

campaign

New protocol on ERW!

Landmine Action and other organisations working on cluster bombs and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) welcomed a new Protocol V at the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) in November. Read our analysis in Campaign Action.

The launch of the Cluster Munition Coalition, also in November, sees the creation of a new NGO coalition working on cluster bombs and other explosive remnants of war. Nearly 100 organisations from around the world have joined and we hope to see growing pressure on governments to take positive action on cluster bombs and ERW.

Also in this edition: a news round-up on mines and ERW, a special focus on the work of Soroptimist International and Cambodia Trust, the latest information on the UK's implementation of the Ottawa Treaty, and Campaign Action.

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Photo: Andrew Smart/Cambodia Trust

Prum Sovann, manager of Cambodia Trust's clinic in Phnom Penh, with two young patients.

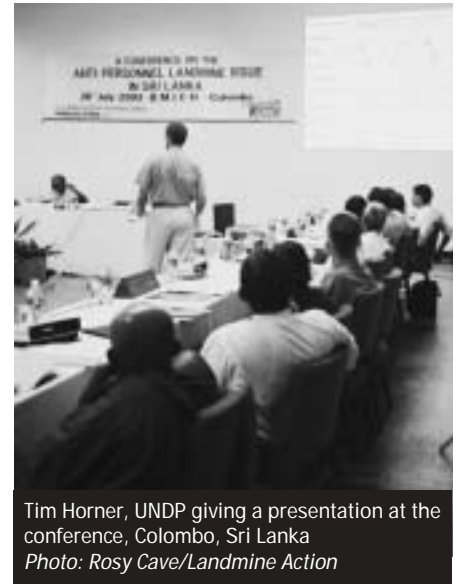
Conference on mines in Sri Lanka

In July, Landmine Action in partnership with the Inter-Religious Peace Foundation (IRPF), held a conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka on anti-personnel mines. The meeting was well attended by members of the Government of Sri Lanka, the Sri Lanka Army, donor governments, Asia Development Bank, the International Committee of the Red Cross and mine action organisations. Presentations were made by the UNDP, UNICEF, Landmine Action and a key note address was made by Her Excellency, Valerie Raymond, High Commissioner of Canada.

The conference was part of an ongoing cross-conflict advocacy initiative

with the IRPF and Geneva Call to ban anti-personnel mines by the government and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Sri Lanka, funded by the Canadian government. Landmine Action is working principally with the Government of Sri Lanka, in partnership with the IRPF as well as building the capacity of our local partners.

- Landmine Action also launched its latest publication, *ERW in Sri Lanka*, in Colombo. Research was carried out in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Campaign to Ban Landmines and the project was funded by the Co-operative Bank. To receive a copy, contact info@landmineaction.org.



Tim Horner, UNDP giving a presentation at the conference, Colombo, Sri Lanka
Photo: Rosy Cave/Landmine Action



Landmine Action Week

join the clear up campaign



Handicap's shoe pyramid in Trafalgar Square
Photo: Elizabeth Blanchet/Handicap International

The focus of Landmine Action Week 2003 was cluster bombs and other explosive remnants of war. The aim was to increase awareness of the issue and to gain more signatures for the Clear Up! Campaign petition.

The response and support during the week was fantastic. Landmine Action supporters and network member organisations, community groups, trade unions, schools, and the general public managed to get 20,000 signatures in one week, increasing our international total to over 100,000 individual people.

A variety of events took place around the country – stalls, exhibitions, talks, video screenings, radio interviews, parades, workshops, coffee mornings and more – attracting the attention of local, regional and national level press.

In London, Landmine Action organised screenings of *Footprints*, a documentary about the effects of cluster bombs in Laos and Afghanistan, along with a celebrity DJ night with stars including Richard Wilson, Chris Parker and Mark Thomas, supported by Virgin Radio. Landmine Action also took part in Handicap International UK's very impressive shoe pyramid event in Trafalgar Square, raising awareness about landmines and explosive remnants of war.

A very big thank-you to everyone who contributed to making Landmine Action Week such a success.

- Read more about the Soroptimist activities on page 4.

The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund

Diana
THE WORK CONTINUES

The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund is continuing its efforts to unfreeze outstanding grants payments to Landmine Action and other coalition partners. The freeze is linked to a lawsuit launched by the Franklin Mint Company against the Trustees of the Fund and the Executors of the Princess's Estate.

The Fund was forced to appeal to other grant-makers and private donors to underwrite its commitments in the form of loans when it learnt its assets had been frozen. Staff at the Fund say the response to the appeal has been encouraging and several donors have stepped in with

temporary replacement funding for all affected projects.

Andrew Purkis, Chief Executive of the Fund said: "We're hugely grateful to all our beneficiary organisations who have shown solidarity and support during this uncertain time and to the many donors who have so generously backed the excellent work we are currently unable to support. We look forward to reinvigorating our partnerships before too long, particularly around the fifth anniversary of the Ottawa Convention and on the new UN protocol on Explosive Remnants of War."

Landmine Action scoops two awards



Kate Daley, the Co-operative Bank's campaigns manager and Simon Williams, CFS director of corporate affairs (centre) receive the award from Stephen Timms, Trade and Industry Minister and Cristia Freeland, deputy editor Financial Times. *Photo: The Co-operative Bank*

In May, Landmine Action's investigation with BBC Radio 4's Today programme into the alleged illegal sale of anti-personnel mines by PW Defence won the Amnesty International Media Award for radio. Amnesty International UK's 12th Annual Media Awards were sponsored by Pci: Live.

The Co-operative Bank won Business in the Community's 2003 Cause-Related Marketing Award for Excellence 2003 for its campaigning

work with Landmine Action on cluster bombs and other explosive remnants of war. With 1.25p donated for every £100 customers spent on the bank's credit and debit cards, more than £129,000 was raised to help fund clear up operations around the world including Landmine Action's work in Sudan. In addition, the Bank's Customers Who Care programme funded research, lobbied MPs, ran full page national press ads and worked hard to involve customers.

In brief

Landmine Action appeal

Everyone at Landmine Action would like to thank all our supporters who so generously donated money following our appeal in October for funds. We managed to raise £6,473.40. This includes £1,800 raised by students at St Edwards College, Liverpool during Landmine Action Week.

Fifth Meeting of States Parties

The Fifth Meeting of States Parties (5MSP) took place in Bangkok, Thailand from 15 to 19 September 2003. This is the annual gathering of the 141 states that have joined the 1997 Ottawa Treaty, and others including the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and its member organisations. This event focused attention on those countries in the Asia region that remain outside the international norm that says 'No!' to mine use, production, trade, transfer and stockpiling. For more information, visit www.icbl.org/5msp.

New publications



Landmine Action has published two new reports. Explosive Remnants of War: a global survey has information on all the ERW affected countries and disputed territories in the world. ERW in Sri Lanka provides a case study of an ERW-affected country. Both publications contribute to the work on ERW within the UN Convention on Conventional Weapons as well as informing a wider audience. Both are available from the office.

● Please contact 020 7820 0222 or email info@landmineaction.org.



Soroptimist International, a world wide organisation for women in management and the professions founded in 1921, now has a membership of 93,000 members in 124 countries and territories. Their vision is to be a global voice for women through awareness, advocacy and action, striving to advance human rights and the status of women. Soroptimist International has six programme areas: human rights/ status of women, education, economic and social development, health, environment and international goodwill and understanding.

The UK Programme Action Committee have been committed members of Landmine Action for many years, but our work on the issue of landmines goes back to 1995 when our members globally first became aware of the legacy of landmines around the world.

1996 UN Human Rights Day

Our International President Patsy Daniels marked Human Rights Day 1996 when she called on Soroptimists to 'extend a helping hand to those refugees returning to Angola'. At that time the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees planned to move over 400,000 known refugees back into Angola from Zaire and Zambia. The need for mine awareness programmes amongst Angolan refugees was highlighted by the fact that many were unaware of the dangers posed by mines as well as the severe mine problem in Angola. The resulting appeal, 'Project Safe Journey Angola', funded the clearance of roads to enable refugees to safely pass through heavily mined areas, and by clearing prioritised mined areas - enabling the returning population access to arable land previously denied to them.

Soroptimist an



Dennis Turner MP, Ken Purchase MP, and Rob Marris MP with the Mayor and Mayoress of Wolverhampton.
Photo: Carol Bailey/Soroptimist International

Limbs for Life 1999 –2003

In 1999 at the Soroptimist International's International Convention in Helsinki, a four year partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross 'Limbs for Life' was announced. This partnership aimed to:

- restore human dignity to the victims of landmines
- help them become mobile again and reintegrate them into society
- enable children to return to school and play once more
- allow women to again lead a viable family life

This was to be done by:

- supplying artificial limbs
- promoting in a variety of ways the victims' recovery both physical and psychological

Soroptimist International contracted to raise US\$ 500,000 to help fund the work of the ICRC in Afghanistan, Angola and Georgia.

Soroptimists around the world worked for four years to raise both



91 year old Soroptimist Barbara Castle of Soroptimist International collecting signatures. Photo: Mary Ibbotson/Soroptimist International

awareness of the plight of the victims of anti-personnel mines and of course, money for the project. This ended in 2003, and the total monies received to date stand at £1,020,827 - and there is still more to come!

The UK Programme Action Committee and Landmine Action

The UK Programme Action Committee is proud to be one of the NGO members of Landmine Action. Soroptimists in the UK are continually encouraged to support Landmine Action Week in November each year and to lobby their MPs throughout the year on all aspects covering the manufacture and use of landmines and cluster munitions, and the clearance of these and other explosive remnants of war.

International – on-going commitment



International of Blackburn at a stall in Blackburn Market
Soroptimist International

2003 has been no exception, and has seen innovative ideas for campaigning and awareness raising of the 'Clear Up! Campaign' launched last March at the Imperial War Museum. The Campaign has been featured in Soroptimist publications and via the internet information has spread around the world.

The Soroptimist Federation of Great Britain & Ireland comprises 398 clubs in 30 countries and at a recent conference at The Belfast Waterfront Hall unanimously passed the resolution proposed by Yvonne Jacques from Soroptimist International of Chelmsford :
"Members are urged to call upon their Governments to extend the ban on landmines to include the use of cluster bombs."



A young child playing with dummy bomblets in the Market Place, Morpeth.
Photo: Anne Finaly/Soroptimist International

Landmine Action Week activities 2003

Members organised exhibitions in shopping centres, libraries, markets and other venues throughout the UK. They gave interviews on many local radio stations, and received wide coverage in numerous local newspapers.

MPs were asked for their support and invited to attend to sign the 'Clear Up Petition' – many did so including Frank Field MP, Gwyneth Dunwoody MP, John Redwood MP, John Pugh MP, and Ian Lucas MP.

In Wolverhampton the three local MPs gave their support when they attended the event in the Town Centre together with the Mayor and Lady Mayoress who also signed the petition.

The Soroptimist Club of Dyffryn Conway wrote to their local MP and also Dafydd Elis-Thomas the Leader of the Welsh Assembly, and were delighted when Mr Elis-Thomas visited their exhibition in the centre of Llanwrst to sign the petition.

In Morpeth the local Soroptimist Club took over the Market Place and set up their 'Blown Away' event featuring the aftermath of a cluster bomb with bomblets. The general public saw a young child playing with the 'bomblets' – a poignant and stark reminder to everyone of the interest children show in real cluster munitions and the inherent dangers this entails.

In Stockport the Mayor opened the exhibition at the Central Library, and on November 11th the Mayor and Mayoress went straight from the Cenotaph ceremony to sign the petition.

Members of Soroptimist International of Tynedale were at the Armistice Day Parade where they handed leaflets to members of the public as they arrived for the service. At the conclusion, they collected signatures for the petition and during the afternoon arranged for the bells of Hexham Abbey to be rung for Landmine Action Week.

