

## **PRESS RELEASE & PHOTO CALL**

This September the Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre is celebrating its own 29th birthday on International Peace Day, which we celebrate this year on a public holiday.

On Monday the 21st, September, UN International Peace Day, at the Centre, Scotland's for Peace is launching an effort to increase the number of Scottish Council Provosts who are Mayors for Peace, signed up to the 20:20 Vision campaign seeking global nuclear disarmament by 2020. Scotland's for Peace was formed in 2004, bringing together campaigning and civic organisations to promote nuclear disarmament and to develop a positive peacemaking role. and the Peace and Justice Centre is a partner, and provides a base in the east of Scotland for its work.

Isobel Lindsay, convenor of *Scotland's for Peace* says

“ It is a great example to all of us that out of the terrible tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have come many initiatives for peace and one of the most important has been the Mayors for Peace campaign, launched by the Hiroshima mayor with the aim of getting local authorities throughout the world to sign up for complete nuclear disarmament by 2020.”

The afternoon event will start at 1.00 at the Peace Pole at the St John's Church, Princes Street, outside the Peace and Justice Centre, where we can affirm the peace pole message, May Peace Prevail on Earth in some of the languages inscribed on the pole in reference to Edinburgh's twin cities.

At 1.30 Edinburgh Councillor Conor Snowden, representing the Nuclear Free Local Authorities, will endorse the Mayor's for Peace campaign. He said

"The Lord Provost of Edinburgh is one of only three Mayors for Peace in Scotland. Edinburgh has been signed up to the vision of nuclear disarmament and a nuclear-free city since the 1980s and with the Lord Provost of Glasgow and the Provost of Shetland is calling on the 29 other Provosts in Scotland to sign up as a Mayor of Peace. 2010 will see the major review of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and I want to see Civic leaders in Scotland say now that 2010 should be the start of nuclear disarmament to rid that world of nuclear weapons by 2020. Hundreds of new Councils sign up every year and it is time for Scotland to be part of that."

This will be followed by a screening of the film *Peace One Day* in the Centre at where visitors can add messages to a giant peace dove banner, enjoy some music from Edinburgh's David Ferrard and Penny Stone and a snack and pick up information about Mayors for Peace as well as the campaign for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, which would outlaw the use of these barbaric and indiscriminate weapons.

Centre co-ordinator Janet Fenton said

“Global Nuclear disarmament is a real possibility at this time, and Scotland's for Peace speaks for the country in looking to all our elected representatives to play their part in bringing it about.”

Geoffrey Carnall, who has been closely involved with the Centre since its inception, added 'at no since the Second World War have the prospects for creating a world order capable of tackling the huge threats to human survival been better. We may still be wasting immense resources on weapons, but Iraq and Afghanistan have discredited the military mind-set, and there is a dawning realisation that the challenge of climate change can only be met by international co-operation.”

**ENDS ENDS**

Further info Janet Fenton 0131 229 0993 or mob 07795594573 janetscotlands4peace@yahoo.co.uk see

[www.mayorsforpeace.org/](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/)

[www.peaceandjustice.org.uk](http://www.peaceandjustice.org.uk)

[www.scotland4peace.org](http://www.scotland4peace.org)

[www.davidferrard.com/fr\\_index.cfm](http://www.davidferrard.com/fr_index.cfm)