

Denise COGHLAN



With the 11MSP, the Convention is returning to a place where the mine ban movement started two decades ago. It is an opportunity for the international community to recall how far this movement has come and how much work still remains to be done. It is also an opportunity to remember that there are many faces of the landmine movement in Cambodia. Sister Denise COGHLAN is one of these.



For the past 23 years Sister Denise COGHLAN, Director of the Cambodia Jesuit Refugee Service, has been advocating for the ban on anti-personnel mines, the clearance of existing mine fields and assistance for victims and survivors everywhere. Sister Denise is one of the pioneers of the landmine movement. She began her work in the Thai-Cambodian refugee camps and continues to be a passionate advocate today calling for a “mine-free ASEAN, a mine-free Asia and a mine-free world.”

“Cambodia is a microcosm of the suffering that has occurred in so many parts of the world. The movement here began with a letter from four former soldiers begging the world to stop making and laying mines and to begin clearing them. One of those brave men is still part of the Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines.”

According to Sister Denise, holding a Meeting of the States Parties in Cambodia is a golden opportunity for the world to see up close what the Convention has achieved and the challenges that remain. Indefatigable, Sister Denise founded the Metta Karuna Reflection and Refugee Centre in Siem Reap. The centre, a testament to Sister Denise’s perseverance, holds landmine and cluster munitions campaigns, seminars on the rights of women with disabilities, teacher workshops and children’s camps.

AP Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit

GICHD | 7bis, avenue de la Paix | P.O. Box 1300 | 1211 Geneva 1 | Switzerland | t. + 41 (0)22 906 16 38
f. + 41 (0)22 906 16 90 | isu@apminebanconvention.org | www.apminebanconvention.org | www.11msp.org