

## Support the Petition

The changing nature of war means conflict is taking place increasingly in populated areas.

This is having a huge impact on the civilian population whose communities are quite literally being blown apart.

**We need your voice to call on States to stop using explosive weapons in populated areas.**

After years of pressure states are gathering at the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020 to discuss their commitment to protect civilians in conflict.

We are asking that they:

- **Stop** the use of these weapons to protect civilians and their communities
- **Acknowledge** the severe harm caused by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and review their national practices and policies
- **Commit** to providing support for those affected by explosive weapons.

## Meet Abdel



**Abdel and his family were eating breakfast at home in Mosul when a missile struck their house.**

His brother was killed, and Abdel's injuries were so bad his leg was amputated.

The family fled Mosul and now live in a camp for internally displaced persons. Here, Abdel receives physiotherapy and psychological support from Humanity and Inclusion.

When they eventually move home, Abdel's family will have to be careful of destructive booby traps and explosive debris.

**Your support will help to protect civilians like Abdel and his family.**

## Stats:

- When explosive weapons are used in populated areas, **90% of the victims are civilians**
- Every **24 minutes**, an explosive weapon claim's a civilian's life, limb, or mind
- In 2018, **32,110 deaths and injuries** were recorded from the use of explosive weapons
- Incidents involving explosive weapons were recorded in **64 countries in the world in 2018**
- In the **five deadliest conflicts** in 2017, **nearly three-quarters of the child casualties were caused by explosive weapons**

## Why are we petitioning?

- Explosive weapons are **indiscriminate** - they cause death and injury.
- They can have a **devastating effect across a wide area** destroying vital infrastructure which will take decades to rebuild.
- The **explosive debris left following conflict** makes return indescribably dangerous, especially for children who may be attracted to the bright colours of explosive weapons while they are playing.



Destruction to a home in Hamdaniya, Iraq



Manal, centre, whose left leg was amputated after a bomb blast in Dera'a, Syria

## Top tips for collecting signatures

- **Hold an event** – think about the places where people gather naturally – your local community groups, shopping centres, choirs.
- **Download or order your resources** – you can find petition sign-up sheets, logos that you can print, and posters for your event everything at [humanity-inclusion.org.uk/F10](http://humanity-inclusion.org.uk/F10)
- **Be prepared** with lots of pens, clipboards, and facts. We can send you HI pens and have clipboards that you can borrow!
- **Go online** to stay up to date with the campaign, read about how other community groups are getting on and find out more information about explosive weapons.
- **Write to your MP** – contacting your local member of parliament is a fantastic way to build pressure on the UK Government. You can email your MP using our online tool ([humanity-inclusion.org.uk/email-your-mp](http://humanity-inclusion.org.uk/email-your-mp)) or download our resource pack ([humanity-inclusion.org.uk/F10](http://humanity-inclusion.org.uk/F10))
- **Recognise what you are doing.** By taking action you are protecting civilians into the future, spreading the word for the most vulnerable populations in the world, and giving a voice to those often lost in the story of modern day conflict.

## What next?

Return the petition sheets to us by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020: Humanity & Inclusion (Forgotten 10), 9 Rushworth Street, London, SE1 0RB