'Clear Up Selby' on November 8th featured an Art Workshop for local schoolchildren, a full afternoon of events and fireworks representing cluster bombs. A unique and imaginative occasion with wide press coverage.

At numerous events organised by Soroptimist Clubs during Landmine Action Week thousands of signatures were collected by Soroptimist members.

Soroptimist commitment continues and, with a global voice and focused vision, will work together during the next four years on a new programme focus. Soroptimist International will continue to use our creativity, expertise and lobbying skills to advocate for the banning of landmines, the clearance of residual ordnance and rehabilitation of the land and continue to promote the implementation of the Ottawa Treaty.
Kate Moore –UK Programme Action Committee Representative on Landmine Action 2002–2004 Soroptimist International

The Cambodia Trust providing assistance in Cambodia

Cambodia is one of the most heavily mined countries in the world, with at least 40,000 landmine amputees. In 2002, 828 people – more than two people a day – were killed or injured by mines and ERW. One in three was a child. And these figures will continue to rise until every landmine and explosive remnant of war (ERW) has been cleared.

The Cambodia Trust

The Cambodia Trust was founded in 1989 with the initial aim of providing artificial limbs, restoring mobility, dignity and self-sufficiency for landmine survivors in Cambodia. The first rehabilitation clinic was opened in the capital, Phnom Penh, in 1992, and followed by two others in Sihanoukville and Kompong Chhnang. Over 21,000 artificial limbs and braces have been fitted by the three clinics.

Fifteen years on the Trust's work has grown far beyond its initial objectives. In response to the wider disabled population, the three clinics have evolved into full rehabilitation centres providing support for all mobility-impaired disabled people. The clinics provide artificial limbs, orthopaedic braces, wheelchairs, physiotherapy and counselling. As well as landmine



A student at the Cambodian School of Prosthetics & Orthotics in Phnom Penh. Photo: Giovanni Diffidenti/Cambodia Trust.

survivors, the clients now include people affected by polio, cerebral palsy, clubfoot and other disabilities.

The Cambodia Trust Outreach teams also visit poor rural areas to help those with disabilities that are too impoverished or frightened to travel for assistance. The Cambodia Trust also runs Community Work projects that work to breakdown barriers and increase opportunities in education, training and employment so that rehabilitation is more sustainable. These are staffed by people with disabilities.

Hundreds of children are now attending school for the first time; disabled adults are joining training schemes and setting up businesses; self-help community groups are being established; and educators are learning to focus on ability, not disability.

Training

In 1994, in partnership with the American Friends' Service Committee, the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics was established to provide training for Cambodians and others. The school is one of only four such training centres in the world. After a three-year course, students are internationally qualified specialists.

Eighty students have now graduated and are working in rehabilitation clinics. The reputation of the school has grown and students now come from across the region including Laos, Sri Lanka, Burma/ Myanmar, and the Solomon Islands including women and people with disability.

The Cambodia Trust and Landmine Action

The Cambodia Trust is a network member of Landmine Action. Since 1998, our representative to Landmine



Yem (17) and Dem, both landmine amputees, and two other patients at a clinic. Photo: Martijn van Beenen/Cambodia Trust

Action has been Philip Dixon OBE, one of Britain's oldest landmine survivors who lost a leg in a landmine explosion in 1943.

The Cambodia Trust actively supports Landmine Action's efforts because the organisation sees the devastating effects of landmines and ERW – not only on individuals, but also on families, communities and countries. Thanks to organisations like Landmine Action, these issues have been brought to the attention of the governments and the public, making it easier to communicate the ongoing need for work with victims of landmines and ERW.

The future

The work of the Cambodia Trust is having an impact: 80-85 per cent of patients who attend its clinics have gone on to school, training or employment after receiving physical rehabilitation. Now the Cambodia Trust hopes to share its expertise with Sri Lanka and East Timor where two new projects are being established.

