr](mailto:hello@paxchr)

[www.paxchristi.net](http://www.paxchristi.net)