Revenues and expenses

Financial statements 2008-2009

The budget of the International Bureau for Children’s Rights for the period 2008-2009 was CAD $766,507. The surplus of revenues over expenditures as of 31 March 2009 was CAD $8,105.

Revenues
April 1st 2008 to March 31st 2009

During the period 2008-2009, activities were made possible through private contributions (36.7%), contributed services (27.0%), government contributions (20.5%) and international organizations contributions (15.8%), for a total revenue of CAD $766,507.

Expenditures
April 1st 2008 to March 31st 2009

Goverment and administrative expenditures amounted to CAD $46,379 and CAD $712,023 was invested in program development. Total expenditures amounted to CAD $758,402.

Acknowledgments

The work of the International Bureau for Children’s Rights is made possible thanks to the generous contribution of the following donors and partners:

- Association of the centres jeunesses du Québec
- Association des femmes avocates au Canada
- Boucle Régionale
- Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee
- Canadian Physician for Aid and Relief Care Canada
- Centre des droits de la personne
- Centre international pour la prévention de la criminalité
- Centre du Parc
- City of Montreal
- Coalition Canadienne des Droits des Enfants
- Congregation of the Presentation
- Conseil Canadien pour les Réguliers
- Synchro Laser Inc
- École d’enfants – UQAM
- Filles de Jésus
- Filles de Marie de l’Assomption
- Filles de la Charité du Sacré-Cœur de Jésus
- Filles de la Croix
- Filles de la Sapogne du Canada
- Forum sur les Enfants dans les Conflits
- Force Armié, Canada
- Foundation for Social Pediatrics
- Gendarmerie Royale du Canada
- Government of Sweden – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Government of Canada – Canadian International Development Agency
- Government of Canada – Ministry of Status of Women
- Government of Canada – Ministry of Health
- Government of Canada – Public Safety Canada (Quebec Division)
- Government of Canada – Canada Border Service Agency
- Government of Canada – Department of Justice
- Government of Canada – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
- Government of Canada – Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- Government of Quebec – Ministére de la Justice
- Government of Quebec – Ministére de l’Immigration et des Communautés culturelles
- Government of Quebec – Ministére de la Santé et des Services sociaux
- Government of Quebec – Ministére de la Sécurité publique
- Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
- Institut Jeanne d’Arc
- Journée d’Offre
- Les Oeuvres Le Royer
- Nations Unies – ONU
- National Council for Childhood and Family Services of Quebec – Ministére de la Santé et des Services sociaux
- Organisation internationale de la Francophonie
- Organisations d’accueil et d’intégration des immigrants d’Aquitaine
- Pères Servais de Sainte-Famille
- Plan Canada
- Plan International – Canada
- Programme de la Ville de Montréal
- Programme régional d’accueil et d’intégration des immigrants d’Aquitaine
- Proulx Publicité
- Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
- Save the Children – Canada
- Save the Children – Sweden
- Separated Children Intervention and Orientation Network
- Servantes de Notre-Dame Reine du Droit
- Servantes de Saint-Cœur de Marie Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal
- Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception
- Society of Sacred Heart
- Societé des Enfants du Sacré-Cœur
- Sisters of the Grey

Individual Donors

Nicholas and Marta Balá
Joanne d’Arc Fertin
Gaston Froiz

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Gaston Froiz

*Note: Copies of the Financial Statements and Auditor Reports can be obtained from the International Bureau for Children’s Rights.*

*Auditor: Rocheleau Labranche and Associates*

*Chartered Accountant: Sister Sheila Sullivan, C.D.*
For many years now, members of the International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR) have applied their knowledge and expertise to help children fully enjoy all of their rights.

I believe one of today’s greatest tragedies is the abuse of children and young people. All over the world – even in an egalitarian and progressive country like ours – society’s most vulnerable citizens are not always protected from negligence and violence. It is our duty to shelter them from all forms of abuse. We need more dialogue between experts and policy-makers, and between young people and those working to help them. There is no doubt in my mind that this situation is urgent.

The IBCR and its partners play a significant role in improving the quality of life of children and young people here in Canada and abroad. Their research in this area is invaluable and helps shed light on the nature of a problem to which concrete solutions must be found. Through their efforts, they help to those most in need and enable them to realise their dreams.

I would like to recognise the will and commitment of the women and men who work tirelessly to stop all forms of violence against young people. They are true champions and I am proud of their accomplishments.

Michaëlle Jean
2009
This past year, we have spread our wings and thus consolidated the Country Profiles programme and the battle against Child Trafficking.

For the start, our ambition has been to make the publishing of Country Profiles about the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child our first step. Indeed, in order to turn children’s rights into a reality, this publication is the basis for the development of a global plan of action featuring governmental and non-governmental players as well as children. This year’s partnership with the Save the Children organisation (Sweden) will at last enable us to go further, by involving and making children participate, thus supporting field organisations in North Africa and the Middle East in their work for the defence of children’s rights. We will therefore be present in 17 countries for over three years!

Our expertise concerning Child Trafficking in Quebec and Canada has driven us to develop a training course for grass-root organisations in order to help them better identify potential victims or youngsters who are already being exploited. The theme for next year is to transpose and adapt this knowledge on an international scale.

At the time of my accession to office, the team and I decided that the Bureau’s priority would be placed on the implementation of Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in other words “1. States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child”. I am very proud to confirm that we were able to put this principle into practice and that all our activities take into account the child’s right to participate.

During the next financial year we will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the UN. In 2009, we will still have to face many challenges in order to ensure that children’s rights are taken into account and respected at home and abroad.

The present report paints a brief picture of the activities and accomplishments of the IBCR from April 1st 2008 to March 31st 2009.

Besides information on these activities, readers will find further details on the IBCR’s mission and objectives in this report, as well as personal accounts of contributions from several members of its team, whether staff members, interns, or members of the Board of Directors. As usual, the reader will also find a financial summary for 2008-2009.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the members of our Board of Directors for their support and ever-informative advice, our financial partners for their confidence in our activities, and particularly the religious communities of Quebec and Canada for their unwavering support. The IBCR would also like to thank the Canadian and Swedish governments for their support of our projects. Last but not least, I would like to express my gratitude to the Bureau’s team for its professionalism and quality work and particularly the dozens of interns and volunteers throughout the 2008-2009 year who generously contributed their knowledge, expertise and time to the Bureau and the cause it defends.

Nadja Pollaert
Director General, International Bureau of Children’s Rights
From the 17th to the 22nd of March 2009, the Programme Director was invited to Colombia by the Canadian Embassy in Bogota, where he gave a series of speeches on the role of civil society in discussing matters with governments on the topics of children’s rights.

On the 12th and 13th of March 2009, the Director General took part in the 2nd Consular Table of the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on parental kidnapping.

On the 9th of March 2009, the Programme Manager on children in armed conflict participated in a panel organised together with Amnesty Canada – French section – in order to mark the International Women’s Day. The Bureau gave a speech about associations working in the African Great Lakes region promoting girls’ rights.

On the 3rd and 4th of March 2009, the IBCR took part in a preparatory meeting for the 4th meeting of the States Parties of the Organisation of American states on Human Trafficking in America and the Caribbean.

On the 27th and 28th of February 2009, the Canadian Coalition of Children’s Rights Conference was held. The Bureau was part of the Organising Committee and ran a workshop during a conference on the refugee and/or immigrant child’s best interests (Toronto, Canada).

On the 19th of February 2009, the Programme Manager on children in armed conflict led conferences for young people from secondary school during the 7th Annual Conference on Global Questions, which took place at Carleton University (Ottawa, Canada).

From the 22nd to the 25th of February 2009, the IBCR took part in the first meeting with strategic partners in Beirut (Lebanon), within the framework of the IBCR’s project, in order to identify potential partners for the MENA project.

From the 25th to the 28th of November 2008, the IBCR celebrated Universal Children’s Day with Via le Monde and UNICEF Quebec, alongside hundreds of children (6 to 12 years old) sharing their ideas on children’s rights.

On the 19th of November 2008, the Bureau led a course entitled “Children in Armed Conflict: the media’s view” in the Geography department of the UQAM (Montreal, Canada).

From the 8th to the 18th of November 2008, the IBCR took part in the Conference on children’s rights within the framework of the International Conference on family law organised by the Association internationale francophone des intervenants auprès des familles séparées et la Fédération des associations de juristes d’expression française de common law inc.

On the 6th of November 2008, the Bureau led a course entitled “Children in Armed Conflict: a hope of development” in an International Development course at University of Ottawa (Canada).

On the 6th of November 2008, the IBCR participated in the Soirée des veilleurs (Night Watch) on the topic of respect of children’s rights (Christian Action for the abolition of Torture).

On the 23rd of October 2008, the Bureau took part in a Forum on the issues at stake for people having endured trafficking (Association des aides familiales du Quebec).

On the 22nd of October 2008, the IBCR participated in the launching of Unamuno International’s campaign “Put a stop to woman and child trafficking”.

In September 2008, two representatives of the Bureau went on a field trip for four weeks to Burundi, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, in order to collect information and meet with partners for the publication of Country Profiles for these four countries.

In July 2008, the IBCR once again acted as a coordinator for the Forum on Children in Armed Conflict, under the auspices of Paxis Durable (Ottawa, Canada).

Late June 2008, Natalie Doyle joined the Bureau as a consultant on the African Great Lakes region project.
Without them, the Bureau would not be what it is. Here are the testimonies of some of the individuals essential to the Bureau’s success …

**Ambassador Moussira Khattab, Vice President of the IBCR Board of Directors - Secretary General of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (Egypt) and Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child**

“The IBCR contributes greatly towards global efforts to implement the rights of the Child, with at least two major accomplishments: The “UN Guidelines on Juvenile Matters relating to Child Victims and Witnesses to Crime” and its series of country profiles. The Committee on the Rights of the Child systematically recommends to all States that they use the Guidelines. I am proud to be part of the team of the IBCR. I will spare no effort to contribute to its mission.”

**Benoit Van Keirsbilck, DEI-Belgium, Young People’s Rights’ department**

“The International Bureau for Children’s Rights is in fact a small structure, somewhat atypical compared to the various other international NGOs working on children’s rights, but it has shown a true ability to lead important projects, ambitious both in their achievement and the objectives they imply. One must not forget that if the Guidelines on Child Victims and Witnesses were adopted by the ECOSOC, it is mainly thanks to the IBCR’s hard work. Therefore, Jean-Pierre Rosencweig considers, and justifiably so, that the IBCR fathered this project. Today, the IBCR once again faces a considerable challenge: to draw up country profiles concerning children’s rights, representing true pictures of the implementation of these fundamental questions in each country. These country profiles are a first-class support for governments, local civil societies or international organisations, in order to make children’s rights work in the Middle-East and North Africa (The MENA Project).”

**Pauline Anger-Bourez, intern for the training project on Child Trafficking, from January to June 2009**

“My internship at the International Bureau for Children’s Rights enabled me to contribute to numerous actions for the Bureau and discover an interesting work environment.

Working on the Child Trafficking Programme, I mainly participated in the elaboration of a training course for professionals in Quebec. This task notably enabled me to discover how the Canadian – and more precisely the Quebec – system works, as well as to meet numerous professionals working on the protection of children and children’s rights. I also had the privilege of attending events and conferences as well as taking part in activities organized to develop awareness in children, professionals and the general population.

This work experience was extremely fulfilling and made me want to pursue my commitment to the defence and protection of children’s rights and gave me hope of a better world for children.”

**Natalie Doyle, Programme Manager and part of the IBCR team since June 2008**

“In the context of the Country Profiles programme, I had the opportunity to travel to Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo to meet local and international partners that work on children’s issues. The objective of our study was to examine the implementation of the CRC in the African Great Lakes region. Our work focused on positive advances rather than only on the problems and challenges, which is a unique approach and a strength in the IBCR’s work. With the help of numerous interns and the management, our hard work culminated in the publication of a thorough report on the situation of children in the region, which was disseminated to local partners, international media and international organizations. It was professionally engaging and also taught me a thing or two about myself”.

**Guillaume Landry, Programme Director**

“Making a difference
The programme on Country Profiles is one of the core activities of the International Bureau for Children’s Rights (IBCR). Its main objective is to analyse and report on the status of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional Protocols, thereby contributing to filling the gaps in the United Nations monitoring system in the implementation of the CRC. The second objective of this programme is to promote the exchange of commendable practices and to contribute to the monitoring system, complementing the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Published in the form of Country Profiles, our analysis focuses on the progress that has been made, on innovative programmes and remaining challenges on a national and regional scale. Furthermore, this regional perspective allows us to showcase progress made in all the countries studied while accounting for common obstacles to overcome. These profiles are also used to nurture the dialogue between decision-makers in the studied countries in order to help States integrate a variety of conclusions and fully implement the CRC.


There are numerous reports denouncing the violation of children’s rights in French-speaking countries of the African Great Lakes region and justifiably so: the situation children find themselves in these countries is extremely worrying and abuse is common. But the Bureau has a new and unique approach in this region. The IBCR is conscious of the fact that several reports have already stated the problems in these countries and has felt the need to contribute by focusing on their advances and therefore show the various actions led by those who specialize in childhood issues, such as governments, local civil societies or international organisations, in order to make children’s rights work in this region. The Bureau is convinced of the importance of highlighting these practices in order to motivate and inspire people to take action in favour of a greater respect of children’s rights, through public policies as well as non-governmental programmes.”

These past few years, the IBCR has adapted its approach in order to pass on its expertise and increase its collaboration with partners from the targeted region, thus trying to encourage them to not only produce their own Country Profiles and detailed regional surveys in an autonomous way, but also use these results to take action in favour of the complete implementation of the CRC in their country and region. This approach is based on the principle according to which civil society organisations can and must play a key role in the protection and promotion of human rights and particularly those of children. This approach implies covering more countries of a same region on a long-term basis, enabling us to strengthen relations with partners and follow their implication in the long run. Following this approach, the IBCR has been working since September 2007 with the NGO Save the Children Sweden (SCS) Bureau for the MENA region on a project proposal aimed at 17 countries in the region. During the following months, the IBCR and SCS developed a joint vision which led, on the 15th of September, to the signature of a framework agreement with the Swedish Agency for International Development in order to back up the project over three and a half years for an amount of 3.2 million US dollars.
Civil society’s role concerning the fight against poverty, especially the role of civil society organisations is gradually recognised – in theory at least – in the MENA region. The role that civil society organisations play in the promotion of children’s rights is both vast and varied. Therefore, critical and independent perspectives for civil societies concerning the respect and implementation of the CRC are essential. These organisations can also play a big part in public awareness of the contents and mechanism of the CRC, as well as defending and pressurising pertinent leaders so that they take adequate measures to ensure that the CRC’s norms are respected both in law and in practice.

The project’s main objective is that regional and national politics, strategies and legislation in accordance with the CRC should be developed and implemented in the MENA region. The project will assist and consolidate civil society and NGO’s existing networks’ expertise and will focus on the following four components:

1. The production of surveys and reports on children’s rights
2. The constitution of a network between various actors involved in the sector
3. Advocacy in favour of children’s rights and the application of the CRC
4. The programming, based on children’s rights, in the work of those implicated in human rights and development in the MENA region issues

Between September 2008 and March 2009, the IBCR and SCS prepared the project, fine-tuned the plan of action, consulted regional bodies and selected partners. In January 2009, Rouba Al-Salem joined the Bureau’s team as head of the project. After having gone to Lebanon in September 2008 in order to coordinate the launching of the project with SCS, the Bureau took part in several partner identification and consulting missions in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco during fall 2008. The preliminary period of this project culminated in a strategic meeting in Beirut, Lebanon, at the end of February 2009, where the four strategic partners identified during the field missions: ALFF (Lebanon), Bayti (Morocco), Mizan (Jordan) and Naba’a (Lebanon) – joined the IBCR and SCS teams to finalise and comment on the plan of action and objectives.

The report that closes the preliminary period was therefore submitted to the Swedish Agency for International Development at the beginning of last March. As the time of the drafting up of this report, we were still awaiting a decision from the Swedish Agency for International Development concerning the next steps of the project.

In June 2008, Natalie Doyle joined the Bureau as a consultant on the African Great Lakes region project. With the help of numerous devoted and competent interns, Natalie first started to consolidate the profile drafts that had been developed using literature on children’s situation in Burundi, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

In September 2008, Guillaume Landry and Natalie Doyle traveled to the African Great Lakes region to meet with local and international civil society representatives, ministries and local and international organisations to explain the project. The involvement of these bodies was essential to the project’s success, as they would be able to use the report in their future work and spread its results. This mission’s objective was also to develop, check and update the information used for the profile drafts of these four countries.

Finally, a consultation with children was organised in each country in order to hear their point of view on the promotion and protection of children’s rights.

In November 2008 of Penal Code reforms concerning children’s rights’ protection is an initiative that needs to be mentioned. Thanks to these reforms the penal age of majority has gone from 13 to 15, sentences against minors have been lightened and sentences against people having committed sexual assaults on children have been reinforced. These reforms also offer a definition of rape in accordance to international norms. Moreover, the death sentence has also been abolished.

There is, however, a persisting challenge: implementing adopted laws and policies in order to promote and protect children’s rights. Therefore, the IBCR plans to organise a restitution seminar in the African Great Lakes region.
The IBCR : Coordinator of the Canadian Forum on Children in Armed Conflict

Since September 2007, the IBCR has held the role of coordinator of the Forum on Children in Armed Conflict and co-chairs the Forum’s meetings with Canadian governmental representatives. The Forum is a reunion of Canadian civil society’s main actors. Its objective is to promote strategies and politics in order to make progress on Children in Armed Conflict issues, both in Canada and elsewhere.

The first term of this financial year brought doubts concerning the Forum’s future. Indeed, the Durable Peace network, which oversees and finances the Forum’s activities, was not able to obtain a permanent financing from the Canadian government. After numerous efforts from Canadian civil society to try and prove to the Canadian government how important it is to support the Durable Peace network – and therefore the Forum on Children in Armed Conflict – the Canadian Agency for International Development decided, on the 15th of July 2008, to grant over 800 000 Canadian dollars for the next three years on the basis of a decrease each year.

Thanks to this support, Durable Peace was then able to renew its trust and satisfaction in the Bureau’s work as coordinator of the Forum on Children in Armed Conflict. This framework agreement also enabled the Forum to increase its capacities in terms of coordination, which led to the appointment of Natalie Doyle, who joined the IBCR team on the 5th of January 2009 as Programme Manager for Children in Armed Conflict. Natalie’s mandate for the IBCR is therefore to back the Forum’s Coordination and develop initiatives concerning children in armed conflict.

The IBCR aims at countering child trafficking by contributing to the protection of young girls in their environment:

- By training front line workers joining young people at risk or concerned by, or implicated in, human trafficking;
- By making the general population aware of trafficking issues and increasing the participation of young people at risk;
- By passing on our knowledge in the hope of contributing to a decrease in the number of young people concerned by, or implicated in, human trafficking.

A training course that answers the needs of the community

From mid-May to mid-August 2008, the IBCR consulted 20 community organisations in order to learn more about their expectations concerning the form and contents of the training course.

They work, among others, with young people from the First Nations, from cultural communities, sexual minorities, runaways, or young victims of assault, etc.

The IBCR shares its expertise

On a national scale...

The IBCR carried out appearances in the media and took part in two documentaries in order to create public awareness of child exploitation and more specifically child trafficking in Canada. It has held several seminars on children’s rights, separated children and child trafficking in Quebec and Canada.

On an international scale...

On the 3rd and 4th of March 2009, the IBCR took part in a preliminary meeting for the second States Parties meeting of the American States Organisation for human trafficking in America and the Caribbean. In the course of the discussion, we were able to present the different advances and challenges concerning human trafficking in Canada. The NGO representatives that were present – including the IBCR – then formulated recommendations relating to (1) prosecution, (2) administration of justice, (3) international cooperation and institutional reinforcement, (4) prevention, (5) victim protection and assistance. These recommendations were presented to government representatives that were present at the meeting in Buenos Aires that took place from the 23rd to the 27th of March 2009.

Directions for 2009-2010 ...

The expertise gained by the Bureau to counter child trafficking will express itself in the training courses that should be held in September 2009.
Child Sex Tourism

With the expertise acquired thanks to the child trafficking programme, in 2008 the Bureau chose to continue contributing to the battle against all kinds of child exploitation by identifying child sex tourism as an increasing phenomenon affecting a greater number of regions around the world. The year 2008 in Canada was marked by new cases of indictments and convictions of Canadian citizens having sexually exploited children during a trip to foreign parts.

Several factors have contributed to the expansion of child sex tourism, but the emergence of information and communication technologies as well as the industry generated two billion American dollars per day. For the most part – committed by tourists, are also more and more frequently committed by young people. This worrying fact can be explained by the abundance of low-cost trips and the easy access, via the Internet, to local networks that enrich themselves through child exploitation. We must keep in mind that the tourism industry employs 8% of the global labour market and generates more money than any other industry in the world’s economy. In 2006 this industry generated two billion American dollars per day.

In November 2008, the IB CR was present at the 3rd World Congress Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Rio de Janeiro. The IB CR had been invited in order to lead a workshop in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. It was therefore a second opportunity for the Bureau to contribute to the work advance, since the IB CR was also invited to the previous Congress in Yokohama in 2001 as part of the Canadian delegation.

During the preparatory regional thematic consultations for the 3rd Rio Congress, the IB CR was able to contribute to the reflections as a member of the organizing committee of the North American thematic consultation on companies’ social responsibility.

In this first year of the child sex tourism programme, the IB CR first invested its efforts on a national scale, because it noticed that following positive Canadian initiatives elaborated in order to better protect children here and elsewhere, Canada is taking its time in joining the ranks of other countries that have firmly followed suit regarding child sex tourism.

For this reason, the initial objective of the IB CR’s actions is to install, on a national scale, a collaboration between the government, the private sector and non-governmental organisations, by taking international models as examples. This collaboration represents the necessary platform in order to, on the one hand, better inform and equip the Canadian population to face this problem and on the other hand, to help companies officially commit themselves to this fight. To this effect, we should point out that, up to now, only two Canadian companies, Incursions Voyages and the Association canadienne des agences de voyages, have signed the Code of conduct for the protection of children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism (The Code.org), whereas on an international scale, over 800 companies in over thirty countries have adhered to it.

The year 2009 will therefore be one to watch, since it will see the development of a concrete action on a national scale, thus revealing the IB CR’s efforts and unwavering commitment in the fight against child sexual exploitation in travel and tourism.

Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime Programme

Background

Millions of children throughout the world are harmed as a result of crime and abuse of power. The rights of these children have not been adequately recognised and they may suffer additional hardships when involved in a judicial process. Children are vulnerable and require special protection appropriate to their age, level of maturity and individual special needs. Girls are particularly vulnerable and are likely to face discrimination at all stages of the judicial system. Furthermore, children who are victims and witnesses of crime may suffer from being mistakenly viewed as offenders, rather than victims and witnesses. Improved responses to child victims and witnesses can make children and their families more willing to disclose instances of victimisation and more supportive of the judicial process.

In response to this context and the need expressed by governments and professionals for guidance, the IB CR created the Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime programme in the late 1990’s. We began by conducting research on existing norms and standards in this field. Notably, the Convention on the Rights of the Child establishes principles to secure effective recognition of the rights of children, while the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power sets forth principles to fulfil each victim’s rights to information, participation, protection, repairation and assistance. Research was also conducted on existing best practices in this field, while taking into account a vast diversity of legal systems and traditions.

Considering the fact that crime is increasingly transnational and that Child victims and witnesses of crime should be assured equivalent protection in all countries, the IB CR has developed a set of guidelines that offer a practical and user-friendly framework to support and guide professionals working directly with affected children. The guidelines also provide support in the development, review and implementation of laws, procedures, and national practices in this field.

Determined that the guidelines be implemented in practice and to raise awareness about the situation of child victims and witnesses worldwide, the IB CR decided to lobby for the adoption of its guidelines by the United Nations. On the 22nd of July 2005, ECO/SOC adopted the UN Guidelines on Justice in Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime (Resolution 2005/20), with official recognition of the IB CR’s contribution to their development.

To ensure that children are made aware of the guidelines, informed of their rights and how to protect themselves, the IB CR and its partners – namely the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UNICEF and the INNOCENTI Research Centre – recently finalised a child-friendly version of the guidelines. These were published simultaneously in all six official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Russian), and in both electronic and hard-copy formats.

Results obtained in 2008-2009

Throughout the year, the Bureau participated in various events and activities to promote the guidelines. It is particularly proud of the forum offered by the Institute of Child Rights in Sion (Switzerland) which organised a meeting in partnership with UNICEF, UNODC and the IB CR for the promotion of the guidelines, the training units and the model legislative provisions to representatives of several dozens of countries.

Furthermore, the secretary of the non-governmental international organisation Défense des Enfants International (DEI) invited the Bureau to its international conference, whose first objective was to offer a training course to its members on the topic of young people in conflict with the law: Mettre fin à la Violence dans les Systèmes de Justice pour Mineurs: des Motifs à l’Action.

However, the UNODC, UNICEF and the IB CR continue to finalise interactive training units for actors working with child victims and witnesses of crime.