



Recommendations

Recommendations addressed to the IBCR

1. In collaboration with its partners, the **International Bureau of Children's Rights (IBCR)** is invited to pursue *the project* by elaborating and carrying out an action plan in regards to the *Strategic Action Plan for the Protection of Victims of Child Trafficking in Quebec*.

Specifically, the IBCR will circulate information relating to child trafficking in Quebec to stakeholders and develop a training program. Additionally, the IBCR will encourage present and future initiatives that are taken in respect to the rights of child victims of trafficking or children who are at risk. This will be done by encouraging networking between government, inter-government and non-governmental agencies.

Furthermore, the IBCR will give particular attention to children at risk or child victims of external trafficking in order to find solutions to adequately protect them.

Recommendations addressed to our partners

Inter-departmental federal group on the trafficking in persons and inter-departmental Quebec group on the trafficking of migrant women

2. The organizations in which employees intervene or are likely to intervene with child victims of trafficking, such as police and immigration services, health and social service centres, as well as Child and Youth Protection centres, must provide their employees with **training** on problems related to trafficking. Similarly, the "Association des travailleurs de rue", must promote this training among its members.

Organizations where staff is regularly in contact with children, such as schools and youth shelters, must circulate information on issues related to child trafficking.

3. Quebec governmental and non-governmental organizations must apply **specific measures** to facilitate networking between relevant stakeholders, and the exchange of information to all cases of child trafficking in Quebec, as well as enable professionals to actively work together and complement each other in the intervention and reintegration of child victims.

In addition, the child victim must be referred, as quickly as possible, to organizations capable of providing the **services** required to respond to their needs.

4. Organizations, notably research chairs and organizations dedicated to the respect of children's rights, should better **document the problem** in order to intervene more effectively in the fight against child trafficking in Quebec and elsewhere in Canada.

In order to promote the sharing of information gathered, it is important to **collect and analyze the data** by using a common definition and criteria. Similarly, the results and conclusions must be circulated amongst stakeholders.

5. **Relations** on the international, national, and local levels between governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental agencies, which are currently fighting against child trafficking, must be further developed.

6. Canada Border Services Agency must never detain child victims of external trafficking or those who are at risk, even during the 48 hour investigation.

Given the vulnerability of child victims of trafficking and the necessity to intervene quickly to protect these victims from traffickers, the Quebec government must provide **housing where the victims' safety can be guaranteed**.

7. Every professional has the obligation to notify the Director of Youth Protection immediately when they have reasons to believe that a child is a victim of trafficking or is at risk of trafficking.

In all cases of external trafficking where Youth Protection receives notice of children that are thought to be at risk, an evaluation of the situation must be performed by the Head of Youth Protection in the region concerned. This evaluation must describe the situation that the child is in. The evaluation also aims to identify, for the children in question, a modality to determine if one of the parents is capable of exercising their **parental authority** on Quebec territory.

If the situation of the child is judged to be compromised, the Director must identify protection measures appropriate to the specific situation of the child.

8. Every decision made in relation to the repatriation of a child victim of external trafficking in his or her country of origin must be preceded by an **evaluation of the risk related to them returning to their country of origin** and a **psychosocial evaluation** sanctioned by the Health and Social Service Centers (CSSS).

Quebec inter-departmental group on the trafficking of women migrants

9. The Quebec government, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations, must lead an **awareness campaign** on child trafficking.

10. Organizations specializing in popular education, such as schools, camps and youth centers, as well as police officers, must offer **prevention programs** to children in order to sensitize them so that they avoid and report situations of exploitation.

Information sessions for parents must be held on the subject of trafficking. For example, in schools, places of worship, as well as in centres or on community radios.

11. It is necessary to **amend the appendix of section 3 of the *Crime Victim Compensation Act*** in order to add the new infractions related to trafficking in persons within the *Criminal Code*.

