

SONG Kosal



With the 11MSP, the Convention is returning to a place where the mine ban movement started two decades ago. It is an opportunity for the international community to recall how far this movement has come and how much work still remains to be done. It is also an opportunity to remember that there are many faces of the landmine movement in Cambodia. SONG Kosal is one of these faces.



A 2011 graduate at the Pannasastra University of Cambodia, SONG Kosal is a typical young woman in an atypical situation. The 27-year-old, from Battambang Province, lost a leg to a landmine while working on a rice paddy with her mother when she was 5 years old. She went on to become an anti-landmine advocate for the Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines in the mid-1990s, representing child survivors everywhere, and is one of the most recognised faces of the Convention.

SONG Kosal was part of the delegation of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines that traveled to Oslo in 1997 to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Since then she has participated in almost every significant international event related to the Convention. Thanks to SONG Kosal's efforts and those of other survivor-advocates, the text of the Convention adopted in 1997 includes the obligation for States to assist in the care, rehabilitation and reintegration of landmine survivors. Reintegration is key says Kosal, "disability is not the identity of a person."

Just as the Convention has, Kosal has come of age. She knows that, although much progress has been achieved, more remains to be done. "Let us work together to make a safer world so that the new generation can live and walk without fear. Let them have a true dream, come true."

AP Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit