



Internship announcement

International Bureau for Children's Rights

2 positions

for internships starting January – February 2010

Deadline for application:

7 october 2009

The organization

The International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR) is an international non-governmental organization, whose board of directors is composed of Canadian and international experts. The IBCR's mission is to contribute to the protection and promotion of children's rights worldwide.

To know more about the organization, please visit <http://www.ibcr.org>

Internship focus

You will join the team of the IBCR's researchers, lawyers, students and volunteers in the framework of the implementation of the 2009-2010 plan, which envisages conducting research, analyzing and preparing draft country profiles concerning the implementation of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and/or reports on child trafficking in Canada, and/or activities to implement the new UN *Guidelines on Justice in Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime* and/or the prevention of child sex tourism and/or the protection of the rights of children affected by armed conflict and/or assisting in fundraising activities. For more details, see the explanatory notes below.

This internship also includes administrative tasks relating to the above-mentioned research topics, participation in staff meetings as well as collaboration within the framework of other projects.

Dates and length

The internships start in **winter 2010 (positions available in January and February 2010)**. Its minimal length is 12 weeks with 4 to 5 workdays per week. No remuneration is envisaged for this internship; IBCR will reimburse public transportation expenses and offer compensation for lunch.

Requirements

- Concentration in one of the following fields: law, international law, international relations, human science, political science, sociology, criminology, victimology, African studies or related fields (preference will be given to graduate students who can receive academic credits for the internship);
- Autonomy and resourcefulness;
- Ability to work in a team and to work under pressure;
- Excellent writing skills in English (some positions) or in French (other positions);
- Familiarity with human/children's rights, human rights instruments, field experience or relevant work experience is a plus.

Standards of background evaluation

- Academic background, including relevant university courses completed and research written on issues relevant to IBCR's fields of work;
- Application letter, assessed according to the quality of writing and the subjects raised in the letter: interest and importance of internship in student's career, previous experience, knowledge or other relevant skills for the internship;
- Dynamics of the brief pre-selection interview.

Deadline for application:

October 7th 2009

(applications submitted after deadlines may be considered)

How to apply

The application package must include:

- Application letter;
- Curriculum vitae (including a section with references);
- Academic record/grades (preferably Internet version).

Send your application to: Luc Ouimet
Administrative director
IBCR
2715, Chemin Côte Ste-Catherine
Montreal, Quebec H3T 1B6

Or at l.ouimet@ibcr.org

Students able to credit this internship will be given preference.

Announcement issued in September 2009

*
* *



INTERNATIONAL BUREAU FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Country profiles on the status of realization of children's rights

The programme on Country Profiles on the Status of the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is one of IBCR's core activities. It involves analysis and reporting on the status of implementation of the CRC and its Optional Protocols. It particularly aims to detect existing challenges and gaps, highlight progress made, and identify commendable practices that are developed in the area of children's rights by States Parties. Moreover, it allows a comparative analysis and an enhanced knowledge of the situation of children's rights at both national and regional levels, highlighting achievements, variations and remaining challenges particular to a regional ensemble. The overall objective is to fill the disparities in monitoring children's rights at the national and regional levels, and facilitate the implementation of the CRC and its Optional Protocols globally by providing States Parties with successful international practices that could be implemented in their respective countries. The knowledge produced serves as the basis to build local, national and regional capacities of a wide spectrum of actors involved in the promotion and protection of children's rights through data collection and research analysis, training and regional workshops.

IBCR has developed a particular expertise in conducting such analyses of children's rights with its first regional report on South-East Asia, "Making Children's Rights Work: Country Profiles on Cambodia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste and Viet Nam" (2006), a second report entitled "Making children's Rights Work in North Africa: Country Profiles on Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia" (2007) and a third report entitled "Faire des droits de l'enfant une réalité dans la région des Grands Lacs africains: les profils nationaux du Burundi, de la République du Congo, de la République démocratique du Congo et du Rwanda" (2009).

Internship on Country profiles for the Middle East and North Africa

IBCR has recently partnered up with the International NGO Save the Children Sweden in an ambitious project covering 17 countries of the Middle-East and North Africa (MENA) region to continue analysis and reporting on children's rights in the region in parallel with networking, advocacy and mainstreaming activities on those rights. Building on its experience and lessons learned in South-East Asia and more recently in North Africa and the Great Lakes region of Africa, IBCR now seeks to build the capacity of local and regional partners in the MENA region by sharing its know-how and expertise in monitoring and, reporting on the

implementation of the CRC and its Optional Protocols. Child participation and input to the various activities will feature as a key component of the project.

Interns will be asked to contribute to the development of the programme by supporting the MENA Project Manager and the Programmes Director through a combination of challenging and routine tasks. Responsibilities include (but are not limited to) researching data, background information, and relevant international norms and treaties related to the experience of examined countries in promoting and protecting the rights of the child, developing research proposals, synthesising and editing research material, drafting text for country profiles, developing training and methodological tools and material,, and liaising with local, regional and international partners. Intern duties will also include several administrative tasks and logistics such as the organisation of field missions, meetings and workshops, creating relevant contact lists, databases and reference material. A good working knowledge and writing skills in English is essential. Given the focus on this region for the next years, a working knowledge of Arabic is strongly preferred. French is also an asset.

