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des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse* of Quebec.

# A Message from Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada and Patron of the International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR)

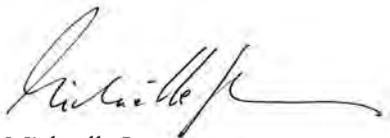
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It gives me great pleasure to greet the members of the International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR) and to highlight the invaluable contribution they make to respecting and promoting the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

Violence against children and young people is a tragedy that affects millions, and it occurs in every region of the world. Even here, in Canada, young people are not safe from injustice and abuse. It is our duty to stop all forms of violence against young people. Whether rescuing the victims of human trafficking, sex tourism or armed conflicts, there is no doubt in my mind that this situation is urgent.

I applaud the efforts being made by all those who work for and volunteer with the IBCR, an organization that is truly dedicated to serving and defending those who cannot defend themselves. Their remarkable work, and the time and heart they tirelessly invest in ridding the world of this horrible plague deserve all our admiration. They have made it their mission to protect the rights of and to give a voice to those who are the most vulnerable.

I wish you all continued success!



Michaëlle Jean

July 2010

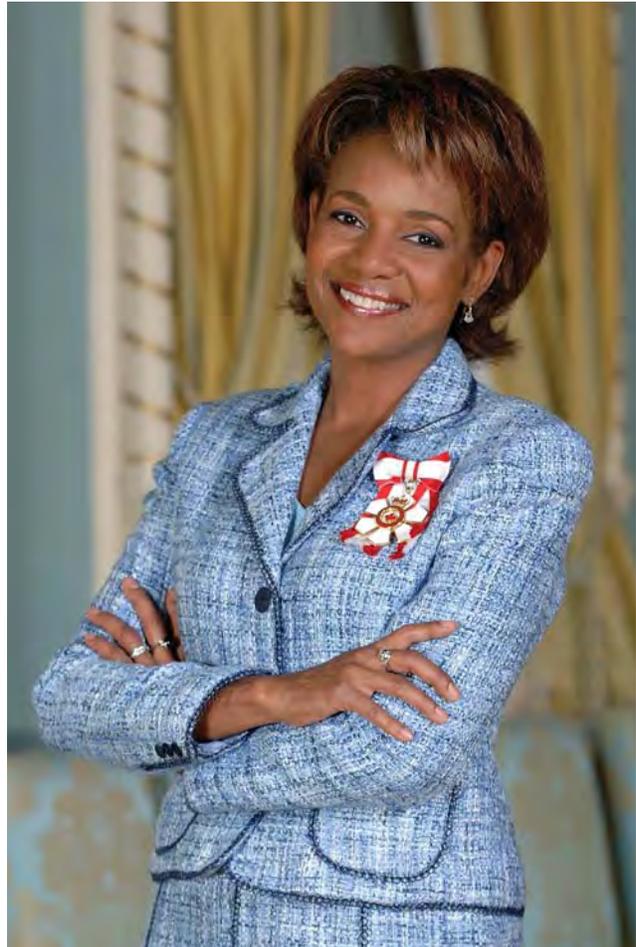
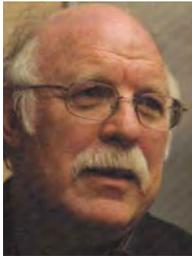


PHOTO: SGT ERIC JOLIN (2006)

# Message from the President

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jean-Pierre Rosenczveig'.

Jean-Pierre Rosenczveig

*IBCR President*

*President of the Bobigny's Children Tribunal (France)*

Dear Friends of the International Bureau  
for Children's Rights

On Friday November 20<sup>th</sup> 2009, the 20th anniversary of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child was celebrated across the entire planet.

It is quite exceptional that such a celebration took place, as it was, after all, the celebration of a legal document. Why such an outpouring of passion for a document that is, in the end, nothing more than a treaty adopted by "the thing" as Charles de Gaulle described the UN?

The adoption of this treaty by a unanimous vote of the UN General Assembly was already an exceptional occurrence given all the hesitation and downright opposition that was manifested for decades towards a treaty recognizing children's rights. Hesitation that was based in a concern that human rights would be weakened by focusing on one group over another (today children, tomorrow women or the disabled)! However, the state of children's rights during the sixties, in the aftermath of the Second World War, made it necessary to overcome this resistance. The ball was set in motion.

At the political level, the Convention is the fruit of a century-long effort. At the technical level, it took ten years to develop a text that would be binding on nation states. Up until that time, (1924 for the League of Nations and then 1959 for the UN) all that existed were declarations and principled petitions that bound no one. Today, thanks to the Convention, states are held accountable. The articles inherent to this document can be invoked directly by litigants before the courts. And this is very significant! It paves the way for eventual recourse before the Committee of Experts, which is yet another development in the defence of children's rights.

For the first time, one document has consolidated all of the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights present in 80 international texts that are littered with disperse signatures and ratifications. This document has

resulted in a coherence that has brought about a strategy for children; one that is democratic and vivacious.

Finally, the Convention truly has a modern vision, deliberately turned towards the XXI<sup>st</sup> century, of which the treaty is the bearer; the child now is the subject of the law, not simply a fragile being in need of protection.

Let us be clear: the children's rights movement is a manifestation of the human rights failures at a global level. In the face of human rights being ignored, the international community rightfully adopted a strategy to promote children's rights. And with reason. The momentum that arose from this movement has led to a second world summit and a plan for childhood. The successes have been modest but are important, nonetheless. The battle must continue and it will never be completely won...

Adopting a law is the fruit of many battles and the implementation of such a law will often mean new battles. This is where we find ourselves today.

And at the centre of such battles, we find civil societies who promote and implement the Convention. These organisations should not take over the State's responsibilities, but rather challenge and provide the technical assistance required to implement the Convention. This is the work of the International Bureau for Children's Rights.

Today, however, we are faced with converting words into action and the Bureau is determined to take center stage in this effort. It has chosen to preserve its general mandate to promote and defend the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to deliberately engage in this area with its Board and its team.

Thanks to all who have supported the Bureau's mission: public officials, professionals, private individuals and activists who continue to defend the cause of children's rights!

Paris, July 2010

# A Message from the Director General

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*Nadja Pollaert*

Nadja Pollaert  
*Director General, International Bureau for Children's Rights*

The 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the 15th anniversary of the International Bureau for Children's Rights are two events which we had to underline grandly!

Taking notice about our numerous activities presented in this year's annual report the reader will find that the IBCR was invited to present the Convention or our views on the children's rights on many occasions within Quebec, Canada and of course elsewhere in the world.

Our first most concrete contribution was without any doubt the publication of a reference book on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the context of Quebec. This book is addressed to all those working directly with children and youth. It exposes the differences between the national law and practises in place and the Convention.

Our second major contribution consists in the new edition of the Guide on Children and armed conflict: a guide to international humanitarian and human rights law. Prefaced by the Special representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for the children and armed conflict Mrs. Radhika Coomaraswamy, this reference tool is unique and complete. Thanks to the collaboration of many "grass-root" practioners, this comprehensive and user-friendly guide will be useful to those working on the ground in the zones of conflict or post-conflict, for trainers, researchers and students. Already we are solicited to give trainings to humanitarian personnel in particular in West Africa.

Finally, we are particularly proud of the collaboration with a growing number of nongovernmental organisations in the Middle East and in North Africa which often recall us how much the defence of children rights can be received as a threat to society in general or to political stakeholders in particular...

The present report paints a brief picture of the activities and accomplishments of the IBCR from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 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 2009-2010.

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 2009-2010 year who generously contributed their knowledge, expertise and time to the Bureau and the cause it defends.

