

1 June 2009

The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
By email: jsct@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary,

Convention on Cluster Munitions: treaties tabled on 12 March 2009

We, Act for Peace, are writing to urge your Committee to support Australia's ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, as adopted in Dublin in May 2008 ('the Convention').

Act for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia ('NCCA'). We work with partners wherever conflicts occur to protect civilians and to reduce the impact of conflict upon them. Our partners are currently protecting and assisting over a million people affected by conflict, some of whom have been injured by, and lost family members to, cluster munitions. Such injury and death can be prevented in the future through this Convention.

The member churches of the NCCA have long supported the development of the Convention and its ratification. We are now urging the Australian Government to assist in entering the Convention into force by ratifying the Convention as a matter of urgency. A further 23 ratifications are required before the Convention enters into force.

We recognise the assistance of the Australian Government in relation to the provisions supporting victim assistance and clearance of areas contaminated with unexploded cluster munitions and urge the Government to show continued commitment by ratifying the Convention as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully,



Alistair Gee
Executive Director, Act for Peace
The international aid agency of the NCCA
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Anglican Church

Antiochian Orthodox Church

Armenian Apostolic Church

Assyrian Church of the East

Chinese Methodist Church

Churches of Christ

Congregational Federation

Coptic Orthodox Church

Greek Orthodox Church

Lutheran Church

Mar Thoma Church

Religious Society of Friends
(Quakers)


Roman Catholic Church

Romanian Orthodox Church

Salvation Army

Syrian Orthodox Church

Uniting Church

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