By transferring skills to local staff in Cambodia, these projects restore mobility, dignity and self-sufficiency for thousands of people. This concept can be used to improve the lives of millions across the region – but this needs the support of others. Cambodia's landmine survivors remain reliant on the Cambodia Trust and other NGOs, and these organisations remain reliant on their supporters to help them continue this vital work.

● For further information visit www.cambodiastrust.org.uk

Adrienne Liron, Cambodia Trust

UK Landmine Monitor report

The UK has continued to play an active role in promoting the Ottawa Treaty over the past twelve months, supporting the UN resolution on its universalisation and implementation, encouraging countries that have not yet signed the treaty to do so, and assisting in evaluations of the UN mine action programme, according to the Landmine Monitor Report 2003. However, a lot more needs to be done if the goal of a mine-free world is to be reached.

Stockpile destruction

Positive developments include the Ministry of Defence (MoD) destroying more than 3,000 of its stockpiled anti-personnel mines, following an admission that the number being kept was unnecessarily large. This is a considerable step forward but 1,783 mines are still being retained for training and testing purposes, as allowed under Article 3 of the Treaty.

Funding

During 2002-2003, £10.7 million was allocated to mine action funding by the UK, a decrease from £12 million in 2001-2002. Most funding continues to be channelled through UN agencies. Afghanistan, Cambodia, Georgia, northern Iraq and Nicaragua were identified as needing specific attention. In May 2003 the Government announced £4 million for mine clearance and co-ordination on Iraq.

Specific countries in which the UK has been involved in mine action over the past year are Angola, where the Department for International Development (DfID) carried out a mission to assess the extent of the humanitarian crisis, and Afghanistan, in collaboration with Denmark on an independent evaluation of the UN programme. UK military advisers assisted in the UN mine action programmes throughout the year, and the provision of mine awareness education by the MoD Mine Training Centre continued for military personnel as well as for other government departments, NGOs, industry and civilians.

Interpretation of the Ottawa Treaty

The issue of joint military operations and assistance under the Treaty remains open to interpretation. The MoD reported that UK forces may not participate actively in the use of anti-personnel mines or in any physical activity related to the use of anti-personnel mines, may not seek benefit from their use by others, and may not request their use in support of UK forces. It added that any interpretation would have to take into account the military realities of the battlefield at the time – still leaving a loophole for British Armed Forces. Landmine Action and other organisations continue to argue against this interpretation of 'participation'.

The UK confirmed in February 2003 that the transit of foreign anti-personnel mines through UK territory is contrary to the obligations of the Ottawa Treaty. US anti-personnel mines were not transited through the British Indian Ocean Territory of Diego Garcia during the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Anti-vehicle mines

The UK stated in 2003 that tripwires, break wires and tilt rods are not acceptable methods of detonating mines other than anti-personnel mines. It still argues that the Convention on Conventional Weapons is the place to address the issue of anti-vehicle mines, not the Ottawa Treaty.

Destruction of mines on UK territory

The Ottawa Treaty commits the UK to destruction of all anti-personnel mines in its jurisdiction by 1 March 2009. To this end, during 2003 the government again expressed its intent to lead an Argentine funded study to assess the possibility of mine clearance operations in the Falklands/Las Malvinas. Within the UK itself, one World War II mine was discovered during 2002 on a beach in Norfolk.



UK casualties

Between January 2002 and May 2003 there have been five British casualties of mines – two military personnel were killed in Iraq, and three other people were injured by landmine explosions elsewhere in the world.

Landmine Monitor

The Landmine Monitor Report is produced annually by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and is co-ordinated across Europe by Landmine Action's Ian Doucet. It monitors and reports on implementation of and compliance with the 1997 Ottawa Treaty, and more generally to assess the international community's response to the humanitarian crisis caused by landmines. The Landmine Monitor reports, dating back to 1999, represent the first time that non-governmental organisations have come together in a co-ordinated, systematic and sustained way to monitor a humanitarian law or disarmament treaty, and to regularly document progress and problems.

