

## Jody Williams

Ms. Jody Williams received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 for her work to eliminate antipersonnel landmines. International organizer and activist, teacher and writer, Williams is an eloquent speaker on human rights and international law, the role of civil society in international diplomacy, and individual initiative in bringing about social change.

Since February 1998, Williams has served as a **Campaign Ambassador** for the **International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)**, which she helped create, speaking on its behalf all over the world. She is also a member of the Coordination Committee of the Campaign, which carries out the strategies and action plans of the ICBL. She also serves as senior editor for its 1000-page annual ***Landmine Monitor Report***, a groundbreaking system that monitors the implementation and compliance of the Mine Ban Treaty.

Ms. Williams is also a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Social Work, in the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Houston for academic year 2003-2004.

Ms. Jody Williams was recognized, along with the ICBL, with the Nobel Peace Prize for her role as the founding coordinator of the ICBL, which was formally launched by six non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in October of 1992. In that capacity, Ms. Williams oversaw the growth of the ICBL to more than 1,300 NGOs in over eighty-five countries and served as the chief strategist and spokesperson for the campaign. Working in an unprecedented cooperative effort with governments, UN bodies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the ICBL achieved its goal of an international treaty banning antipersonnel landmines with its signature 3 December 1997, and now continues this effort to ensure effective implementation and universalization of the treaty.

Prior to beginning the ICBL, Williams worked for eleven years to build public awareness about U.S. policy toward Central America. From 1986 to 1992, she developed and directed humanitarian relief projects as the deputy director of the Los Angeles-based Medical Aid for El Salvador. From 1984 to 1986, she was co-coordinator of the Nicaragua-Honduras Education Project, leading fact-finding delegations to the region. Previously, she taught English as a Second Language (ESL) in Mexico, the United Kingdom, and Washington, D.C.

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