Montreal, August 2010

# International Bureau for Children's Rights

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## Board of directors 2009-2010

### **Judge Jean-Pierre Rosenczveig**

*President*

*Vice-President of the Tribunal de Grande Instance de Bobigny, Paris (France)*

### **Moushira Khattab**

*Vice-president – United Nations Liaison Minister of Population and Family, Egypt*

### **Sister Sheila Sullivan, CND**

*Treasurer*

*Member of the Congrégation Notre-Dame, Montreal (Canada)*

### **Håkan Friman**

*Vice-president – Fundraising (International) Director of the Criminal Law Division – Ministry of Justice, Stockholm (Sweden)*

### **George Stamatis**

*Fundraising (North America) Political Science student at the Université du Québec à Montréal, Montreal (Canada)*

### **Sebastien Caron**

*Administrator*

*Lawyer, Montreal (Canada)*

### **Mary-Anne Kirvan**

*Administrator*

*Lawyer, Ottawa (Canada)*

### **Benoît Van Keirsbilck**

*Administrator*

*Director of the Children's Rights Services, Brussels (Belgium)*

## 2009-2010 Team

### STAFF MEMBERS

#### **Nadja Pollaert**

*Director General*

#### **Luc Ouimet**

*Director of administration*

#### **Guillaume Landry**

*Programme Director – Promotion of the Convention on the Rights of the Child*

#### **Rouba Al Salem/ Bashir Abdelgayoum Ali**

*Programme Manager – MENA Project*

#### **Natalie Doyle**

*Programme Manager – War-affected children*

#### **Camille Karbassi**

*Programme Manager – Child trafficking and separated Children*

#### **Marco Sotelo**

*Programme Manager – Child Sex Tourism*

#### **Catherine Beaulieu**

*Senior Consultant*

#### **Germaine Chevrier**

*Consultant – Education - Training*

#### **Louise Gagné**

*Community Relations Coordinator*

#### **Nadjet Bouda**

*Administrative & logistic assistant MENA Project*

#### **Berthilde Murorunkwere**

*Administrative Assistant*

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Honourable Oscar d'Amours and to Prof. Nicolas Bala for their support and their commitment to the Bureau throughout the year.

## CONSULTANTS AND OTHER COLLABORATORS

Jennifer Adams ■ Catherine Beaulieu ■ Jenny Brasebin  
■ Christina Clark-Kazak ■ Nadine Grant ■  
Anne Grandjean ■ Martin Hebert ■ Jean-François  
Noël ■ Gaëtan Proulx ■ François Riguet ■ Kathy  
Vandergrift ■ Béatrice Vaugrante ■ Eugen Verhellen  
■ Louise Gagné ■ Nadine Robert ■ Leila Turki ■  
Hélène Dérôme ■ Nadjat Mi'jid ■ Chris Sidoti ■  
Annick Murphy ■ Sonia Gilbert ■ Ellen Gabriel ■  
Diane Proudfoot ■ Michelle Berg ■ Zoé Dugal ■  
Rachel Harvey ■ Caroline Hamilton ■ Nancy Ingram  
■ Kate McInturff ■ Robert Muggah ■ Helen  
Moestue ■ Jackie Olanya Laker ■ Terry Waterhouse  
■ Joanna Wedge ■ Rigmor Argren ■ Jo Becker ■  
Amanda Bock ■ Luc Côté ■ Linda Dale ■ Andrea  
Khan ■ Darrel Nadeau ■ Bonnie Laing ■ Aristide  
Nononsi ■ Alina Pleszewska ■ Christina Bloch ■  
Ibrahim Faltas ■ Sanna Johnson ■ Jumanah Zabaneh  
■ Emma Reilly ■ Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy ■  
Carolina Owens ■ Rena Ramkay ■ Louis-Philippe  
Jannard ■ David Lord ■ Frédérique Tessier ■  
Renée-Maude Lebrun ■ Yvan Conoir ■ Valérie Sagant

## INTERNS

Floriane Dussauge-International Law,  
Université de Grenoble (France)  
Samanta Garcia, Latin American Studies,  
University of Georgetown (USA)  
Anne-Marie Lévesque, International Relations,  
Université de Montréal (Canada)  
Marie Bernier, Political Science, UQAM (Canada)  
Esther-Gabrielle Rouleau,  
Political Science UQAM (Canada)  
Maud Reymond, Public Relations,  
UQAM (Canada)  
Clara Bouché, Communication School,  
Paris (France)  
Loujain Kurdi, Political Science and communications,  
Université de Montréal (Canada)

Mathieu Aebi, International Relations,  
Université de Montréal (Canada)  
Fabiola Paul Roc, civil law, UQAM (Canada)  
Gaby Y. Gamarra Torres, International Relations,  
Université de Montréal (Canada)  
Reine Abi Rached, International Relations,  
Université de Montréal (Canada)  
Julie Gasser, Master Human Rights,  
Université de Strasbourg (France)  
Katherine Fournier M., International Law,  
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Université de Sherbrooke (Canada)  
Daniel Amin, Political Science,  
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Jessica Authier, Communications,  
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Pauline Anger-Bourez, Master Law, Paris (France)  
Elise Garand, International Relations  
and International Law, UQAM (Canada)  
Margo Legault, International Human Rights Law,  
University of Ireland  
Mary Doran, International Human Rights Law,  
University of Ireland  
Dina Dajani, Political Science,  
McGill University, Montreal (Canada)  
Salwa el Ouerdhiri, Political and economic Sciences,  
Université de Montréal (Canada)  
Marwa Semhat, International Law,  
Université de Montréal, (Canada)  
Galina Konovalova, International Relations,  
Université de Montréal (Canada)  
Hannah Iland, Political Sciences and Law,  
Carleton University(Canada)  
Catherine Essar, Master Law  
and Political Sciences (France)

# Mission and Objectives

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Founded in 1994, the International Bureau for Children's Rights ("the IBCR") is an international non-governmental organisation headquartered in Montreal (Canada). Since 2005, the IBCR has a special advisory status at the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

Soon after the ratification of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* by the government of Canada in 1991, the two founders of the IBCR, the Honourable Judge Andrée Ruffo and Dr. Bernard Kouchner, consulted dozens of international organisations to help them determine the priorities of the IBCR. Two major concerns then took shape: sexual exploitation of children and children and armed conflict.

Until today the IBCR is still active in these areas. Even though other activities have been added the IBCR primary mission is to **promote and protect the rights of the child** in accordance with the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC) and its Optional Protocols.

## Why an organization dedicated to the promotion of the Convention on the Rights of the Child? ...

...because all over the world, a little more than one billion children under 18 years live in countries or territories affected by a war – that is to say almost a sixth of the world population. From this total, nearly 300 million are less than 5 years old. In 2006, according to estimates', 18.1 million children belonged to populations suffering from the consequences of displacement. Within this group approximately 5.8 million were refugee children and 8.8 million children were displaced (Machel Report). In order to make sure that the most fundamental rights of these children are respected, the IBCR implements its **Programme on war affected children**.

... because million children are confronted with the consequences of crime and the abuse of power. In order to take care that these more vulnerable children receive a particular protection, the IBCR set up the **Programme of children victims and witnesses of crime**.

... because more than one million children in the world are displaced and exploited in the sex trade, several practices similar to slavery or are victims of trafficking, an ignored phenomenon and badly documented, the IBCR set up the **Programme against child trafficking**.

... because according to recent world estimates of the International Labour Organization, from the 12.3 million people victims of forced labour, 1.39 million are victims of the sexual exploitation for commercial purposes and 40 to 50% of them are children. The IBCR launched its **Programme against child sex tourism**.

... because the rights of the child are indivisible. The recommendations of the monitoring system of the United Nations regarding the rights and the protection of the child require a follow-up mechanism. To put forward national and regional challenges and promote commendable and innovative practises, the IBCR set up the **Programme of Country profiles on the state of the implementation of the Convention**.

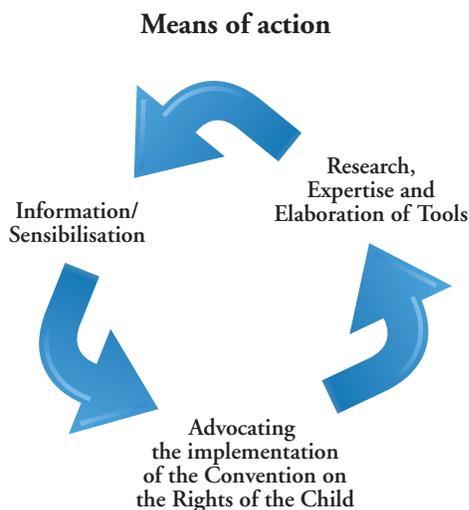
*Our philosophy of action is founded on the conviction that the implementation of the rights of the child requires a dialogue of all the actors likely to bring a change in favour of children, in particular governments, international and regional institutions and organisations and children themselves.*

## A testimonial from...

### In short...

During the last fifteen years, the IBCR has gained great recognition and credibility on the international scene by concentrating its activities where the challenges are particularly important:

- Children victims and witnesses of crime
- Sexual exploitation of the children namely through child sex tourism and child trafficking
- Children affected by armed conflict
- Development of Country profiles for a review of the situation of the rights of the child on a national and regional level
- Promotion and dissemination of the Convention



### Our areas of competence:

- Elaboration of models and tools to monitor the implementation of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* in various countries
- Setting up of coalitions on strategic questions
- Sharing knowledge and commendable practices
- Legal and analytical expertise on the rights of the child recognised by various international, national and regional organizations and partners
- Methodological rigour in the research on the rights of the child
- Professional, multidisciplinary and committed team
- Technical support in regards to the rights of the child

### Juge Renate Winter

President of International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates; Secretary General of the UNO of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and Member of the Court of Appeal of Vienna (Austria)

*“I often had to treat cases involving children as victims or witnesses. I am thus aware of the importance to handle such cases sensitively, as well as the necessity to protect the interests and the rights of the children in such a difficult situation. I was thus happy when the IBCR published the Guidelines [...] in 2003, a period where domestic violence and children's trafficking began to increase considerably.”*

### Senator Landon Pearson

Councilor with the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs on children's rights and co-founder of the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children

*“Since its creation in 1994, the IBCR has provided important and innovative contributions in the promotion and protection of children's rights. This was done by identifying the factors that constitute the violation of children's rights, supplying recommendations and useful solutions, gathering the actors concerned by these various domains, identifying and sharing good practices and by elaborating on Guidelines for those who work with children in difficult circumstances...”*

# The 20th birthday of the Convention on the Rights of the child and the 15th anniversary of the International Bureau for Children's Rights

A media presence without equal...



<http://www.cnw.ca/fr/releases/archive/February2010/22/c3434.html>



LA PRESSE MONTREAL VENDREDI 19 NOVEMBRE 2009 A 3  
LES DROITS DE L'ENFANT ONT 20 ANS



<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/international/200911/19/01-923329-la-misere-pour-un-milliard-denfans.php>

**Si les enfants étaient au pouvoir**  
La Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant a 20 ans  
Métro spécial enfants 6 pages

<http://www.journalmetro.com/monde/article/374485--la-convention-relative-aux-droits-de-l-enfant-a-20-ans>

Le Journal  
Février 2010  
www.barreau.qc.ca/journal  
Barreau du Québec  
Convention internationale  
Vingt ans de protection  
des droits des enfants

[www.barreau.qc.ca/journal](http://www.barreau.qc.ca/journal)



## To celebrate between friends and colleagues...

On November 6, 2009, within a beautiful musical setting, the friends of the IBCR gathered at the headquarters of the Congregation Notre-Dame, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and the 15th anniversary of the International Bureau for Children's Rights.



## A testimonial from...

### **Sister Deborah Isaacs**

Coordinator of the project  
*Separated Children's Intervention  
and Orientation Network*

*"As coordinator of the project for Children's Separated Intervention and Orientation Network of MOSAIC, I had the opportunity to work in association with the IBCR since 2002 [...] In addition to my contacts with the Bureau, I found their projects and work extremely useful. Their publications became an important resource and a reference in my work with Separated Children [...] I thus hope to continue this collaboration with the IBCR in the future."*

### **Minister Moushira Khattab**

Vice-President of the Board of Directors  
for IBCR; Minister of Family and  
Population, Egypt

*"The IBCR contributes largely [...] to implementing the rights of the child, by means of at least two pillars: Guidelines [...] and the Country Profiles programme. The Committee for Children's Rights recommends systematically to all States the use of these Guidelines. I am proud to be a part of the IBCR team and I shall put my greatest efforts into helping them achieve their mission."*

It was also an excellent opportunity to launch the book “Connaître les droits de l’enfant. Comprendre la Convention relative aux droits de l’enfant au Québec”, published jointly with la courte échelle a well-known and respected editor in Quebec (Canada).

**La Convention relative aux droits de l’enfant fête son 20<sup>e</sup> anniversaire. Il s’agit de la convention la plus ratifiée du monde, et pourtant il reste beaucoup de travail à accomplir pour garantir son application et sa diffusion auprès des adultes et des enfants.**

## Connaître les droits de l’enfant

COMPRENDRE LA CONVENTION RELATIVE AUX DROITS DE L’ENFANT AU QUÉBEC



PRÉFACE DE MAÎTRE RENÉE JOYAL  
docteur en droit  
CONCLUSION DE JEAN-PIERRE ROSENCZWEIG  
Juge et président du conseil  
d’administration du Bureau international  
des droits des enfants.

BUREAU INTERNATIONAL  
DES DROITS DES ENFANTS

la courte échelle

**LE LIVRE**

Les enfants d’ici et d’ailleurs sont l’objet de nombreux débats de société. Ils sont parfois considérés comme des enfants rois et dénigrés; d’autres fois, ils sont battus, victimes d’abus, ou encore exploités ou vendus. Toujours est-il qu’ils sont très peu maîtres de leur destin et qu’ils dépendent de la volonté des adultes. Quels sont leurs droits? Comment ceux-ci sont-ils appliqués au Québec? Et comment les enfants doivent-ils être consultés, écoutés et amenés à s’impliquer dans les différentes sphères de leur vie? Ces questions sont d’autant plus pressantes que la communauté internationale célèbre, cette année, le 20<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la Convention relative aux droits de l’enfant.

**LES AUTEURS**

**Le Bureau international des droits des enfants (BICE)**

Le Bureau international des droits des enfants (BICE), la seule organisation internationale bilingue non gouvernementale travaillant aux droits de l’enfant au Canada et détenant un statut consultatif auprès du Conseil économique et social des Nations unies (ECOSOC), s’est associé avec la maison d’édition la courte échelle pour publier cet ouvrage de vulgarisation sur la Convention et sur sa mise en œuvre au Québec.

**LE PUBLIC CIBLE**

Ce livre est destiné aux parents, aux travailleurs sociaux, aux enseignants, aux avocats et à toute autre personne responsable de la protection ou de la promotion des droits de l’enfant au Québec.

**«J’ai été ravie de lire ce chapitre (Brève histoire de la naissance, du rôle et du pouvoir de la Convention). Il est très bien structuré et riche de renseignements qui seront très utiles pour le personnel enseignant.»**

Pauline Ladouceur  
Conseillère, Fédération des syndicats de l’enseignement

Pierre Lecomte du Noüy, *L’Homme et sa destinée*

**«Finalement un point de repère accessible à nous tous, sans nous décourager de l’ampleur de la mission du monde adulte envers les enfants. Pertinent, pratique, adaptable à plusieurs niveaux d’intervention, voilà le succès unique de cet ouvrage.»**

Lieutenant général, l’honorable Roméo A. Dallaire, retraité, sénateur

**À PROPOS DU LIVRE**

- Ce livre est un outil de référence pour le professeur qui enseigne les droits de l’enfant.
- Ce livre permet de mieux connaître les multiples aspects des droits de l’enfant dans la vie privée et publique.
- Ce livre offre des réponses claires aux questions concrètes (par exemple: a-t-on le droit de mettre un enfant en prison?).
- Ce livre aide à comprendre comment le droit international s’applique au Québec.
- Ce livre expose les responsabilités de l’État et des parents envers l’enfant.
- Ce livre permet de comprendre la portée des droits de l’enfant sur les plans national et international.
- Ce livre résume tout ce que l’on doit savoir sur les droits de l’enfant au Québec.



DIFFUSION DU LIVRE MIRABEL  
Téléphone: 514 334-0598  
Sans frais: 1 800 263-3678  
BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DES DROITS DES ENFANTS  
Téléphone: 514 932-7656

# 2009-2010 Highlights...

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In winter 2009, the Bureau launched a new newsletter on children's rights within the Middle East and North Africa region. This new newsletter follows on from our successful 'Children in Armed Conflict' newsletter that the IBCR has produced for the last three years.. From Morocco to Iraq through Syria and Yemen, the newsletter is an inventory of child rights violations within the region and of the actions taken to remedy these violations. The newsletters are distributed to a list of key actors working in the region. They are also made freely available on our website.



In April 2009, the Director General of the International Bureau for Children's Rights and the Programme Manager on child trafficking published an article "trafficking of children in a North American perspective: the case of Canada", in the *Cahiers de Sécurité*, n°9 in July-September 2009. (Ministry of the Interior, France).



6-8 May 2009, the Director General was invited on the steering committee of the *Journées d'échanges pluridisciplinaires Charles-Coderre* (Conference on the rights of the child in a multidisciplinary exchange), jointly organised by the Fondation Charles-Coderre and the Faculty of law of the University of Sherbrooke



May 14 and June 1, 2009, again this year, the Programme Director gave two courses on children in armed conflict during the United Nations seminar on peace keeping missions organised by the United Nations Institute for training and research (UNITAR) and the University of Québec in Montreal (UQAM), (Montreal, Canada).



22 May 2009, and during the year, the Programme Manager on child trafficking actively participated in the Senate Committee Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth, chaired by Senator Roméo Dallaire



25-30 May 2009, the Programme Director and the Programme Manager travel to Amman (Jordan) to conduct a three day workshop on the research methodology of the Country Profiles.



30 May 2009, for the mandatory training of the Bar Association of Quebec (Congress 2009) the IBCR provided training to lawyers on the Convention entitled: the Convention on the rights of the child: Do we have reason to celebrate?



In June 2009, the Director General gave training on strategies to advocate for the rights of children, to more than one hundred international human rights defenders, at the annual Human rights training of EQUITAS.



6 June 2009, a workshop was organised with International Children's Help Agency (AIPE) on child trafficking.



Summer 2009, an Advisory Committee was created by the International Bureau for Children's Rights of various civil society organisations in order to develop training on trafficking of young girls.



11 August 2009, the Programme Director participated in a discussion organised by the Canadian International Development Agency to identify what topics associated with the protection of children and equality between men and women should be prioritized within CIDA policies.



8 and 15 September 2009, a 'training of trainers' was offered to frontline social workers interacting with youth to enable them to learn more about the trafficking of children as well as facilitate the identification of young victims or youth at risk of being victims of trafficking.



28 and 29 September 2009, the Programme Director was invited to a Conference on the effectiveness of international aid organised by the Canadian Council for International Cooperation in Ottawa (Canada).



28 September 2009, the Director General and the Programme Manager on child trafficking are summoned to the Senate Committee on human rights to present their views on the sexual exploitation of children in Canada.



In October 2009, the International Bureau for Children's Rights published a final report on trafficking of children entitled "Trafficking of children, a reality here... and elsewhere".



5-7 October 2009, the Programme Director was invited by the Canadian Embassy in Caracas (Venezuela) to conduct a series of presentations on the role of civil society in dialogue with governments on the rights of the child.



9 October 2009, the book co-edited by IBCR and the editor *la courte échelle* on the implementation of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* in Quebec (Canada) is officially sold in all bookstores.



29 October 2009, the Director General presents a workshop on the Convention on the Rights of the Child "bases and application in Quebec and in Canada" at the Annual Conference of the organisation *Plaidoyer Victime* (a provincial network advocating for the rights of victims).



6 November 2009, the IBCR organised an evening to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* as well as the fifteenth anniversary of the IBCR. On the occasion the book entitled "Knowing the rights of the child: understanding the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Quebec", in collaboration with the editor *la courte échelle* was launched.



10 -11 November 2009 in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), the Programme Director facilitated a workshop on determining the best interests of the child and the related international tools, to an assembly of police officers from about 50 affiliated with West African police academies. The participation of the IBCR was made possible through the support of the International Organisation of the Francophonie (OIF), Francopol and the Sûreté du Québec who were acting as hosts of the regional seminar aiming to train police forces in West Africa.



12 November 2009, training was given by the Quebec Native Women Organisation to the IBCR team about the realities of first nations in Canada.



20 November 2009, the IBCR was invited to make several presentations to the Conference of Islamic States in Cairo (Egypt). At the same time the IBCR held the meeting of the board of directors and celebrated the appointment of one of its most illustrious members Mrs Moushira Khattab, Minister for Family and Population of the Arab Republic of Egypt.



18-23 of November 2009, the book "Knowing the rights of the child: understanding the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Quebec" was presented at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Montreal Book Fair.



20 November 2009, the day of the 20th anniversary of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, the Programme Director gave a talk at the opening of the International Conference on the Rights of Children organised by the University of Ottawa. The presentation emphasised the involvement of civil societies in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.



2 December 2009, the IBCR held its first forum on child sex tourism, for representatives of the Quebec tourism industry and to various Canadian governmental and non-governmental organisations.



2-5 December 2009, the Director General traveled to Casablanca (Morocco) to attend a one-week workshop on child lead data collection implemented through the MANARA project.

■ ■ ■

2-4 December 2009, the Programme Director went to Gaborone (Botswana) to conduct a workshop on existing mechanisms to remove children from armed groups and forces during a regional Executive Workshop on children and armed conflict in southern Africa. The Director was invited to the workshop by the Child Soldier Initiative of the Senator Roméo Dallaire

■ ■ ■

2-9 December 2009, the Programme Manager on child trafficking was invited to Istanbul (Turkey) to receive the prize “Success Story” from the World Family Organisation for the training on child trafficking. He made a presentation at the International Organisation for Migration on the same project.

■ ■ ■

11 December 2009, the Programme Director was invited to a workshop (research project) organised by the University of Massachusetts in Boston (USA) on the factors that make some issues interesting and as a consequence influence governments and agencies priorities while others remaining indifferent to other issues.

■ ■ ■

11 December 2009, the International Bureau for Children’s Rights organised an evening to raise awareness on the issue of trafficking of girls, which began with an interactive piece of theatre, followed by an animation in the spirit of the forum-theatre, inviting participants (mostly youth) to fill the shoes of the characters and to reflect on what they would have done in their place. Then, specialists on prevention and in the fight against trafficking such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) gave testimonies as to their experience.

■ ■ ■

14-21 December 2009, the Programme Director and the MENA programme manager travelled to Sana’a (Yemen) to support SOUL (a non-governmental organisation) in the drafting of the Country profile of Yemen.

■ ■ ■

17-24 December, 2009, the Programme Manager on child trafficking went to Paris to meet with various organisations, including the NGO *Foot-Solidaire* as well as the Department of Health and Sports for future collaborations.

■ ■ ■

8 January 2010, the Programme Director moderated a workshop with more than 20 participants of the Swedish Civil Contingency Agency in Karlstad (Sweden). The presentation was intended to propose possibilities for such an agency specialised in humanitarian assistance to integrate a mandate and practices on the rights of the child.

■ ■ ■

15-29 January 2010, the Programme Manager for the Middle East and North Africa with the support of an international consultant visited the partner offices in Lebanon (Alef and Naba’) and Morocco (Bayti) to assist them in completing their Country profile drafts while strengthening their capacity for research on the rights of the child.

■ ■ ■

22 January 2010, the Director General gave a presentation on the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* before an assembly reuniting all of the Quebec youth protection directors.

■ ■ ■

4 February 2010, the Supreme Court of Canada recognised rights violations of Omar Khadr; a Canadian youth detained at Guantanamo since nearly seven years for a crime he’s accused of having committed a child. Reacting to this decision, the Director General and the Programme Director published an article in *Le Devoir* entitled “Omar Khadr, our child-soldier...”. The article has been taken up and published in the *Journal des jeunes* (Youth Journal) Belgium.

■ ■ ■

15-19 February 2010, the International Bureau for Children’s Rights was privileged to welcome Dr. Najat M’ Jid, Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to the United Nations.

■ ■ ■

22 February 2010, the IBCR joined the award ceremony of the contest “Youth of the World” by the organisation Educlaloi culminating over a year of collaboration (a non-profit organisation whose mission is to inform Quebecers of their rights and obligations by providing quality legal information in everyday language). IBCR has contributed to the content of the project and participated in the selection of the winning texts written by young people (14 to 16 years old) on questions around the rights of the child. This contest was aiming to mark the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.



22-25 February 2010, the Programme manager MENA represent the IBCR in Cairo (Egypt) in a regional workshop for the civil society hosted by the Arab Council for childhood and development.



March 2010, the Programme director wrote a chapter in the book “New currents of humanitarian assistance” on the evolution of the protection of children in armed conflict. This book, co-published by Mr Yvan Conoir and Gérard Verna, will be published in February 2011 by the Université de Laval University Press. In addition, the Programme Director also wrote an article entitled “the twentieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: strengthening the role of civil society in monitoring and evaluating children’s rights” published in the annual report 2009-2010 International Centre for the Prevention of Crime.



In March 2010, the awareness-raising campaign created by the International Bureau for Children’s Rights to inform about child sex tourism is disseminated by several travel agencies and tour operators in their communications with tourists and travellers, on their website, in emails, etc.



2 March 2010, the Bureau co-organised a table round “Child slavery”, with the School of international development and globalisation (University of Ottawa) and the special rapporteur Mrs Najat M’jid.



3-10 March 2010, the Programme Manager on child trafficking was invited by the Government of Vancouver (Office to Combat Trafficking In Persons (OCTIP) ) to participate in an Advisory Committee to comment on training tools developed to prevent trafficking of children in British Columbia.



24-30 March 2010, the IBCR received in Montreal partners of the MANARA project. Iraqi civil society, Jordanian, Lebanese, Moroccan, Palestinian, and Yemen took part in a one week workshop conducted by the IBCR. On the one hand it was an opportunity to evaluate the first year of implementation of the project with partners that had contributed since the beginning, and on the other hand to train new partners on the methodology of Country profiles. This workshop also allowed for meetings with partners to determine a plan of action for the next years, including advocacy.



30-31 March 2010, the team of the child sex tourism programme gave training to booking agents at *Canandes Tours*. A company that organises and sells travels to Latin America.



At the end of March 2010, the IBCR has published a new edition of the guide on Children and armed conflict: a guide to international humanitarian and human rights law. The IBCR has undertaken this ambitious project to update the original guide, published in 2003, while enlarging its scope and its content. We are particularly proud of the collaboration with Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the UN for children and armed conflict Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, who wrote the preface of the guide. Thanks to the support and trust of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada and the contribution of 20 experts and reviewers, the IBCR was able to produce this tool of reference, published in English and French. Arabic and Spanish versions are also in development.

# The IBCR and you...

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**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...**

## Minister Moushira Khattab

*Vice-President of the IBCR Board of directors –  
Minister of Family and Population (Egypt)*



“The IBCR contributes greatly towards global efforts to implement the rights of the Child, with at least two major accomplishments: The “UN Guidelines on Justice 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”.

## Marco Sotelo

*Programme Manager for Child Sex Tourism Prevention*



“From my personal perspective, working in a country of origin of Child Sex Tourism was very interesting and enriched a lot of my professional experience about this issue. It is extremely important to close the circle of sexually exploited children and to develop coordinated actions between countries of origin and destinations

in order to ensure the adequate prosecution of sex offenders.”

## Anne-Marie Lévesque

*Intern, Child Sex Tourism Prevention*



“My internship at the International Bureau for Children's Rights was definitely one of the most formative experiences of my bachelor degree. While working in the Child Sex Tourism Prevention program, I acquired and applied knowledge related to the functioning of an inter-

national NGO, such as searching for financial partners, creating new projects, communicating with external partners and developing trainings for key actors. I am particularly proud of having participated in the first steps of the creation of an awareness-raising campaign against Child Sex Tourism directed at Canadian travelers. My internship was also a fulfilling human experience which enabled me to meet interesting people and to build new relationships. It was an opportunity for me to confirm my interest to work in the field of human rights and to learn more about this subject.”

## Marie Bernier

*Intern, Child Sex Tourism Prevention*



“My four-month internship has been extremely instructive. Not only have I witnessed the birth of an awareness raising campaign, but I also had the opportunity to participate in all stages of the creative process. I realized how people can do extraordinary things when they truly believe in the

merits of their project, even when resources are scarce. I am grateful for this lesson and for all the others I learnt during my internship. I am leaving the Bureau more confident, proud of my contribution to the organisation's mission, but above all, determined to continue to work in the field of children's rights.”

# Country Profiles

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Guillaume Landry  
*Programme Director*  
*Country Profiles Programme*

## **Objectives: Promote promising and commendable practises that protect and defend the rights of the child.**

The elaboration of Country profiles began in 2003-2004. This programme is **intended to summarise all existing information on the situation of the rights of children in the studied countries, to improve the information, and especially to promote actions taken by governments and civil society to implement the Convention. The scope is regional.** The work done by the IBCR distinguishes itself since the analysed information and data are shared with policy makers, national and regional actors to encourage them to act on the rights of the child. Promising practises are put forward which are encouraging for the protection and promotion of the rights of the child. **In short, we focus on what “works”!**

***Middle East and North Africa region: depoliticise the rights of the child and promote the work and experience of national NGOs...***

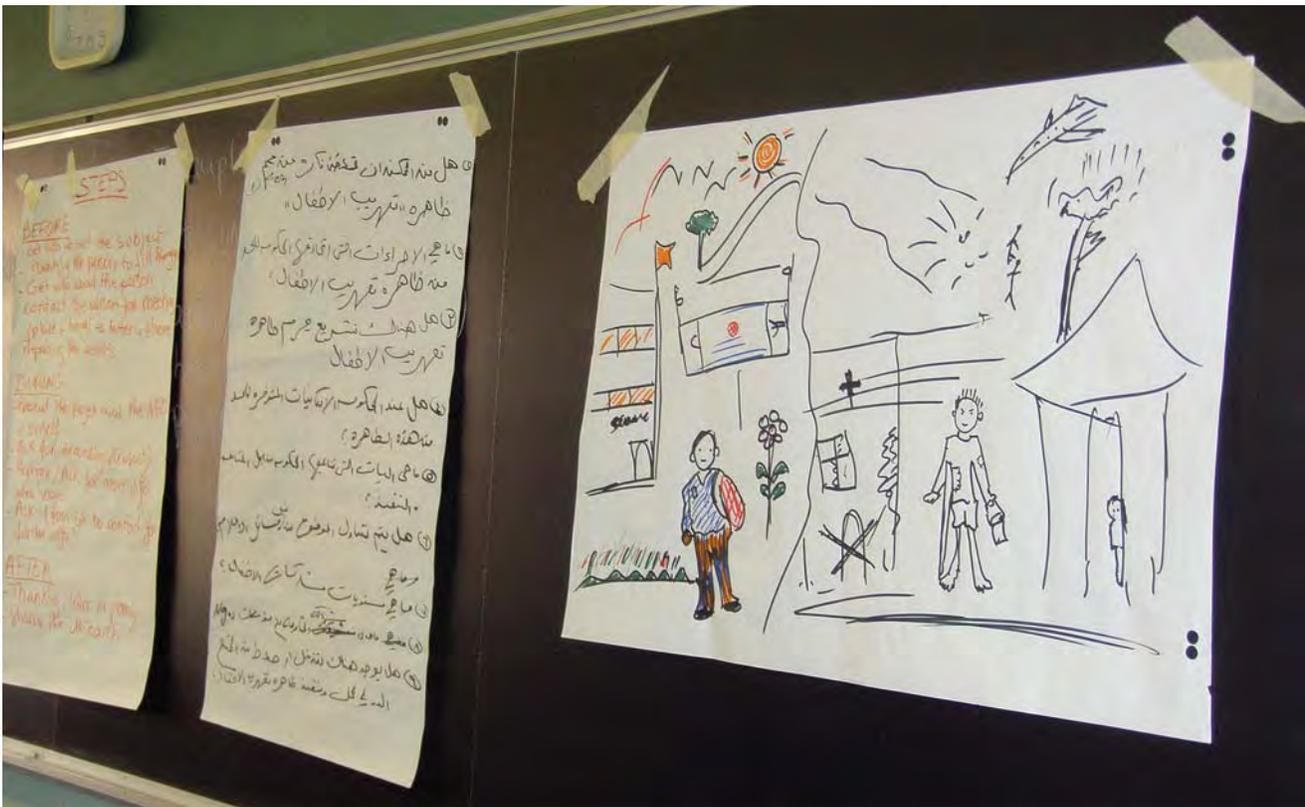
In recent decades, increased attention is given to governmental and political reforms in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA). The importance of rights (rights-based approach) is further invoked and many more credit is given to the role of NGOs in combating poverty, effectiveness of development aid and promotion and protection of human rights and the rights of the child.

In this region, the role of civil society organisations in the promotion of the rights of the child is as wide as varied. Indeed, critical and independent civil society in regard to compliance and application of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC) prospects are indispensable. NGO's do also play an essential role in raising awareness on the child as an egalitarian human being. They are indispensable to integrate the rights of the child in law and in practice.

## **Project MANARA “The Lighthouse” in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)**

***Supporting civil society... making children's rights a reality in the Middle East and North Africa...***

Building on its experience from the drafting of several country profiles, the IBCR wanted to ensure the continuity of its work. Therefore, it had to transfer the knowledge acquired in recent years in research on children's rights, and increase collaboration with national organisations in the concerned regions. The first aim is to produce independent national profiles and a detailed regional analysis. This research and analysis work had to lead to an advocacy strategy in favour of the full implementation of the Convention on a national and regional level. The Bureau believes that civil society organisations must play a key role in the protection and promotion of human rights generally and in particular in regard to children's rights. This is not to aspire to replace the Government, but rather to remind the government its obligations towards children and youth.



**The general objective of the project therefore aims to ensure that national and regional policies and legislation in accordance with the Convention on the rights of the child are actually developed and implemented in the Middle East and North Africa region.**

Building on this approach, the IBCR works since September 2007 with the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa from the NGO Save the Children Sweden (SCS) as well as more than a dozen national civil society organisations in North Africa and the Middle East, in order to strengthen the capacity of the latter in order to achieve four goals:

1. The production of surveys and reports on children's rights
2. The constitution of a network between various actors implicated in the sector
3. The plea 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 issues and development in the MENA region

This three-year project is supported by the Swedish Agency for International Development at a height of 3.2 million US \$. The year began with a first workshop in Amman (Jordan) with partner organisations on the

methodology of research on the rights of the child. The participatory approach during the training was highly appreciated by participants. Other trainings were given in Yemen (December 2009), Lebanon (January 2010) and Morocco (January 2010). In addition, the Bureau has actively participated in the child lead data research methodology workshop in Casablanca (Morocco). This approach has been entirely developed by Save the Children Sweden and aims to collect information about the daily lives of children in a given country to establish typologies. These categories can then be used to identify existing abuse patterns of children or a potential vulnerability of the latter. To promote the project and invite others to participate, the IBCR went to regional civil society workshop organized by the Arab Council for childhood and development in Cairo, from 22 to 25 February 2010.

In addition, the Office continued to produce MENA regional newsletter, a reference tool appreciated by all partners and by all institutions and individuals who want to stay informed on the activities and issues related to the rights of the child in this region. This first year ended with a workshop for the "old" partners and a training of new partners on the methodology of Country profiles. This training week was held in Montreal on the premises of the IBCR in mid-March 2010.

# Children in Armed Conflict Programme

## International Bureau for Children's Rights contribution: Make international standards accessible to their application...

While many developments in the last ten years in international law (Human and Humanitarian Rights) were intended to protect the rights of children in armed conflicts, for their part, practitioners, actors and governments, are often unaware of these new instruments. In the specific context of armed conflict, there is a potential for a greater advocacy and awareness raising but also a need to monitor and report the situation of children who are involved.

Due to the lack of knowledge of the legal framework surrounding the protection of children in armed conflict, many people in the area do not incorporate these new laws, resolutions and policies in their every day work to ensure that children are adequately protected. These players may have more impact by maximising the sharing of information, which would increase their capacity to absorb new developments. For these reasons, the IBCR focuses its programming on the drafting and dissemination of tools making international norms and standards and international laws accessible.

## IBCR: Coordinator of the Canadian Forum on children in armed conflict

The Forum is a network of Canadian civil society organisations that aims to promote strategies and policies to advance the situation of children in armed conflict in Canada and abroad. A board of directors assumes the coordination of the Forum since September 2007 and co-chairs the meetings of the Forum along with Canadian government representatives. The Forum paused its activities since 2009. Since the IBCR continued to support the maintenance of the Forum and facilitated the organisation of campaigns and events to promote the rights of children affected by armed conflict.

It should be stressed that the Programme Director was invited to a workshop organised by the *Child soldiers initiative* of Senator Roméo Dallaire in Gaborone (Botswana). IBCR conducted a workshop on existing mechanisms to remove children from armed groups and

forces. This event was held within a regional executive Workshop on child soldiers and security forces in southern Africa.

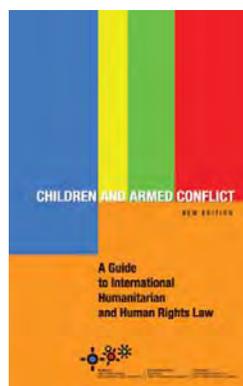
## Updating the reference book: Children and armed conflict. A guide to international humanitarian law and international human rights law.



