

From Hiroshima to the World

presented by

Hiroshima G7 Summit Junior Conference

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We are twenty-four high school students from the G7 countries: France, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Italy, and Canada. We participated in the Hiroshima G7 Summit Junior Conference which deepened our understanding of global issues that we face through discussion and envisioning solutions.

We primarily focused on three topics: peace, sustainability, and diversity and inclusion. Recognizing that there are various issues connected to these topics, we considered solutions and how we, the younger generation, can contribute to building a better future.

It's essential to learn from the past and maintain the diverse memories of what happened. Although we were aware of the atrocities on a superficial level, the testimonies shared by the hibakusha revealed the "invisible scars" that still impact individuals and communities today. We need to make sure that everyone truly understands the diverse history of Hiroshima and its effects on humanity in order to ensure the tragedy is not repeated. Only by standing in this place and embracing the victims' experiences can we fully understand how to build a peaceful future together.

Peace Group

We, the Peace Group took a study tour to Okunoshima to visit the former Japanese chemical weapons plant that produced chemical weapons whose victims include the workers at the plant, and that were used against Chinese people, and still pose a threat there today.

Our memories must not be only based on chosen historical events, how we were harmed, but a collective history which includes the memory of how we harmed others, and who we harmed.

Sustainability Group

We enjoyed an insightful and fruitful day learning about environmental sustainability at the Seifu-shinto Biomass Power Plant and R&D Demonstration Base for Carbon Recycling at Osaki-Kamijima.

These experiences emphasized the importance of investing in alternative renewable solutions like algae-based biofuels or re-using CO2 to our advantage with carbon recycling, and ensuring sustainability with the support of local communities.

Diversity and Inclusion Group

During the study tour we broadened our cultural horizons by learning the history of Kumano calligraphy brushes; watching and experiencing calligraphy with local high school students; interacting with international students at Hiroshima University; sharing opinions about cultural and religious diversity; and learning about Higashihiroshima City's commitment to integrating foreigners into the city.

We learned that societal views are often limited to cultural and ethnic diversity and critical issues like gender equality, LGBTQ+ rights, disabilities, and generational differences are less discussed. The perspectives of how our society sees diversity and inclusion must be expanded.

Peace Group

Based on our unique cultures, we must learn to collaborate to address global barriers to peace.

Sustainability Group

Whilst this document is one “small” step, together we can make a sustainable leap for mankind.

Diversity and Inclusion Group

As youth representatives of the G7 countries, we demand that the youth play key roles in the discussions surrounding diversity and inclusion as there are many crucial issues that must be addressed now. Our perspectives are the future.

Peace Group

We recognize

- that there is political division in societies (right/left) and a lack of dialogue making it hard for groups to listen to each other and make contact, and leading to extreme ways of thinking and social polarization.
- the dangers of radicalization and violence, leading to conflict within societies.
- the dangers of state violence and war to human beings.
- nuclear weapons as a threat both in warfare and manufacture and testing and the legacies of their past use as seen in Hiroshima & Nagasaki.
- the increasing belligerence between nations in Northeast Asia and the dangers of a new arms race.
- that the lack of a conversation between generations impedes effective social change and growth.
- that there is ignorance and misconceptions about the global hibakusha and their experiences.
- Peacebuilding through a commitment to our personal happiness.
- the lack of support for the work of NGO/NPO organizations and their financial needs.
- that social media is a site of risk and possibility in encouraging both violence or peace in societies.
- the importance of preserving historical sites and maintaining the memory of historical trauma.
- genocide is a crime against humanity and must be vigilantly guarded against.

We recommend

- the need to emphasize the “we” - the collective responsibility for past harm in warfare - and Hiroshima’s experience as a guide for future behavior embodied in the inscription: “Let all the souls here rest in peace; for we shall not repeat the evil.”
- the resolution of the Ukraine/Russia war is partly our responsibility and we will work towards this goal.
- that it is important for people and politicians who disagree politically to sit together, have dialogue and listen to each other respectfully.
- increased and ongoing vigilance in the role social media plays in spreading mis/dis-information in societies and support strong content moderation while also being sensitive to the risks of censorship.
- active educational measures to increase training in critical thinking and recognizing false statements in social media and the news.
- finding issues that affect people across political divides and that can unite them in a common cause and facilitate community building.
- that we must seek nuclear disarmament and abolition through such tools as treaties & prohibitions.
- that Japan attend or participate in TPNW negotiations, even if only as an observer.
- that mechanisms should be established for the inclusion of the views and opinions of young people in political decision making and discussions in societies.
- education about the history of the global hibakusha (not only Hiroshima & Nagasaki, but all victims of nuclear weapons) and a dedication to preventing similar harm from occurring to people in the future.
- the establishment of cultural symbols as constant reminders of the harm of nuclear weapons and the risks of war, and the spreading of these symbols throughout our societies.
- the promotion of cultural events focused on peace in societies as modeled in Hiroshima and Manchester.
- providing financial support for peace focused NGO/NPOs in societies.
- encouraging the robust support for maintaining and providing access to historical sites of trauma by government.
- achieving gender equity in political representation, especially in nuclear weapon states.

