

4 April – Mine Awareness Day



International Day for Mine Awareness

4th April



- The International Day for Mine Awareness has been marked on 4 April every year since 2005.
- Creating a world free from deadly weapons, such as landmines, is an important objective for the United Nations.



- In 1997 the UN, together with governments, charities, campaign and community groups, created the Mine Ban Treaty,
- The Treaty **bans** the use of landmines against humans.



- Over **160** countries have signed the Treaty and this has brought about a dramatic reduction in the use of landmines.
- In 1997, around 20,000 people a year were killed or injured by landmines. Today, this number has fallen to around 4,000.
- But there is still a long way to go. 4,000 deaths or injuries a year is 4,000 too many.



- Mines are still present in over **60** countries, threatening the lives of millions of people.
- They also prevent people from using the land in which they are hidden. This means that people might not be able to access their homes or use the land for farming, for example.



- The UN created the International Day to:
 - to raise awareness of the ongoing threat posed by mines
 - call on those countries that have not yet signed the Treaty to do so
 - mobilise resources to help the countries affected