



## **TIME FOR PEACE**

### **Recommendations from Peace Boat's 120th Global Voyage**

**August 2025, Peace Boat**

Peace Boat's 120th Global Voyage for Peace (April 23 to August 7, 2025) carried approximately 1,700 participants on a 107-day journey visiting 18 countries. The TIME FOR PEACE Project was launched during this cruise, as a special project marking 80 years since the end of World War II. This initiative was driven by the desire to apply Peace Boat's founding philosophy—to “reflect upon the past, to shape a peaceful future”—to the present day.

The voyage brought together people impacted by war from around the world, including Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as NGO practitioners working to prevent conflict and build peace. Together, then engaged throughout in dialogue on choosing coexistence over division, and peace over war. The Onboard International Conference: TIME FOR PEACE was held on July 20, in which approximately 400 participants shared ideas about what each and every one of us can do to promote peace. The voyage was also host to the outreach edition of the Nobel Peace Center's Nobel Peace Prize Exhibition “A Message to Humanity.” This exhibition was visited by approximately 1,800 people throughout the voyage, including both passengers and local community members in ports of call.

Today, wars are being waged around the world. The principle of the United Nations at its founding 80 years ago, to resolve conflicts through peaceful means, is crumbling. Now, more than ever, we must urgently learn again from the lessons of war and take action to ensure peace for the next 80 years. Based on the initiatives which took place during the 120th Global Voyage, Peace Boat proposes the following guidelines for action by civil society and governments in Japan and around the world.

#### **I. Learning about and conveying the impacts of war**

- The impacts of war cannot be conveyed only through the number of casualties. Each person had their own name, their own life. It is essential to understand and communicate the damage caused by war through humanising it, while also cultivating imagination and empathy.
- Conveying the impacts of war should not be the sole responsibility of those directly affected. Generations who have not experienced war must also proactively learn about this suffering, and communicate it in their own words - this has become an urgent task today.

- Forgetting the past is a form of denial. Silence only protects the perpetrators and the systems that caused the harm, not the people who lived through it.
- In Japan, the lack of adequate education on its modern history of colonial rule, wars of aggression, and related criminal acts is a serious problem. We call for improvements in Japan's public education system in this regard, while also strengthening civil society-led education.
- Peace Boat has worked alongside the Hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to share their testimonies worldwide. Following the award of the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize to Nihon Hidankyo (the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations), we will further expand these efforts, in cooperation with the Nobel Peace Center and the United Nations.
- In doing so, it is important to pay attention not only to the inhumanity of the atomic bombings, but also to the historical context that led to bombings, and to the fact that the victims were not only Japanese. We must learn from, engage in solidarity and take action together with Korean and other non-Japanese atomic bomb survivors, as well as other Hibakusha living outside of Japan.
- Around the world, people are victimised at every stage of nuclear weapons development, including nuclear testing. Solidarity with and support for these Global Hibakusha is essential. The nuclear issue is not just a problem of Japan from 80 years in the past; it is a pressing matter of both life and of rights for people around the world today.

## **II Building Societies that Prevent War**

- War is not an incident. War is a project. It is not inevitable, and can - and must - be avoided through human wisdom and action.
- In many wars, governmental propaganda through mass media has played a major role, and art forms such as music and design have been made complicit.
- Social media plays a dangerous role today. While it may appear to be a space for free speech, it has also become a breeding ground for hate speech and disinformation that incite discrimination, division, and hostility. The Holocaust began with hate speech.
- We can use media and the arts to create peace, rather than being manipulated by propaganda or social media. To do so, it is vital to engage in cross-border exchange and expose ourselves to diverse perspectives beyond our own nations or communities.
- Civil society initiatives addressing issues such as local community challenges, discrimination against minorities, gender equality, domestic violence, and the rights of non-regular and migrant workers all contribute to building sustainable peace.
- Efforts to address social injustice and dialogue for conflict resolution strengthen democracy and create a society that can prevent war. Disaster relief and promotion of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are also part of this. Within such activities, human rights protection and inclusivity are essential.

- Education is said to be the most powerful tool for peace. Peace begins with children. More opportunities must be created for children to think about peace. Many pioneering examples, such as the United Nations University for Peace, can offer valuable lessons for peace education.
- Young people should be empowered to take action for peace. To do so, it is necessary for them to recognize historical and international issues as challenges for themselves as they navigate the future.

### **III From Dialogue to Action**

- As many countries turn inward and lean toward nationalism, mutual understanding and dialogue are increasingly important. Furthermore, with authoritarian politics on the rise in many places, mutual support is also essential in order to take the step from dialogue to action.
- Participants of the 120th Global Voyage took various actions: they joined the Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS), advocated to “Stop Killing GAZA,” and raised funds for urgent humanitarian aid for Palestine. Such initiatives must be further expanded.
- Members of SEMA Ukraine, the Global Network for Victims and Survivors of Sexual Violence in Wartime, courageously testify about the horrific realities of wartime sexual violence. We call for global solidarity to immediately put an end to such inhumane acts.
- The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) continues to work for the universalization of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and strengthening of norms that reject nuclear weapons. Citizens everywhere can join this effort by urging banks worldwide to divest from companies involved in nuclear weapons production.
- The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) works in all regions around the world to strengthen locally-led conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Cross-regional collaboration is vital for peacebuilding, enabling the sharing of both best practices and successes as well as of challenges.
- The Northeast Asia Regional Peacebuilding Institute (NARPI) promotes peace education in Northeast Asia, a region of persistent interstate tensions, while the Tehran Peace Museum is a crucial actor in peace education in the Middle East. It is vital to enhance collaboration with such institutions.

Peace Boat’s 120th Global Voyage also established TIME FOR PEACE Communicators - people committed to sharing what they have learned during their time onboard. Let us continue to expand this circle of people who learn and share. That will be a sure step toward peace.