We are committed to

- sharing information about the reality of the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima & Nagasaki and their impacts on human beings globally.
- transmitting the content and the importance of historical memory and insuring it endures for future generations.
- peacebuilding through a commitment to our personal happiness and using our talents and interests to support social movements and propagate their messages.
- not being afraid to state our fears and express our opinions freely, while being more accepting and tolerant of different ideas and the opinions of others.
- staying engaged with each other and our generation regardless of our acceptance by the current political structure.
- actively participating in the political structures of our societies and embracing our personal responsibility in shaping our future.
- in order to not just pass on these problems to our children, we will directly address issues that threaten both ourselves and future generations.

Sustainability Group

We recognize

- that human activity is causing climate change that has a massive impact on nature, causing the rise of sea levels, acidification of the oceans, droughts, and wildfires.
- that without immediate action, greenhouse gas emissions will exceed our goals of limiting a global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- 80% of energy production is from fossil fuels, and the current share of renewable energy is not capable of offsetting the effect.
- that water is a resource becoming more and more scarce, unequally available in the world.
- that current economic systems, heavily dependent on non-renewable sources, are unsustainable.
- that at the rate of current global emissions, it is unrealistic to achieve the Paris Agreement goals by 2030.
- that digitalization has the ability to be a force for good in connecting communities and reducing the environmental impact, as long as proper regulations are instituted to enable sustainable consumption.

We recommend

- imposing economic and trade sanctions on the *developed countries* who are not on track in reducing emissions by 45% by 2030 as suggested by the IPCC.
- the mandate of labeled products clearly showing the amount of negative emissions their products produce.
- that governments incentivize companies to use carbon pricing to become more and eventually solely dependent on renewable materials.
- making digital devices more sustainable by regulating planned obsolescence, repairing hardware as a consumer, and digitalizing electronic documents.
- that developed countries take responsibility for their actions with climate change and support vulnerable states by adhering to the Loss and Damage agreement.
- considering the geographical specificities of neighboring countries similar to the Indus Water Treaty ensuring that all countries have access to fresh water flowing from rivers and lakes.
- both individual and structural actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

We are committed to

- producing less plastic waste by relying less on plastic materials and placing a greater emphasis on re-usable goods made out of sustainable materials.
- actively participating to ensure structural changes through voting and activism to lead to a more sustainable society.
- repairing our every-day items, such as clothing and our electronic devices, before we buy new ones to save resources for future generations.
- reducing greenhouse gas emissions with car-pooling and the use of public transportation.
- reducing our carbon footprint by reducing our consumption of red meat.
- promoting sustainability by informing and prioritizing the purchase of environmentally friendly commodities.
- promoting and educating people through our G7 Youth Instagram account (@G7_Youth_Sustainability) with sustainability.

Diversity and Inclusion Group

We recognize

- basic human rights are fundamental and essential for an inclusive society. We would like to specifically highlight the importance of upholding the rights of every individual, including the rights of immigrants and refugees, those with disabilities, and those that are part of the LGBTQ+ community.
- systemic racism and discrimination exist in all G7 countries, and we acknowledge that they can be expressed both directly and indirectly. Direct racism is often conveyed through racial profiling, as well as limiting opportunities and access to services. Indirect racism is often demonstrated through microaggressions, as well as biases and stereotypes.
- gender inequality is an issue that all G7 countries must take initiative to solve. We affirm that reproductive rights, violence against women, unequal pay, and imbalance of power in society are only a few of the many issues surrounding gender equality that must be solved.

We recommend

- solving the issues surrounding basic human rights by updating and implementing proper legal framework in order to facilitate equality across the world. Furthermore, we recommend engaging various people within communities to facilitate better understanding and create more inclusive societies. Finally, we recommend educating people from a young age to respect all human rights.
- solving the issues surrounding systemic racism by using social media as an avenue to spread awareness and address both discreet and radical instances of racism. Moreover, we assert the importance of understanding different cultures and diversities, as well as reevaluating our own stereotypes and unconscious biases in order to make more diverse communities a norm.
- solving the issues surrounding gender inequality by encouraging policymakers to learn from the mistakes of the past, as well as what has and has not worked in other countries, in order to prevent the same issues from continuing to happen in the present and future. Overall, we recommend engaging young and underrepresented people in politics for them to strive to make changes within society.

We are committed to

- being open-minded and forming our own ideas. As the young generation, we need to figure out what we think is right and wrong by educating ourselves, and consider using social networks to make change.
- having and encouraging regular conversations with the older generation about issues surrounding diversity and inclusion, not only to spread our ideas but also to hear and understand their perspectives in order to challenge them.