

MESSAGE TO THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE FOR THE ADOPTION OF A  
CLUSTER MUNITIONS CONVENTION, DUBLIN, MAY 2008

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference expresses its strong support for the adoption of a comprehensive Convention which will prohibit the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions.

It is vital that the Convention also include requirements for assistance to victims, the clearance of contaminated areas, and education about the risk of cluster munitions in affected areas.

We ask the delegates to the Dublin Conference to put aside national interests and act in solidarity with those living in areas affected by cluster munitions, and to give thought to the consequences for the many thousands of people who may be killed or dreadfully harmed in the future if there is no Convention, or if it is inadequate in its provisions.

We affirm and support the efforts of the Holy See, the New Zealand and Irish governments and others in the Core Group steering the Convention through the Oslo process.

We offer our prayers, and will be encouraging New Zealanders to pray, that the delegates will have the courage and perseverance to act in the interests of all humanity as they gather in Dublin from 19-30 May 2008 for this crucial meeting.

✠ Denis Browne  
Bishop of Hamilton  
President, NZCBC

✠ John Dew  
Archbishop of Wellington  
Secretary, NZCBC

✠ Colin Campbell  
Bishop of Dunedin

✠ Peter Cullinane  
Bishop of Palmerston North

✠ Patrick Dunn  
Bishop of Auckland

✠ Bishop Barry Jones  
Bishop of Christchurch

✠ Robin Leamy  
Emeritus Bishop of Rarotonga