

landmine action week

October 31 – November 6

OVERVIEW OF CAMPAIGNS What's in this pack for 2005?

This year's Landmine Action Week focuses on three key themes. On some themes we really need supporters to write letters – to express their concern and keep government's aware that civil society continues to care about the humanitarian problems caused by conventional weapons. On other themes we are just providing information now – but will be developing campaigning activities in the future.

1. Ottawa Treaty - Universalisation in South Asia

The South Asian sub-region remains particularly problematic with regard to international efforts to ban anti-personnel mines. While 143 countries have ratified the Ottawa Treaty banning the use, production, transfer and trade of anti-personal mines, this region is largely unrepresented. There are three focus countries included in this action pack (India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka). All three countries are mine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) affected, but they still produce and stockpile anti-personnel mines. Government forces and armed rebel groups continue to use mines with appalling humanitarian and socio-economic consequences. **Landmine Action is calling on you to write to these countries' ambassadors in the UK stating your concern. You will find a fact sheets and sample letters for all these countries in this pack.**

2. The Falklands Initiative

The British Government is in danger of setting a very bad example by failing to meet its obligations under the Ottawa Treaty. Landmine Action is proposing a plan to give them an extension so as to solve this problem – but the extension is in return for a real additional investment in landmine clearance in some of the poorest communities in the world. **Landmine Action is calling on you to check our website (www.landmineaction.org) for the latest information on this plan – or to write to your MP in support of this initiative.**

3. Anti-vehicle mines

After years of talks, international negotiations at the Convention on Conventional Weapons look set to fail to provide any real additional protection to civilians. If the talks in November do not see a real change in the quality of proposals being put forward we will have to conclude that states are not capable of agreeing realistic controls on these weapons and the only alternative will be for them to be made illegal. **Landmine Action is asking you to read up on this issue now – for further campaign work in 2006.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT