

## Jody Williams

### What is this lesson about?

Through the example of Jody Williams, students will learn how they can make big changes when they get involved and passionate about something and how disarmament is one of the paths to peace.

### Learning Goals:

- Students will know who Jody Williams is and will understand her fight against landmines.
- Students will understand the concept of disarmament, the dilemmas related to disarmament, and why some types of weapons are banned.
- Students will understand what a campaign is and why and how to start one.

### Materials

- Lesson Slides
- Student Worksheet

### Slides

- Slide 1: Title Slide
- Slide 2: Warm-Up Questions
- Slide 3: Who is Jody Williams?
- Slide 4: What is a landmine?
- Slide 5: What is a Campaign
- Slide 6: Create your own campaign
- Slide 7: Wrap Up

### Background Information:

Jody Williams received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 for her work to ban landmines through the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, which shared the Peace Prize with her that year. At that time, she became the 10th woman – and third American woman – in its almost 100-year history to receive the Prize. Since her protests during the Vietnam War, she has been a life-long advocate of freedom, self-determination, and human and civil rights.

Since 1998, Williams has also served as a Campaign Ambassador for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. Beginning in early 1992 with two non-governmental organizations and a staff of one – Jody Williams, she oversaw the Campaign's growth to over 1,300 organizations in ninety-five countries working to eliminate antipersonnel landmines. In an unprecedented cooperative effort with governments, UN bodies, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, she served as a chief strategist and spokesperson for the ICBL as it achieved its goal of an international treaty banning landmines during a diplomatic conference held in Oslo in September 1997.

Williams continues to be recognized for her contributions to human rights and global security. She is the recipient of fifteen honorary degrees, among other recognitions. In 2004, Williams was named by Forbes Magazine as one of the one hundred most powerful women in the world.

### Key Facts:

- Born 1950 in Vermont, United States
- When Jody Williams studied international politics in the 1980s, she became involved in aid work in war-torn El Salvador. Landmines were a constant threat to the civilian population, and she was given responsibility for providing artificial limbs for children who had lost arms and legs.
- From 1991 on, Jody Williams was a driving force in the launch of an international campaign against landmines. By 1997, thanks to her strength and organizational talent, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) had 1,000 organizations from sixty countries on its list of members.
- Jody Williams and the ICBL achieved their goal of an international treaty banning antipersonnel landmines during the diplomatic conference held in Oslo in September 1997.
- Two years later, in 1999, Jody Williams and the ICBL were pushers to get through a ban on landmines. 120 countries signed the agreement banning the countries from using or storing mines and they also undertook to remove and carry out relief work. This agreement is named The Ottawa Convention

### Key Vocabulary:

- **Landmines:** An explosive mine laid on or just under the surface of the ground.
- **Disarmament:** The act of reducing, limiting, or abolishing weapons. Disarmament refers to a country's military or a specific type of weaponry. Disarmament is often taken to mean the total elimination of weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear arms.
- **Treaty:** A treaty is a formal, legally binding written agreement between international actors.
- **Campaign:** An organized course of action to achieve a goal. To work in an organized and active way toward a particular goal, typically a political or social one.

**Time:** 40 minutes

### Steps

- **Warm-Up (5 min):**
  - Tap into students' prior knowledge by warming up the class with a few of the following questions. Record student answers and thoughts on the board or on chart paper:
    - What does disarmament mean?
    - What do you think the most harmful weapons we have in the world are?
    - Raise your hand if you have heard of Jody Williams?
    - What are landmines?

**Teacher notes:** Disarmament is the opposite of armament. It is a term used now that a country gets less military, that they choose to spend less money on the military or get rid of a special type of weapon. In recent years, there has been a lot of talk about disarmament when it comes to nuclear weapons. All weapons are dangerous. Nuclear weapons are one of the most dangerous weapons, in that they can wreak havoc, destroying an entire city in a very short time. Chemical weapons are completely forbidden to use in war, it is even illegal to make weapons that prevent people from breathing. This type of weapon is extremely harmful and can injure and maim civilians and random people. In addition, cluster munitions are extremely dangerous because they contain dozens or hundreds of small bombs. Cluster munitions hit large areas and spread their small bombs over areas that can be as large as several football pitches. They kill and injure civilians and the military arbitrarily.

- **Introduction (10 min):**
  - Use the slides to introduce Jody Williams and Landmines to the students.
- **Start a Campaign (20 min):**
  - Set the stage:
    - Lead a short discussion on campaigns and their impact that helps students understand:
      - There are several ways to work against landmines. One way is to start a campaign, as Jody Williams did with ICBL: International Campaign to Ban Landmines.
      - If you want to get a lot of people to achieve / achieve something, then you can start a campaign. For example. Political parties have campaigns to get people to vote for them. Stores can have advertising campaigns to get people to buy what they sell.
  - Start a campaign:
    - Have the students produce an idea for a campaign for something that could be changed at their school? If they have trouble producing ideas, it can be helpful to brainstorm. Ideas may include:
      - Longer free time
      - New gym equipment
      - Better school lunch
      - Fewer tests
      - Better internet access
    - Divide students into groups and have each group choose an issue they want to design a campaign around.
    - Have students make a poster, pick a slogan and define the key points of their argument
    - Let the students practice their arguments in front of the class
- **Wrap Up/Reflection (5 min):**
  - Have students reflect on the lesson with a short discussion. Ask students what they think they could do next to keep their campaign going (put

signs up, collect signatures, share with school leaders, etc.) Remind students that:

- Campaigns can take time and it can be difficult to reach their goal. But some issues are so important that it is worth spending time on. ICBL has grown to become an organization with active groups in over one hundred countries. The campaign has been going on for 30 years.