



Guidelines to protect rights of child victims adopted by the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

June 7th, 2005. MONTREAL, QC. The world is one step closer to becoming a safer place for children now that the *Guidelines on Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime* have been adopted by the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its 14th session, held in Vienna from May 23rd-27th, 2005.

These guidelines, inspired by the Convention on the Rights of Children, 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 guidelines were drafted by the International Bureau for Children's' Rights (IBCR) in collaboration with NGO's, government representatives, and experts in the areas of criminal law, children's rights and victimology. By request of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the guidelines were minimally revised by an intergovernmental expert group before their presentation in Vienna.

The Commission in Vienna also adopted a new draft resolution concerning the guidelines, with the intent to make member states implement and consult the guidelines when drafting legislation regarding children. This new resolution will be submitted for final adoption at the next ECOSOC session in July.

The adoption of these guidelines comes at a crucial time when the rights of children continue to be infringed upon through sexual exploitation, child trafficking, involvement in armed conflict and in other ways.

To view the Guidelines on Justice for Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime, and to learn more about the Convention on the Rights of Children, please visit the IBCR's website at www.ibcr.org.

For more information on the adoption of the guidelines, contact Me Jean François Noël at (514) 932-7656 ext. 221.