



Princess of Wales Memorial Fund
THE WORK CONTINUES

THE DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES MEMORIAL FUND AWARDS GRANTS TO CAMPAIGNERS AROUND THE WORLD TO KEEP UP MOMENTUM FOR A CLUSTER BOMB BAN

The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund is today announcing details of 22 new grants awarded to campaigners around the world to ensure that the Oslo Process is successful in securing a strong treaty to ban cluster munitions.

This week 122 States have come to Wellington to negotiate a ban on cluster munitions. However, a number of countries are trying to weaken the treaty text through measures such as trying to exclude some types of cluster munition.

The grants give campaigners the resources to lobby their governments to sign up to a full and binding treaty, which will save the lives of thousands of civilians across the world.

Samantha Rennie of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund said:

“What we’ve seen this week is nothing short of historic. A movement that began a year ago with a small group of countries, supported by NGOs has grown into a vast group of 122 nations working together towards a total ban of cluster munitions. We’re now into the home straight, with little doubt that a treaty banning cluster munitions will become reality. There is still work to be done though, and we can’t afford to let our energy falter in making sure the treaty is as strong as possible. The grants announced today by The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund will help people across the world send a clear message to their governments, that only a treaty, banning all cluster bombs, without loopholes, delays or opt-outs will be enough.”

The grants are awarded as part of the ‘Local Voices, Global Ban’ initiative. They go to:

Austcare (Australia)

- To launch an online campaign aimed at getting 1,000 petitioners
- Host a series of events engaging government officials, Parliamentarians and the public
- Produce media material

Azerbaijan Campaign to Ban Landmines (Azerbaijan)

- To lobby Azerbaijan Ministers and officials
- Translate films and policy materials and organise showings of the cluster munitions awareness film 'Unacceptable Harm'
- Hold conferences highlighting new data and the Government's stance on the Oslo Process

Branislav Kapetanovic (via Norwegian Peoples Aid) Serbia

- Equipment and training to enable him to act as media spokesperson on cluster munitions

Control Arms Foundation of India (India)

- To lobby Ministries and Parliamentarians
- Will host round table meeting on 'Understanding India and Cluster Munitions Debate'

The Focus (Kosovo)

- Stage a campaign consisting of posters and brochures, delivered to schools, health centres and government buildings
- Host a national conference on the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions and the role Kosovo can play in the Oslo Process
- Stage a student debate on issues around cluster munitions and the Oslo Process

Foundation for Security and Development in Africa (Ghana)

- Material for meetings Ministers and diplomats to discuss actions beyond the Wellington conference
- Develop policy documents to inform the Government's position and policy
- Press conferences and letter writing campaign

Initiative for a Mine Free Turkey (Turkey)

- Conduct field and desk research on the scope of the cluster munition problem in Turkey
- Follow-up meetings with national authorities and parliamentarians after Wellington conference
- Will mount a series of events in the run up to the Dublin conference

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (Zambia)

- To host a two day seminar attended by members of civil society organisations working on humanitarian, human rights and disarmament issues to inform government members and policy

Japanese Campaign to Ban Landmines (Japan)

- To organise visit from a cluster munition survivor ban advocate to Japan to give media interviews, visit schools, and take part in public events
- To mount public events on the global day of action, including a symposium in Tokyo

Jesuit Refugee Service (Cambodia)

- Support government officials to prepare for conferences
- Produce, translate and distribute literature outlining cluster munitions issues and Oslo Process

- Media work around Dublin negotiations

Landmine Survivors Network (Ethiopia)

- Staging a workshop and public sporting event to raise public and official awareness
- Engage with government officials, advocating for Ethiopian endorsement of the Oslo Process

Non Violence International (South East Asia)

- Briefings with ASEAN Secretary General Surin Pitsuwan in Bangkok, on the Oslo Process
- Letter writing campaign to all ASEAN states, encouraging participation in the Process
- Public awareness activities on the global day of action

Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (Sweden)

- To fund the participation of African parliamentarians to the regional conference in Zambia and the final negotiations of the treaty in Dublin

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Notes to editors:

The Wellington Conference on Cluster Munitions is the last preparatory conference of the 'Oslo Process', an international initiative to ban cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians, assist survivors and affected communities and ensure clearance of their land. Controversial issues that have been discussed include calls for exemptions based on so-called technical fixes such as self-destruct mechanisms or a 1% dud rate.

The Wellington Conference is the most significant disarmament meeting the New Zealand government has ever hosted. The Cluster Munition Coalition, a network of over 250 non-government organisations in over 70 countries, is supporting the conference including through a range of public events hosted by the national coalition of New Zealand NGOs to promote the ban objective, including public talks and a stunt action outside the conference.

Cluster bombs have consistently killed and injured large numbers of civilians over 40 years of their use. They are fired from the ground or dropped from the air, dispersing hundreds of bomblets or submunitions over wide areas and littering the ground with explosives and shrapnel. Unexploded submunitions can explode when people hit them with a tool while farming, or by inquisitive children attracted by their bright colours, or simply from someone stepping on them. The presence of such unexploded submunitions threatens life and limb, hampers provision of relief and impedes development for years after a conflict. Unlike landmine and other indiscriminate weapons, there is currently no provision in international law that specifically addresses the problems of cluster munitions and their devastating effects on civilian populations.

'Local Voices, Global Ban' is an initiative aimed at helping local groups educate people about cluster bombs and encourage their governments to support a ban, with small grants funded by the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund and administered by Landmine Action. Full details can be found at www.localvoicesglobalban.org

The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund continues the princess's humanitarian work in the UK and overseas. By giving grants to organisations, championing charitable causes, advocacy, campaigning and awareness raising, the Fund works to secure sustainable improvements in the lives of the most vulnerable people in the UK and around the world.