



JODY WILLIAMS

NOBEL LAURÉATE FOR PEACE, 1997

*Campaign Ambassador – International Campaign to Ban Landmines*

2 October 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the work of Ms. Heidi Kuhn and the organization that she founded, Roots of Peace.

Working by herself, Heidi has taken a fabulous idea and turned it into reality. She has been able to bring together people and institutions who might not otherwise know about the problem of landmines, and create new and fruitful partnerships to not only rid the world of landmines, but to replace those seeds of death with new seeds of life.

It is not enough to remove landmines so the poor communities that live, literally, in the middle of minefields do not have to worry on a daily basis about these weapons of terror taking their lives or their limbs – or those of their loved ones. Those seeds of death must be replaced with a means of productivity so those communities can thrive and these families can rebuild their lives and that of their families – and by doing that, contribute to the rebuilding of their countries.

Heidi's vision has united vintners of California to support her effort to remove mines in Croatia and replace them with grapes – and hope for the future. I had the privilege of accompanying her to Croatia in August and see her in action. While there she told me of her vision of doing the same in other countries – such as replacing the minefields of Angola with coffee, or the minefields of Cambodia with rice paddies. I have no doubt that her newest vision will become reality.

Working by herself, she is on a daily basis making her dream a reality. And her dream results in giving people all over the world the means to live their own lives in productive dignity. She is a powerful example of what an individual can do if they only will try.

Heidi Kuhn has recently honored me with an invitation to join the board of Roots of Peace. I have accepted that invitation because I so strongly believe in what she does and how she does it. I hope that you too will be able to support the work of Heidi Kuhn and Roots of Peace. She is a worker of miracles.

Sincerely,

Jody Williams