

USCBL-USCMC Steering Committee – Minutes

January 26, 2021

2:00-3:00 PM EST

Meeting held virtually

Attending: Amnesty International USA (Diane Bernabei), Center for Civilians in Conflict (Annie Shiel), Friends Committee on National Legislation (Ursala Knudsen-Latta), Human Rights Watch (Steve Goose), Humanity & Inclusion (Jeff Meer and Mica Bevington), Legacies of War (Sera Koulabdara), UNICEF USA (Mark Engman), United Methodist Church General Board of Church & Society (Mark Harrison), West Virginia Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munitions/Proud Student Against Landmines (Larry Schwab), campaign coordinator-ex officio (Jeff Abramson)

Approval of Minutes

[Minutes](#) of the Sept 22, 2020 meeting were approved.

Discussion of Strategy (40 minutes)

There was discussion of creation of a strategic plan document, based on the USCBL-USCMC meeting of December 3, 2020. **Jeff A** is to revise that document and **Ursala, Diane** and **Steve** to review before sending back to Steering Committee for discussion and approval (via online communication).

There was discussion of ongoing efforts within Congress to advance a sign-on letter and other mechanisms to advance the campaigns goals.

There was discussion of doing additional outreach to bring in veteran and military voices into the campaign. **Larry, Mica, Mark E** and **Annie/CIVIC** agreed to do outreach on this effort. **Sera** agreed to talk with deminers as well to elevate those voices.

There was also discussion of possible efforts around upcoming key dates, including the possibility of:

- March 1 – a survivors' letter to Biden – **Mica** and **Sera** to explore
- April 4 – possibly promote Legacies of War event on April 2

Discussion of Updating Membership

There was agreement that it would be good to revitalize the list of member organizations.

It was agreed that the Coordinator be empowered to make decisions on accepting organizations that ask to be members, with discretion to return to fuller group if needed.

There was a reminder to make a role for the Korean community, especially since resolving concerns about landmines on the Korean peninsula remains a key issue.

Next steps:

- **Jeff A** to make a new online member registration form and send around for review by Steering Committee
- **Jeff M** to promote membership at upcoming Interaction meeting

Discussion of Resource Development/Financial Status

There was conversation about the current funding secured to support the campaign being on target to run out in May. **Jeff M** suggested a minimum of \$25,000 per year is needed for coordination efforts. He will continue outreach efforts and would welcome assistance. **Ursala** to reach out to Peace and Security Funders Group.

Date for Next Meeting

Still to be determined, but likely in May/June, as per the guidelines is in the Steering Committee's Terms of Reference (TOR).

Any Other Business

FCNL will do educational outreach again to Congress once we have committee assignments.