Federal inter-departmental group relating to the trafficking in persons

12. As soon as there is reason to believe that a child is a victim of external trafficking, Citizenship and Immigration Canada must grant a **temporary permit**. This decision, as well as the one to obtain **permanent resident status**, must be made independently of the victim's cooperation in an investigation and/or the eventual prosecution of their trafficker.

External child trafficking victims must not be denied a temporary permit because they violated provisions of the *Criminal Code* or the *Immigration Act* while they were under the duress of their traffickers.

While evaluating requests for status, qualified federal officers must apply specific measures to take into account the vulnerability and needs specific to child victims of external trafficking.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The IBCR would like to sincerely thank the following people on the multidisciplinary advisory committee: Maryse Plamondon and Joëlle Safadi from Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada; Lyne Landry, Ann Joly and Guylène Le Clair from Canada Border Services Agency; Annie Lafleur and Bethany Or from Citizenship and Immigration Canada; Margaret Shaw from the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime; Aicha El Haili from the Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles (Québec); Annie-Ève Girard from the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (Québec); Linda Veillette from the Ministère de la Sécurité publique (Québec); Linda Brosseau and Natalie Bernard from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; Christiane Mimar from the Sûreté du Québec; Michelle Côté from the Montreal Police Service; Nadia Gerspacher from the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime; Sherry Lewis and Erin Wolski from the Native Women's Association of Canada; Muriel Jaouich and Sarah Houde from UNICEF Canada (Quebec division); Lisa Wolff from UNICEF Canada; Shelagh Roxburgh, in her individual capacity; as well as Jean-Marc Potvin and Raymond Labelle from the Centres jeunesse de Montréal-Institut universitaire, Luc Demers from the Association des centres jeunesse du Québec; Robert Ratelle from the Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles (Québec); Jacques Dumais from the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (Québec); Jean-Martin Gauthier from the Ministère de la Sécurité publique (Québec); Richard Saint-Denis and Daniel Cauchy from the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime; Robert Naylor from the Programme régional d'accueil et d'intégration des demandeurs d'asile; Sister Deborah Isaacs from Separated Children's Intervention & Orientation Network; Sergeant Sylvain Bessette from the Sûreté du Québec; Martine Bérubé, Ana-Marina Ionescu and Jean Turmel from the Ministère de la Justice du Québec.

We would also like to particularly thank Louise Gagné, Mélanie M. Gagnon, Jean Beaudoin (C.A.C. International), Luc Ouimet (Director of Administration) and Jean-François Noël (Director General for the International Bureau for Children's Rights) for their invaluable commitment.

We are grateful to the people who did their internship with our team: Fadwa Benmbarek, Lianne Blanchette, Macrine Cattelain, Sarah Clarke, Diana Draganova, Lisa LeRoy, Marie-Noëlle L'Espérance, Mounira Moustapha, Maja Muftić, Florence Pham, Dorothee Philippon, Océane Plockyn, Claire Poretz, Ombeline Soulier Dugénie, Jocelyn Tatebe, Clémentine Uwimbabazi and Lisa Weich as well as Assanga Pathmasiri.

We would like to highlight the contributions from the following volunteers: Marleah Blom, Christina Cabral, Sylvie Fortin, Thérèse Gauvreau, Marie-Élaine Guay, Aidan Jeffery, Christine Kabanda, Dominique LaRochelle, Maité Parr, Nadja Pollaert, Lauélia Rolland-Fortin, Tania Wihl, as well as Cédric Cloutier and Marcel Gauvreau.

We would also like to thank Clara Chapdelaine Feliciati, Julie Vinet-Thibault, Julie Blanc and Catherine Vinet-Gasse, Suzanne Taillon (C.A.C. International), as well as Nalini Vaddapalli who, at one time or another, have contributed, to this project.

Also, special thanks to those who accepted to be interviewed or participated in focus groups, as well as those who sent us their written comments. Without their collaboration, this study would not have been possible.

And finally, our sincere thanks to Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada (Québec division) through the National Crime Prevention Strategy, for their financial support for this research project.