● The Landmine Monitor Report is available on CD-Rom from Landmine Action, call 020 7820 0222 or email info@landmineaction.org. Also visit www.icbl.org/lm

New protocol on ERW

In November, the Group of Governmental Experts on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) met in Geneva for the last time during 2003 to finalise a new protocol on post-conflict measures. After many discussions on the language of the text, the 92 states agreed a new instrument within the Convention on Conventional

Weapons (CCW). This was then adopted at the subsequent Meeting of States Parties, also held in November.

The new Protocol V includes measures such as requirements on states to provide warnings to civilians, information sharing, and responsibility

for clearance and will cover unexploded ordnance and abandoned explosive ordnance. It will apply to all conflicts including internal armed conflict but will not be retroactive so will not deal with existing ERW. States will have the right to seek assistance and countries in a position to do so are obliged to provide assistance in dealing with existing ERW.

Landmine Action welcomes this new protocol but warns that it is only the beginning of dealing with the ERW problem, not the end. It is a weak protocol, reflecting the compromise that was reached between governments.

Much of the protocol is 'best practice' but not obligatory. We hope to see countries like the UK maintain their high standards that already go further than these guidelines, and not to let them slip. We also hope that other states will adhere to these minimum standards and improve on them.

There is still a lot of work to be done. The new instrument will not enter into force until twenty countries have ratified it. After ratification, there will be a need to monitor implementation and compliance with the protocol.

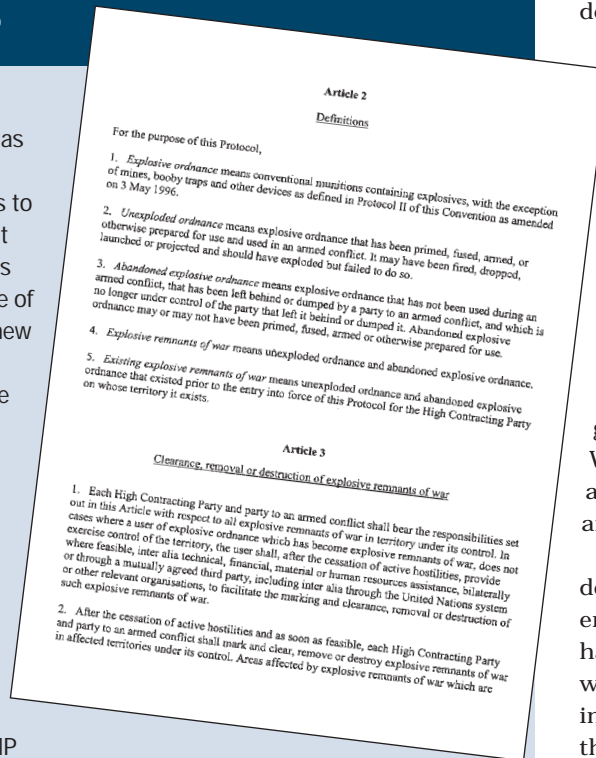
A governmental working group on ERW will continue to discuss further measures during 2004 on weapons including anti-tank mines and cluster munitions. Landmine Action supports this but urges governments to agree on a negotiating mandate at the Meeting of States Parties in November 2004 so that a new protocol can also be created to restrict the use of these deadly weapons.

Write to your MP

Now that a Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) measures has been agreed at the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW), it has to be ratified by twenty states before it enters into force. Landmine Action is urging the UK government to be one of the first governments to ratify the new instrument so that it can enter into force before the end of 2004. We are also urging the UK government to encourage other states to ratify the treaty. To deal with the urgent problems associated with cluster bombs, governments also need to agree to begin negotiations on another new protocol this November – we want the UK government to push for this.

Please help us by writing to your MP asking him or her to urge the Government to:

- ratify Protocol V without delay
- encourage other governments to ratify Protocol V
- push for a negotiating mandate on cluster munitions by November 2004.



Please highlight these points in letters to your MPs. If you are not sure who your MP is or what their address is, visit <http://www.parliament.uk/directories/hciolists/alc.mfm>. Alternatively you can use the House of Commons address for your MP: The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

landmine action

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Landmine Action network members:

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