*“In spite of these many recent developments, new emerging challenges in the programme for children and armed conflict.” They have been identified in this new guide. [...] It is important that concerted actions are carried out to protect children and provide them with a human environment respectful of their dignity. This guide presents the norms and principles that guarantee the fundamental rights of children in armed conflicts. “I congratulate the international Bureau for children’s rights on prepared this document of great value”.*

### Mrs Radhika Coomaraswamy

*Under-Secretary General – Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict*



Since the first edition of the Guide “Children and Armed Conflict: a Guide to International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law”, published in 2003 by the IBCR in partnership with the children and armed conflict unit (a joint project of the Children’s Legal Centre, an independent charitable organisation, and the Human Rights Centre of the

University of Essex), many initiatives have widened and strengthened the protection and promotion of the rights of the child in the context of armed conflict. Through the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, the IBCR decided to publish a new edition of the guide and decided to expand its scope and its content.

This new guide contains :

- a detailed mapping of international humanitarian law and international human rights concerning children in conflict
- accessible presentation of laws, policies and resolutions affecting children in armed conflict.
- concrete actions that can be taken by those who work to protect children on the ground

### **What is the audience for the guide?**

The new edition of this guide is designed to be used in different ways, depending on the needs of the reader – it can be read from first to last page, and can also be used as a reference tool. The IBCR has produced this guide specifically targeting those who are working with children affected by armed conflict. Training facilitators, managers of development policies, government representatives, researchers, academics and students now have at their disposal an up-to-date and concise guide to understand and apply the relevant regulatory framework to the challenges they face.

### **A word of some readers and users of the guide:**

“The Guide is extremely useful as it provides a comprehensive overview of current issues in the Children and Armed Conflict Agenda, including the legal framework, normative standards, new developments and helpful references. It is easy to navigate and can meet the needs of both experienced practitioners in the field as well as newcomers to the issues.”

— *Ms. Pernille Ironside, Child Protection Specialist in Emergencies Programme Division, UNICEF New York*

“I do indeed think the Guide will be very useful as a reference tool to all those working on issues of children in armed conflict. It takes a refreshingly wide spectrum approach which is too often overlooked – for example, the role of children as victims, witnesses and perpetrators, and the issue of child labour, are not frequently covered in such a guide.”

— *Ms. Carolyn Norris, Africa Program Manager, Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers*

“I think this guide is very useful because it is the first such publication that I know of that brings together information on all aspects of the issue of children on armed conflicts. This is well written guide that provides a one stop for practitioners to get accurate and current information on the various aspects of the issue.”

— *Ms. Zoé Dugal, Programme Manager at the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre*

### **Because of its review of all relevant international laws and standards**

“I do think the guide is useful as it aims to reflect the whole legal framework that applies to children and armed conflict. The inclusion of IHL tends to be the problem in this regard.”

— *Ms. Rigmor Argren, Emergency Operational Advisor, Section for Humanitarian Support, International Programme at Save the Children Sweden*

“I found the guide very interesting and really useful for any stakeholder involved in child protection in general and mainly in child protection in emergencies. It’s a wonderful “handbook” full of relevant interventions we need to better act and react in our daily tasks and duties.”

— *Mr. Ibrahima DIOUE, Programme Officer, West Africa, Save the Children Sweden*

# Child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children

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Camille Karbassi  
*Programme Manager*

This project is under the umbrella of the programme against sexual exploitation of children. Since the beginning 2000, the IBCR has worked on issues related to child trafficking in Canada and internationally. Thanks to the support of the religious communities of Quebec and Canada we have been able to put forward the phenomena of child trafficking resulting in sexual or economic exploitation. Today the various levels of Government widely recognized the seriousness of this human rights violation.

Since then IBCR has accomplished:

- A study for the Government of Quebec on the phenomenon of child trafficking.
  - *Results:* A Toolkit for the police, community workers, lawyers, teachers, educators etc. to identify a child that might be vulnerable to trafficking. This kit has been distributed among investigators of the provincial police forces during the first meeting on sexual exploitation and sexual assault (JASE) for investigators of the Sûreté du Québec.
- A mapping of the child trafficking in Canada for the Canadian Government (Public Safety Canada).
  - *Results:* The first holistic research on this subject. The study has shown that multiple actors (governmental and nongovernmental) do not yet sufficiently distinguish children from adults in cases of human trafficking.
  - *Results:* Development of 'training for trainers' (TOT) thanks to the support of Status of Women Canada. The training has been given by IBCR to several frontline social and youth workers to empower them to identify cases of child trafficking and how to act on them.

## Training: A translation of research results to practical action...

With the support of Status of Women Canada and their Women's programme the IBCR developed in 2008–2009 a training on trafficking of children for community workers who intervene when youth are at risk.



For this project “The trafficking of young girls a form of violence that exists here”, the IBCR aims to combat child trafficking by contributing to the protection of girls in their community by:

1. training those who are first in line to respond to youth at risk, or who are affected by or involved in trafficking;
2. sensitising the general population on trafficking and involve participation of youth at risk;
3. capacity building of organisations to contribute to the reduction of the number of youth affected or involved in trafficking.

This training is intended to identify situations of trafficking and to exchange on issues related to the phenomenon of trafficking, a little known subject in Quebec/Canada, in order to put into place operational networks capable of helping victims of child trafficking. The Bureau was able to gather dozens of community workers from various NGOs, who will now initiate colleagues on laws and protection mechanisms related to human trafficking. So it is much more than a training on human trafficking, it is a real training of trainers on this issue.

## Congratulations to Camille Karbassi for the award received at the 5th World Summit of the World Family Organisation



On the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2009, during their 5th World Summit in Istanbul (Turkey) where Camille Karbassi received a distinction in the category “Success Story” for the training “The trafficking of young girls, a form of violence here.” Camille congratulations for your dedication in this project!

### A dissemination to youth...

In recognition of the **International Day for the Abolition of Slavery** the International Bureau for Children’s Rights, organised an evening of theatre-forum. The event intended to raise awareness among young people and others on child trafficking. “Ado-Radio” a broadcast of CBC Radio (radio) for youth aged 12 to 16 took advantage of this event to present this issue to all francophone Canadians. The evening was centered on a theatre piece: *Love or domination? The history of Florence and Gabriel*, specifically written and performed by Mise au Jeu (a theater compagnie). The piece traces the history of the Florence driven out of the city by Gabriel. Gradually under his influence, she will have to find a way out of this situation of exploitation, which is obviously unhealthy and abusive.

Already the IBCR team develops other projects to multiply the scope of this training at the international level.



# Child sex tourism and sexual exploitation of children



**Catherine Beaulieu**  
senior consultant



**Marco Antonio Sotelo**  
Programme Manager for the Prevention  
Against Child Sex Tourism

## What is child sex tourism?

Child sex tourism (CST) is the commercial sexual exploitation of children by one or more people travelling outside of their province, geographic region or country. Sex tourists may be nationals of the same country or of a foreign country. Sex tourism often results in the use of accommodation, transport or other tourist services that facilitate contact with children and allow the abuser to remain anonymous.

CST consists of an exchange of money, clothing, food or other counterparty with a child or a third person for sexual relations. CST occurs in various places: ranging from closed houses, beaches, but as well in five stars hotels in urban, rural or coastal areas. It can take place over a long period of time. For example, in the case of a long period of time the abuser tries to establish a friendship with a vulnerable child to gain its confidence “in preparation” of the sexual exploitation. In other cases, the sex tourist buys sexual services directly from a third party who makes a child available to the tourist.

