

## Japanese atomic bomb survivors win Nobel Peace Prize

14th October 2024



Image: Sean Banville

This year's Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to Nihon Hidankyo - a grassroots group established in 1956 by survivors of the atomic bombings of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The group has spent decades lobbying

governments worldwide for the abolition of nuclear weapons. The Nobel committee said Nihon Hidankyo won the award, "for its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons". Hiroshima and Nagasaki are the only places on Earth where such weapons have been used on civilian populations. Wikipedia says: "The effects of the atomic bombings killed 90,000 to 166,000 people in Hiroshima and 60,000 to 80,000 people in Nagasaki; roughly half occurred on the first day."

The news agency Reuters praised the ongoing legacy of Nihon Hidankyo. It wrote: "For decades - thanks in large part to the work of Nihon Hidankyo - the destruction unleashed on the two Japanese cities was widely seen as a lesson from history that using nuclear weapons again was too appalling to contemplate." However, rising tensions in the world today mean we are closer to the brink of nuclear war than ever before. Russia has warned that the USA's support of Ukraine increases the risks of nuclear conflict. There are fears that Iran is developing nuclear weapons. Meanwhile, North Korea has declared it is accelerating efforts to become "a military superpower and a nuclear power".

Sources: [reuters.com](https://reuters.com) / [wikipedia.org](https://wikipedia.org) / [Mainichi.jp](https://mainichi.jp) / [asahi.com](https://asahi.com)

### Writing

Nuclear weapons are the biggest threat to the world. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Nobel Peace Prize / grassroots / survivors / atomic bombings / Hiroshima / Nagasaki / legacy / destruction / history / nuclear weapon / nuclear war / the brink / superpower

### True / False

- 1) The group Nihon Hidankyo first started during World War II. T / F
- 2) Nihon Hidankyo has pressured governments to abolish nuclear weapons. T / F
- 3) Only two cities have experienced the horrors of nuclear bombs. T / F
- 4) The atom bombs killed more than a quarter of a million people in Japan. T / F
- 5) Reuters said Nihon Hidankyo has taught us a history lesson. T / F
- 6) The article says we are on the brink of nuclear war. T / F
- 7) The article says Iran has developed nuclear weapons. T / F
- 8) The article says North Korea is trying to be a military superpower. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <b>awarded</b>     | a. horrific     |
| 2. <b>established</b> | b. non-military |
| 3. <b>lobbying</b>    | c. commended    |
| 4. <b>civilian</b>    | d. stated       |
| 5. <b>occurred</b>    | e. set up       |
| 6. <b>praised</b>     | f. verge        |
| 7. <b>destruction</b> | g. given        |
| 8. <b>appalling</b>   | h. happened     |
| 9. <b>brink</b>       | i. campaigning  |
| 10. <b>declared</b>   | j. devastation  |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What is your country's policy towards nuclear weapons?
- c) When will we stop waging wars?
- d) Do you think nuclear weapons will ever be used again?
- e) How can we best remember the atomic bombings?
- f) What do you know about a nuclear winter?
- g) Is there a way to stop nuclear proliferation?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the Nobel committees?

## Phrase Match

- |                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. a grassroots               | a. used on civilian populations   |
| 2. survivors                  | b. of nuclear conflict            |
| 3. The group has spent        | c. half occurred on the first day |
| 4. such weapons have been     | d. efforts                        |
| 5. roughly                    | e. decades lobbying governments   |
| 6. The news agency Reuters    | f. of nuclear war                 |
| 7. too appalling              | g. group established in 1956      |
| 8. we are closer to the brink | h. praised the ongoing legacy     |
| 9. increases the risks        | i. to contemplate                 |
| 10. it is accelerating        | j. of the atomic bombings         |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of nuclear weapons?
- What do you think of the Nobel Peace Prize?
- What do you know about Hiroshima and Nagasaki?
- Which nuclear armed countries do you worry about most?
- What needs to happen for the world to become nuclear free?
- How much do you worry about nuclear war?
- Is peace worldwide achievable?
- What advice do you have for Nihon Hidankyo?

## Spelling

- a sroatsrogs group
- iaebetslhds in 1956
- bbiongly governments worldwide
- the liobtoain of nuclear weapons
- used on nilciiva populations
- gyuorhl half occurred on the first day
- Reuters praised the ongoing gayecl
- the destruction ealdsuehn
- too lpngaaipl to contemplate
- the nkrib of nuclear war
- increases the risks of nuclear lcoinfct
- it is lcctainaereg efforts

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. i	4. b	5. h
6. c	7. j	8. a	9. f	10. d

## Role Play

### Role A – Literature

You think the Nobel Prize for Literature is the most important prize. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their prize. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): peace, economics or medicine.

### Role B – Peace

You think the Nobel Peace Prize is the most important prize. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their prize. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): literature, economics or medicine.

### Role C – Economics

You think the Nobel Prize for Economics is the most important prize. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their prize. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): peace, literature or medicine.

### Role D – Medicine

You think the Nobel Prize for Medicine is the most important prize. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their prize. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): peace, economics or literature.

## Speaking – Nobel Prizes

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important Nobel prize at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| • Literature | • Chemistry |
| • Peace      | • Medicine  |
| • Physics    | • Economics |

### Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	T	4	F	5	T	6	F	7	F	8	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.