

Ban U.S. Cluster Bombs

Faith Statements united in opposition

Many U.S. Christian denominations have issued statements against cluster bombs. Following is a sampling. You can use these statements in support of your efforts to reach out to your own or to neighboring congregations on this issue.

World Council of Churches In a February 2008 meeting, the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, which represents 550 million Christians in more than 120 countries, issued the following statement on cluster munitions:

Recounting the deadly use of cluster weapons around the world and their effects on civilians, [the World Council of Churches] condemns their use and lifts up the "Oslo Process" for negotiating a treaty against them.

Catholic Church The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Office of International Justice and Peace serves on the steering committee of the U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines. The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns and Pax Christi USA have also participated in the campaign to ban cluster bombs, encouraging members to take action in support of the Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act (S.594/H.R.1755).

"The disastrous humanitarian impact of cluster bombs needs no further demonstration...Their victims can be counted by the millions, the regions affected continue to be prohibited to displaced persons for years after the end of wars, nor can they be used by the inhabitants." ----*Holy See, June 2006*

"The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops stands with the Holy See in its call to address the harmful effects of cluster munitions. This commitment flows from the Church's teaching on the protection of human life and dignity." ----*Thomas G. Wenski, Bishop of Orlando, 1 May 2007 letter to Senators urging their support for S. 594, the Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act*

"A total ban on cluster munitions is the only antidote for the 'iron rain' that fell over southern Lebanon last summer." ----*Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, January/February 2007, NewsNotes*

Methodist Church The General Conference of the United Methodist Church is voting on a resolution this April opposing the use of cluster bombs and encouraging countries to complete a global treaty banning their use and production.

The United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society serves on the steering committee of the U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines and supports passage of the Cluster Munitions Civilian Production Act (S. 594/H.R. 1755).

Lutheran Church The resolution guidelines of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of American (ELCA) support requests for the establishment of “policies renouncing involvement in the production, sale, and the use of antipersonnel landmines, cluster bombs, and other weapons with non-discriminate effects.”

ELCA serves on the steering committee of the U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines and supports passage of the Cluster Munitions Civilian Production Act (S. 594/H.R. 1755).

Presbyterian Church Presbyterian Church (USA) has urged passage of the Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection by co-sponsoring a national call-in to the Senate, by signing a letter to the Senate in support of the legislation, and by providing information on the bill to constituent congregations.



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