## Objectives

The program aims to prevent and combat child sex tourism by Canadians abroad, and more specifically:

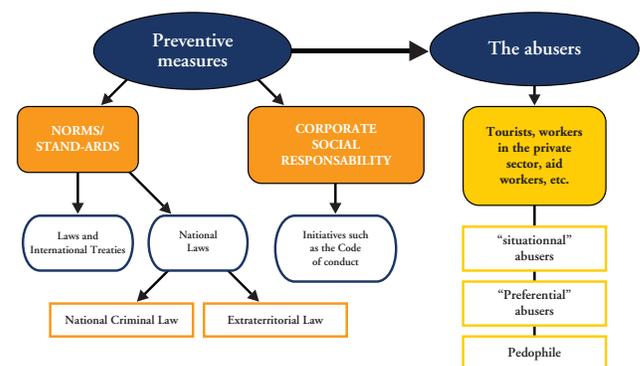
**Objective 1:** Sensitise the tourism industry in Canada about child sex tourism, by adapting initiatives that have been successful in other regions of the world to the Canadian context. Initiate and nourish a networking and establish contacts to ensure the participation of key actors in this challenge.

**Objective 2:** to ensure IBCR becomes a key player in Canada to combat child sex tourism and that the Bureau acquires international recognition for its work in this area.

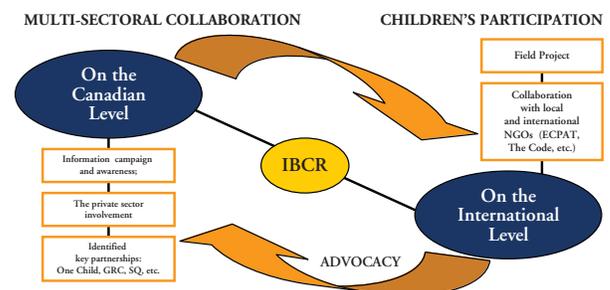
**Objective 3:** promote the incorporation of children rights into corporate social responsibility.

**Objective 4:** develop alliances with Schools and Institutes of Travel and Tourism in Canada.

## The phenomenon of sex tourism involving children: an approach to act



## The work of IBCR



## The International Bureau for Children's Rights: pioneers in the fight against child sex tourism...

The Bureau has initiated the first forum in Quebec entitled "Protecting children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism"; co-organised with Thomas Cook and SkyLink travel. The event took place at Tours Chanteclerc offices in Montreal (Canada). The Forum was coordinated and hosted successfully by Marco Sotelo, Programme Manager and Catherine Beaulieu, senior consultant at the IBCR.

The IBCR could rely on the contributions of key actors. We especially had the privilege to integrate presentations from experts such as Mr Claude Levac, Director of international relations and protocol of the provincial police of Quebec. As well as Mrs. Carmen Rioux, Director of criminal and penal prosecutions and Mrs. Camelia Tepelus, Secretary of "The Code of Conduct" on the process of implementation of the code of conduct for the protection of children against sexual exploitation in travel and tourism.

This event was aiming to enhance cooperation between various representatives of the private tourism in Quebec, as well as with Canadian organisations and the non-governmental sector. The primary objective of this forum was to sensitise the tourism industry about the magnitude of CST as well as its implications and legal consequences. The Forum also served as a platform for the exchange of commendable practice.

## A working group of representatives from the private tourism and travel sector acts to inform the population about extraterritorial laws...

Participants of the Forum, including Tour Mont Royal holiday, Jolovac, Thomas Cook, Canandes International Tours, Sunwing, Tours Chanteclerc, SkyLink travel, are committed to this cause and gradually add the banner to their communication tools (email, contract, itinerary, website, etc.) to disseminate the information as much as possible.



Mrs Colette Girard of the Jolovac Agency, explains her involvement in the campaign:

“At the forum, my colleagues and I have learned to our great surprise that men who have sex with children or teens during their trips are mostly the “average Joe”, who believes he can act with impunity in a country other than his. **If we can help to dissuade some to the act, this action has succeeded to protect children.**”



# Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime Programme

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## 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 IBCR 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, reparation 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 IBCR 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 IBCR decided to lobby for the adoption of its Guidelines by the United Nations. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2005, ECOSOC adopted the *UN Guidelines on Justice in Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime* (Resolution 2005/20), with official recognition of the IBCR'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 IBCR 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.

## 2009-10

This year, the IBCR collaborated on finalisation of the Implementation Handbook to the Guidelines for child victims and witnesses of crime. The United Nations office against drugs and crime (UNODC), UNICEF and the IBCR continue to finalise the interactive training modules for stakeholders of child victims and witnesses of crime. For the next year the Bureau will work to develop projects for child victims and witnesses with grassroots organisations.

# Revenues and expenses

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Luc Ouimet  
*Director of administration, MBA*

## Financial statements 2009-2010

The budget of the International Bureau for Children's Rights for the period 2009-2010 was CAD 904,525 \$. The surplus of revenues over expenditures as of 31 March 2010 was CAD 71,726 \$.

## Revenues

April 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2010

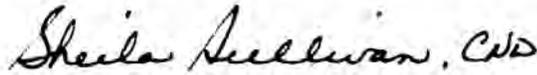
During the period 2009-2010, activities were made possible through private contributions (32,7%), contributed services (22,4%), government contributions (21,7%) and international organizations contributions ( 23,2%), for a total revenue of CAD 904,525 \$.



## Expenditures

April 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2010

Governance and administrative expenditures amounted to CAD 58,661 \$ and CAD 774,138 \$ was invested in program development. Total expenditures amounted to CAD 832,799 \$.



Sister Sheila Sullivan, cnd, Treasurer

Auditor:  
Rocheleau Labranche and Associates  
Chartered Accountants

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

# Acknowledgments

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- Association des femmes autochtones du Canada
- Bouée Régionale
- Caisse de dépôt et de placement du Québec
- Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee
- Centraide
- Centres jeunesse de Montréal – Institut universitaire
- Centre international pour la prévention de la criminalité
- Coalition Canadienne des Droits des Enfants
- DynaCharge Laser Inc.
- Filles de la Charité du Sacré-Cœur-de-Jésus
- Filles de la Croix
- Filles de la Sagesse du Canada
- Fonds de résistance sociale CSQ
- Forum sur les Enfants dans les Conflits Armés, 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 Services 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 Québec – Ministère de la Justice
- Government of Québec – Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles
- Government of Québec – Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux
- Government of Québec – Ministère de la Sécurité publique
- Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
- Heritage Canada
- Institut de Notre-Dame-du-Bon-Conseil
- Institut Jeanne d'Arc
- Les Oeuvres Le Royer
- Missionnaires Oblates de Saint-Boniface
- National Council for Childhood and Motherhood – Egypt
- Oblates Franciscaines de St-Joseph
- Organisation internationale de la Francophonie
- Petites Franciscaines de Marie
- Petites Sœurs de Sainte-Famille
- Plan Canada
- Plan International – Canada
- Proulx Publicité
- Save the Children - Sweden
- Servantes de Notre-Dame Reine du Clergé
- Servantes du Saint-Cœur de Marie
- Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal
- Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception
- Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions
- Society of Sacred Heart
- Soeurs Auxiliatrices
- Sœurs de la Charité
- Sœurs de la Charité de Saint-Louis
- Sœurs de la Congrégation Notre-Dame
- Sœurs de la Miséricorde
- Sœurs de la Présentation
- Sœurs de la Présentation de Marie
- Sœurs de la Providence
- Sœurs de Notre-Dame Auxiliatrice
- Sœurs de Notre-Dame du Saint-Rosaire
- Sœurs de Sainte-Croix
- Sœurs de Saint-François d'Assise
- Sœurs de Saint-Joseph
- Sœurs de Ste-Anne
- Sœurs des Saints Noms de Jésus et de Marie
- Sœurs du Bon Pasteur
- Sœurs Franciscaines
- Sœurs Hospitalières de Saint-Joseph
- Sœurs Missionnaires de Notre-Dame-des-Anges
- Sœurs Ursulines
- Sûreté du Québec
- UQAM
- UNICEF Canada
- UNICEF Québec
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- Via Rail Canada
- War Child Canada
- World Vision Canada

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