

Turn promises into reality on cluster bomb ban

On 30 May 2008 over 100 governments delivered a treaty that will ban cluster bombs forever. The text exceeded all expectations, comprehensively banning the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster bombs and containing the strongest provisions for victim assistance ever agreed in international law.

Delivering the Cluster Munition Convention was a momentous and historic step, but the work of governments and individuals around the world is really just beginning. To become binding in international law, 30 governments must ratify the treaty after it is signed in Oslo in December 2008. Our government must be one of them.

Designed to break open in mid-air and scatter up to hundreds of smaller bombs over wide areas, cluster bombs kill too many civilians. Many do not explode on impact, thus continuing to kill and injure long after conflict has ended.

In signing the treaty governments are committing not only to prevent future harm to civilians from cluster bombs, but also to ensure contaminated land is cleared and affected communities get the support they need to rebuild their lives. All governments must now turn the treaty's text into real change where it is needed.

My organisation has joined the launch of a worldwide petition urging governments to honour their promises.

Sign the People's Treaty today and ensure our government turns its promise into reality.
www.minesactioncanada.org/peoples_treaty

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Notes when adapting for your country:

- Please mention your country in the first line, noting whether your country adopted the treaty in Dublin or not.
- Where the letter says 'our government' or 'my government' you can specify which country you are targeting.
- When mentioning your government you can also note whether it is affected by or has been a user, producer or stockpiler of cluster munitions.
- Where the letter says 'my organisation' you should specify the name of your organisation.