



**Banning Cluster Munitions**  
**Statement of the *Religions for Peace* Executive Committee**

**May 2008**

We, the *Religions for Peace* Executive Committee, call for the involvement of the entire *Religions for Peace* network in the global campaign to bring about a comprehensive ban on cluster munitions. We encourage all members of the *Religions for Peace* World Council and other leadership bodies to be advocates on this important issue. We urge all governments to become formal parties to the treaty that will be negotiated in Dublin, Ireland, in May 2008, as a way of taking concrete action for the protection of the vulnerable and the promotion of peace.

*Religions for Peace* has had a deep commitment from its founding to work for nuclear disarmament. Related concerns about peaceful co-existence and prevention of violent conflicts have compelled *Religions for Peace* to adopt a wider disarmament agenda. As part of this effort, *Religions for Peace* is joining with the worldwide “Cluster Munitions Coalition” in calling for the end of the production, transfer, stockpiling, and use of cluster bombs.

For more than 40 years, cluster munitions have killed and wounded innocent people – most frequently children – causing untold suffering, loss and hardship for thousands in more than 20 countries. These weapons cause death and injury to civilians during attacks and for years afterwards. The lingering threat of unexploded “bomblets” hampers post-conflict rebuilding and rehabilitation and the dangerous work of clearance absorbs funds that could be spent on other urgent humanitarian needs. Without determined action, the civilian harm caused by these weapons both during and after conflict will continue to grow.

Our faith traditions call us to stand with those who have suffered, and to work together for the well-being of the human family based on our shared commitment to respect, justice, and peace.