Internship on Children in Armed Conflict

In addition, IBCR is currently in charge of coordinating the activities of the Canadian Forum on Children and Armed Conflict, a network operating under Peacebuild. The Forum's objective is to promote the advancement strategies and policies in Canada and in the rest of the world that will allow to better implement children's rights in the contexts of an armed conflict. The coordination of the Forum and the various activities and initiatives that emerge from the Forum's work bring IBCR to conduct research on a range of topics related to children in armed conflict and to work in partnership while seeking consensus among the 150 members of the Forum regarding the various challenges faced by children in armed conflict. The intern on children in armed conflict's role will be to contribute to this project, by supporting the Project Manager on Children in Armed Conflict and the Director of Programmes in the coordination of the Forum on Children in Armed Conflict. The intern will be tasked with researching various themes related to children involved in armed conflict, in multiple countries, according to the priorities of the members of the forum and the emerging conflicts. The intern will be in charge of developing the monthly newsletter on children in armed conflict. Other responsibilities include providing logistical support for the organization of field missions, conferences and meetings of members of the Forum on Children and Armed Conflict, creating relevant contact lists, databases and reference materials, assisting with proposal development, translating documents and other relevant administrative tasks. Fluency in English is required and French is a strong asset.



Child trafficking in Canada: evaluation and intervention strategy

Child trafficking, especially for the purpose of sexual exploitation, is a modern form of slavery that is ever-increasing internationally. Canada is not an exception. Indeed, it is a country of destination and transit, even a country of origin. The trafficking of children is an illicit and clandestine “business”, it is poorly documented. With this concern in mind, the IBCR published a preliminary study on child trafficking in Canada in March 2004, with the financial support of the Department of Justice of Canada. The study highlighted the obstacles faced by professionals working with children, namely the difficulty of identifying such children, the lack of knowledge of their rights and inadequate treatment.

Recognizing that there is a need for more precise information on child trafficking IBCR has, undertaken the elaboration of a Strategic Action Plan for the Protection of the Rights of Victims of Child Trafficking in Quebec in 2006 and 2007 for the Department of Public Affairs of Canada,. A more extensive research on child trafficking in Quebec, aiming at improving the efficacy of intervention strategies by contributing to the knowledge of professionals, has been completed and its report has been published in February 2007.

Considering IBCR mandate and our will to transfer acquired knowledge on this issue into a practical tool; IBCR is now developing a training session on child trafficking for community stakeholders with the support of Status of Women Canada. We will provide a training module on child trafficking which will be used by front-line workers in community organizations working with young girls at risk or already in danger of sexual exploitation. The module is intended to provide these trainees with concrete and relevant tools in order to equip them to address the problem of trafficking, and to intervene as quickly and effectively as possible when necessary.



Child victims and witnesses of crime: implementing the new United Nations Guidelines

Millions of children around the world are victims and witnesses of criminal activities: armed conflict, violence, cruelty, abuse and personal losses of parents and friends. These children may be experiencing a deep trauma as a result of crimes. They are young, vulnerable and require special protection. Special measure must be taken and appropriate structures at national level must be put in place to ensure their psychosocial recovery and social reintegration. To respond to this situation as well as in response to the expressed need by governments and professionals for guidance in this field that the IBCR acted and provided its input by elaborating the *Guidelines on Justice for Children Victims and Witnesses of Crime*. Since 2003, the guidelines were translated into seven languages as well as a child friendly version. Furthermore, a CD-ROM containing the Guidelines in all six official UN languages (both the official version and a child-friendly version currently being prepared by UNICEF) has been launched.

The international community acknowledged the importance for this tool when the ECOSOC of the United Nations adopted the *Guidelines on Justice in Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime* in 2005.

The newly UN Guidelines were finalized by an intergovernmental group of experts convened by the UN Secretary General, which met in Vienna in 2005, thanks to the financial support of the Government of Canada. The Guidelines set forth a framework to ensure that children who have been victims of crimes or witnesses to crime are treated in a fair, dignified and secure manner when they are involved in a judicial process.

The adoption of the Guidelines comes at a crucial time. More than ever, the rights of children are infringed and children are victims of trafficking, sexual exploitation and involvement in armed conflict.

A plan of action has been elaborated by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in close collaboration with UNICEF and IBCR, in order to develop a set of tools for Member States and the provision of training on the implementation of the Guidelines. This includes: a set of *Model Law*; an *Implementation Handbook* and *Interactive Training Modules* aimed at professionals responsible for the protection of child victims and witnesses of crime. These tools will be promoted through regional and sub-regional training seminars for trainers and policy makers. A second objective is the assessment of technical assistance to respond to needs of specific States in reforming their legislation and setting-up appropriate institutions for children in such situations.



Sex Tourism Involving Children

This new project, included in the Program on commercial sexual exploitation of children, has three main objectives.

First to prevent child sex tourism. Second to ensure the protection of those who are victims. Third to enhance the prosecution of offenders who hold Canadian citizenship. In the light of these objectives, three different phases have been determined. The first one includes an analysis of the situation, including the impact of the relevant legislation, identification of the main concerned actors and best practices as well as proven initiatives within the three most popular destinations for Canadian travelers: Cuba, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. Through the analysis, the overall portrait of the situation as well as recommendations will be published. The second phase is to facilitate the organization of a regional forum gathering the key-actors of the Americas, in order to share their knowledge, expertise and good practices with Canadian stakeholders. Finally, the last phase consists in identifying partners in the private sector mainly the travel and tourist industry, to elaborate and implement feasible tools to act concretely, as signing and implementing the *Code of Conduct for the Protection of the Child Against Sexual Exploitation in the Tourism Industry*.



Fundraising activities

In order to pursue its mission, IBCR's needs are greater and more pressing. We are seeking the financial support from foundations, corporations, governments and other funding sources.

To this end, IBCR would much appreciate the collaboration of university intern students to assist with the following fundraising activities:

- *Identification of prospective funders including:*
 - *Foundations, corporations, governmental agencies...*
 - *National and international....*
 - *Better web search engines...;*
- *Preparation of funding applications*
- *Brain storming sessions:*
 - *public campaign*
 - *special events*
- *Constitution of a high profile fundraising Committee*