

Revenues and expenses

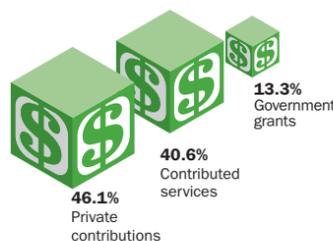
Financial statements 2007-2008

The budget of the International Bureau for Children's Rights for the period 2007-2008 was CAD \$652,866. The surplus of revenues over expenditures as of 31 March 2008 was CAD \$1,871.

Revenues

April 1st 2007 to March 31st 2008

During the period 2007-2008, activities were made possible through private contributions (46.1%), contributed services (40.6%) and government grants (13.3%), for a total revenue of CAD \$652,866.



Expenditures

April 1st 2007 to March 31st 2008

Governance and administrative expenditures amounted to CAD \$62,698 and CAD \$588,297 was invested in program development. Total expenditures amounted to CAD \$650,995.



S. Sullivan CND

Sheila Sullivan, c.n.d. Treasurer

Auditor:
Rocheleau Labranche and Associates
Chartered Accountants

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

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 des centres jeunesse du Québec
Canadian Coalition for the Rights of the Child
Canadian Council for Refugees
Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee
Canadian Physician for Aid and Relief Care Canada
Centres jeunesse de Montréal – Institut universitaire
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Filles de la Croix
Filles de la Sagesse du Canada
Filles de Marie-de-l'Assomption
Fondation Émile-Jauron
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Forum on Children and Armed Conflict, Canada
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Government of Canada – Canada Border Services Agency
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Government of Canada – Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Government of Québec – Ministère de la Justice
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Government of Québec – Ministère de la Sécurité publique
Grey Nuns Regional Center
Institut de Notre-Dame du Bon Conseil
Institut des Filles Réparatrices du Divin-Coeur
Institut Jeanne d'Arc
Les Oeuvres Le Royer
LICADHO – Human Rights, Cambodia
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Moniales Carmélites Déchaussées
National Council for Childhood and Motherhood - Egypt
Native Women's Association of Canada
Oblates Franciscaines de St-Joseph
Petites Franciscaines de Marie
Petites Sœurs de Sainte-Famille
Plan Canada
Plan International - Canada
Programme régional d'accueil et d'intégration des demandeurs d'asile
Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
Religieuses de Jésus-Marie
RONA
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Save the Children - Canada
Save the Children - Sweden
Separated Children Intervention and Orientation Network
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 St-Louis, Calgary
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IBCR wishes to thank the numerous professionals, interns and students who graciously provide their time and services. Thanks to them, and to the IBCR's simple and efficient organization, administrative costs are kept to a minimum. Special thanks also to the numerous individuals who accepted to be interviewed, who participated in discussion groups or who shared with us their written comments in relation to one or more of our projects.



Report 2007/2008

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Governor General

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)



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 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 give hope 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
2008

The President

Message from the President



Another year has passed at the Bureau – a year rich in new experiences and bright prospects for the future! Without a doubt, a wind of change has blown through the Bureau in its thirteenth year of existence.

This process started with a shift in leadership at the Bureau. After ten years of excellent and loyal service as General Director, for which we are extremely grateful, Jean-François Noël left to pursue new horizons within the Canadian government. He was replaced by our new Director, Nadja Pollaert, in September 2007. She has unquestionably adapted to the demands of the job and continues to bring life to the international aspects of the Bureau's work. I do not doubt that Nadja Pollaert will make a great contribution to the Bureau's efforts, to the advantage of the promotion of the rights of the child all over the world.

This change of guidance has been a catalyst for numerous developments, especially within the realm of the Bureau's communications. This year, the Bureau has established and reinforced partnerships with many organisations that share our vision and values, particularly in their approach to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

IBCR intends to focus on the two areas which best bring out the originality, effectiveness and quality of its work. Its working methodology allows it to be a known expert in the defense of the rights of the child, while simultaneously acting as a community organisation focused on the practical, applicable aspects of this cause all over the world.

Indeed, the IBCR owes its unique character to its capacity to present the subjects of its research in an accessible way. This is, in fact, the second principal goal of the Bureau: to make a variety of gathered information accessible, available, and truly useful.

As a final word, it is very important to thank all of those who contribute daily or occasionally to the Bureau's development and the realization of its projects. Without them, without their dynamism and their commitment, it is clear that none of this would be possible.

Nevertheless, a considerable new challenge has appeared on the horizon. In 2008, we must acknowledge, progress continues to be modest in the promotion of the rights of the child. There is no need to delve here into the the darkest aspects of the global situation. Yet it is important to note that a current rise in impoverishment precipitates a growing number of families living in poverty around the world, which will inevitably have an impact on many children. At the other end of the spectrum, we have seen a recent tendency to speak more about the duties of children than about their rights. Considering this environment, we hope that 2009, the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and 2010, the 20th anniversary of its entry into force, will mark the remobilization of the international community and of all states, and of course a renewed promotion of the Convention.

The Bureau, for its part, intends to do what it can.

Jean Pierre Rosenczveig
IBCR President
President of the *Bobigny's Children Tribunal* (France)

International Bureau for Children's Rights

Board of directors 2007-2008

P R E S I D E N T

Judge Jean-Pierre Rosenczveig

Vice-President, *Tribunal de Grande Instance* de Bobigny, France

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Sister Sheila Sullivan, CND

Clergy membre of *Congrégation Notre-Dame*, Canada

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Benoît Van Keirsbilck

Director, *Children's Rights Services*, Belgium

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The Director General

Message from the Director General



Since September 2007, I have had the privilege of continuing the efforts of Jean-François Noel following his departure to the Department of Justice Canada. Upon my arrival, I discovered a team of qualified and motivated professionals who supported me during my induction, allowing me to familiarise myself with an array of projects and issues related to the rights of the child.

I was moved by the Board of Directors' confidence in their decision to entrust me with the role of General Director of the International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR). From the onset, I have striven to surpass the professional challenges that this responsibility entails. I am certainly fortunate to have the opportunity to continue devoting my energy to the promotion and respect of human rights.

Despite the approaching celebration for the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2009, challenges remain in ensuring that the rights of the child are taken into account and respected, both at home and abroad.

Hence, this report paints a brief picture of the activities and accomplishments of IBCR between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008.

In March 2008, the Bureau received a grant from the *Organisation internationale de la Francophonie* to monitor the rights of the child in the Great Lakes region of Africa. The objectives of this project are to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to promote best practices in Burundi, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda.

Furthermore, following the adoption of the *Guidelines on Justice in Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime* (ECOSOC Resolution 2005/20) IBCR has put the finishing touches on the model law and has continued to work in partnership with UNODC and UNICEF on the Implementation Handbook.

Finally, the Bureau completed its research-action on child victims of trafficking in Québec. Following this two-year project, IBCR proposed a training project on the trafficking of young girls in Québec for organisations working on the front lines, in order to disseminate and fully take advantage of completed research. Specifically, this training will be given to various actors working with young girls at risk (for example, homeless children and aboriginal youth) or girls involved in criminal activities, in order to better equip those responsible for protecting and supporting them. This project, close to our hearts, was made possible as a result of support from Status of Women Canada.

Besides information on these activities, readers will find further details on 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 2007-2008.

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 Québec and Canada for their unwavering support. IBCR is also thankful to the Canadian and Swedish governments for their support of our projects. Finally, I would like to express gratitude to the dozens of interns and volunteers throughout the 2007-2008 year who generously contributed their knowledge, expertise and time to the Bureau and the cause it defends.

Nadja Pollaert

Nadja Pollaert
Director General, International Bureau of Children's Rights

Mission and objectives

The International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR) is an international non-governmental organisation established in 1994 by Judge Andrée Ruffo (Canada) and Mister Bernard Kouchner (France). It is based in Montreal, Canada.

The Bureau's 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, while taking into account the objectives set by the international community, notably the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Objectives

The IBCR exists because ...

... children are **victims of trafficking** for the purposes of **sexual exploitation, forced labor and organ trafficking**

In spite of some achievements in the fight against human trafficking, many children from all parts of the world are still victims of this criminal industry. By compiling data on the phenomenon and by developing tools to better equip those who work to eradicate this issue, the Bureau contributes to the protection of children from trafficking, in Canada and beyond.

... children are **victims and witnesses of crime**

Millions of children throughout the world must confront the judicial system, often to testify for a crime they endured or witnessed. The rights of these children must be respected. Special guidelines should be followed when seeking testimony from child victims or witnesses of crime, as these children have specific rights and require special protection.

... children **affected by armed conflict**

Hundreds of thousands of boys and girls on every continent are forced to endure the repercussions of armed conflict. The Bureau coordinates joint actions of Canadian civil society and the Canadian government to improve politics and programmes designed to uphold the rights of children in armed conflict.

Plan of Action

Information

In response to these challenges, IBCR works to ensure that the rights of these children remain at the centre of the agenda in both governmental and nongovernmental organisations.

To this end, the Bureau compiles key information to develop effective prevention and intervention strategies.

IBCR is convinced that sharing knowledge and good practices, as well as developing strategic partnerships, will have a positive impact on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Advocating for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

The **Country Profiles** programme evaluates the implementation of the Convention and contributes to the development of effective strategies

The **Trafficking programme** brings together various stakeholders from the local, provincial and national levels, as well as organisations working directly to fight this phenomenon.

The **Child Victims and Witnesses of Crimes programme** promotes this tool in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and UNICEF.

Research and Expertise

IBCR brings to the table...

- Experience creating models and tools for the monitoring and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in different countries;
- An ability to establish coalitions to address strategic questions and to share knowledge and good practices;
- Legal and analytical expertise in the area of children's rights recognised by diverse organisations and by local, national and international partners; and
- Methodological rigour in human rights research, a professional approach and a committed, multidisciplinary team.

2007-2008 Highlights...

In March 2007, IBCR launched its second English regional report on the implementation of the rights of children in North Africa, entitled “**Making Children’s Rights Work in North Africa: Country Profiles of Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia**”.

On 5 April 2007, the Bureau facilitated a Seminar as part of a course entitled «Immigration and Refugee Law» at the Law faculty at Université de Sherbrooke (Sherbrooke, Canada)

Between 19 and 29 April 2007, the Bureau took part in a Jury for documentaries at Pan-Africa International, 23rd Days of the African and Creole Films, from Vues d’Afrique (Montreal, Canada).

Between 23 and 27 April 2007, the Bureau participated in the 16th session of the **Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice** in Vienna, Austria.

On 26 April 2007, IBCR, in partnership with UNODC, UNICEF and INNOCENTI Research Centre, published a **child-friendly version** of the “**Guidelines on Justice in Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses**” which are now available in six languages (English, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, French and Russian).

In May 2007, the Bureau gave a presentation on the “Guidelines on Justice in Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses” at the **Regional Symposium on Harmonisation of Laws on Children in Eastern and Southern Africa**, in Nairobi, Kenya.

On 16 May 2007, the Bureau gave a course on children in armed conflict as part of an in-depth Seminar on Peacekeeping Missions organised by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) (Montreal, Canada).

In June 2007, the Arabic version of “**Making Children’s Rights Work in North Africa: Country Profiles in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia**” was launched simultaneously with the release of the Arabic version of the UN Secretary General’s study on Violence Against Children, at the 3rd Regional Conference for the Middle East and North Africa (Cairo, Egypt).

August 2007 was marked by IBCR’s participation in the **Québec Social Forum** (Montréal, Canada).

During the summer of 2007, several working sessions were held in West and Central Africa (June 2007, Dakar, Senegal) and North Africa and the Middle East (September 2007, Beirut, Lebanon and Amman, Jordan) to promote IBCR’s **Country Profiles**.

On 20 September 2007, IBCR facilitated a workshop at the National Conference on Missing Children. (Ottawa, Canada).

In September 2007, the International Bureau for Children’s Rights was invited to take the position of Coordinator in the Forum on Children in Armed Conflict, a network operating under Peacebuild (Ottawa, Canada).

Also in September 2007, **Jean-François Noël** left his position of **Director General of IBCR**, which he had held since 1999, to join the Department of Justice Canada. Ms. Nadja Pollaert replaced him as Director General.

On 17 October 2007, the Bureau gave a conference on the trafficking of children in Quebec during a benefit dinner organised by the Jyotis Foundation, (Montreal, Canada)

On 29 October 2007, the Bureau facilitated a workshop as part of the Colloquium on Maltreatment against Children and Youths (Montreal, Canada).

In October 2007, staff members from the Bureau took part in a **training session organised by the Canadian International Development Agency** on the Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies (Gatineau, Canada).

In November 2007, IBCR’s Director General, Ms. Nadja Pollaert, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Canadian Coalition on the Rights of the Child.

On 22 November 2007, The Bureau made a presentation to the Federal Committee against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, (Ottawa, Canada).

On 17 and 18 January 2008, a **Workshop on the Reintegration of Children Affected by Armed Conflict**, co-organised by IBCR, was held at St-Paul University in Ottawa, Canada.

On 30 January 2008, the Bureau gave a course entitled “International Law and Vulnerable Populations, International Law on Childhood,” for the Department of Legal Studies at the Université du Québec à Montréal (Montreal, Canada).

From 4 to 8 February 2008, the Bureau organised and delivered a training session on **Children’s Rights in Matters of Sexual Exploitation** (LICADHO, Phnom Penh, Cambodia).

On 12 February 2008, IBCR delivered a presentation on the **situation of girls in armed conflict in West Africa** at a conference (ENTRECULTURAS, Madrid, Spain).



From 13 to 15 February 2008, the Bureau participated in the “**Vienna Forum Against Human trafficking**” (Vienna, Austria).

On 7 March 2008, an international **workshop examining links between prevention work and the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1612 on Children in Armed Conflict** was organised by the Bureau in Montreal, Canada.

On 28 March 2008, le Bureau gave a speech at a Round-Table entitled «Preventing Violence against Women and Girls: the Cambodian Experience» at the Université du Québec à Montréal (Montreal, Canada).



IBCR and you...

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 Moushira 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

« 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 IBCR. I will spare no effort to contribute to its mission. »



Nicholas C. Bala, Vice President of the IBCR Board of directors - Programming

« I am a professor of Family and Children's Law at Queen's University in Kingston, Canada, and have served on the Board of the IBCR since 2005. I have done a significant amount of research on legal issues related to children in Canada, in particular in regard to child abuse and child witnesses in the courts, and I feel especially privileged to be associated with an organisation that has played such an important leadership role internationally in advancing the rights of child victims and witnesses. More broadly, I appreciate the role of the IBCR in advocating for the rights and needs of children in Canada and on a global level, thereby protecting those who are among the world's most vulnerable and those who represent humanity's future. »



Catherine Gauvreau, Programme Manager of the Child Trafficking Programme since 2006

« What inspires me most in my work is having the opportunity to meet people from a wide variety of backgrounds who so generously offer to share their knowledge and experiences. Social workers, lawyers, doctors, street workers, and government representatives, along with volunteers, interns and many other individuals are involved in IBCR's activities and work with us to develop tools to fight child trafficking in Québec. Their contribution is essential, and together we can move forward to better protect and respect the rights of children in our society and around the world. »



Anissa Bouyahi, consultant for the Child Trafficking Programme

« I worked for five months for IBCR as a consultant on Child Trafficking in Quebec. I evaluated one of the Bureau's main programmes in order to determine the level of success of the project's key activities. I also began the writing of a final report on IBCR methodology of research, qualitative results and on the way forward in the fight against trafficking. This experience was very enriching because it enabled me to use some of the skills I acquired while working with UNICEF. I also learned a great deal about IBCR's mission. I particularly appreciated the vision, the leadership at the management level, as well as the invaluable support from the whole team, including interns and volunteers. »



Berthilde Murorunkwere, administrative assistant since 1998

« Ten years have passed since I joined the Bureau, and I have barely noticed the time going by because my passion and motivation are even more vibrant than at the beginning. Throughout these years, I have had the opportunity to appreciate and admire the outstanding work of the team and interns at the Bureau. As a witness of the chaos and human rights violations of the Rwandan Genocide of Tutsis, I recognise that the Bureau has a noble—and monumental—mission. Children are as vulnerable as they are precious. Children are our future and the men and women of tomorrow. It is our responsibility to uphold children's rights, since they are a pillar for the future of humanity. Personally, my work is more than a job—it is a means for me to make a small contribution to future generations. »



Shayan Remtoulah Mamodaly, intern for the Country Profiles programme, from October 2007 to February 2008.

« While interning at the Bureau, I contributed to the design of a training manual to guide the drafting of Country Profiles on children's rights. I also had the opportunity to deepen my analysis of certain issues, many of which have not been adequately addressed in Canada to date, such as child sexual tourism. My experience at IBCR allowed me to acquaint myself with many concepts related to the protection of children, and to me this represents an important step in my professional development. I will remember the Bureau as a large family which works each day toward the aim of bringing hope to millions of children. »



Charles Dalens, intern for the Country Profiles programme from September 2007 to May 2008.

« During my nine-month internship, I had the opportunity to discover an organisation that is deeply engaged in many different children's rights activities. Arriving in the midst of the Bureau's adaptation to a new office space as well as a new Director allowed me to have a unique and enriching experience, on both professional and personal levels. »



Child victims and witnesses of crime



Me Cyril Laucci
Gestionnaire de programme

Background

Millions of children throughout the world suffer harm 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 the justice process. Children are particularly

vulnerable and require special protection appropriate to their age, level of maturity and individual special needs. Girls are vulnerable even beyond this, as they may face discrimination at all stages of the justice 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 justice process.

In response to this context and the need expressed by governments and professionals for guidance, IBCR created the Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime programme in the late 1990s. 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 fulfill 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.

Child victims and witnesses of crime should be assured equivalent protection in all countries, and crime is increasingly transnational in nature. In response, 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, IBCR decided to lobby for the adoption of its Guidelines by the United Nations. On 22 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 IBCR's contribution to their development.



Results obtained in 2007-2008

Throughout the year, the Bureau participated in various events and activities to promote the Guidelines. Notably, in April 2007, IBCR participated in an Experts Group meeting in Vienna, in

which the project on *Assisting Member States in the Implementation of the United Nations Guidelines on Justice in Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime (GLO/S67)* was adopted.

To ensure that children are made aware of the Guidelines, informed of their rights and how to protect themselves, 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.

Finally, the IBCR and its partners are in the process of designing tools to support policy-makers and professionals in their efforts to implement the Guidelines and adapt their practices and legislation accordingly. More specifically, IBCR, UNODC and UNICEF recently finalised a handbook and model legislative provisions to assist in the implementation of the Guidelines. The Bureau is currently collaborating on interactive training modules for actors working with child victims and witnesses of crime.

Child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children



Me Catherine Gauvreau,
Programme Manager

In 2007-2008, IBCR completed the second part of its project *Strategic Action Plan for the Protection of Victims of Child Trafficking in Québec*, financed by the Quebec Branch of Public Safety Canada.

The programme on trafficking also engaged to preserve dialogue between different policy-makers who are involved in on countering the phenomenon of trafficking.

As there has been no strategy developed to effectively identify victimised or at-risk children, we have created a toolkit for stakeholders working closely with children. The toolkit will be widely distributed at activities and events over the coming years. This project has three central objectives: to provide information on the phenomenon of trafficking, to facilitate the identification of child victims and at-risk children, and to identify resources to which the stakeholders can turn if need be.

Network building and strengthening partnerships between all levels of government and community organisations

During our research, a large majority of stakeholders indicated that the major obstacle to ensuring protection for child victims and at-risk children was a lack of cooperation between stakeholders, including for securing services and exchanging pertinent information.

In response, in June 2007 IBCR set up a Working Group to guide the project team throughout its activities. Particular attention was paid to the situation of victims and children at-risk of external trafficking, with the goal of developing strategies for effective protection.

Throughout these activities, IBCR worked in partnership with both government and non-governmental organisations, in order to ensure pertinence and to achieve the greatest possible impact on those we intend to reach.

IBCR is also a member of numerous coalitions, such as the Canadian Council for Refugees, the Coalition of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, and the Federal Committee against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth. Through our active participating in such initiatives, we aim to exchange information with our partners as effectively as possible, and to participate in a diverse array of activities and campaigns for the defence of human and children's rights.

Child Trafficking Project

Disseminating results of research on child trafficking in Québec

In May 2007, IBCR widely distributed our recent research on child trafficking. The Bureau submitted recommendations to Québec's Inter-ministerial Working Group on the Trafficking of Migrant Women and to a federal inter-ministerial group addressing human trafficking. The reports comprise two main themes: prevention of trafficking and the protection of child victims.

Throughout the past year, IBCR has also helped organise and deliver numerous presentations on child trafficking in Québec. These allowed for participation in a variety of symposia and conferences, including the Québec Social Forum, the National Conference on Missing Children, and the Québec Colloquium on Maltreatment against Children and Youths. IBCR authored and contributed to articles on child trafficking published in various periodicals. Finally, the Bureau was also participated in large public events in order to raise awareness of the situation of the victims of child trafficking in Québec.



Project for separated children

During 2007-2008, IBCR and other Canadian organisations that work to defend children's rights continued to engage in dialogue with representatives of Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Canadian Border Services Agency, regarding issues specifically concerning separated children. IBCR, among others, provided feedback on the guidelines issued for processing applications from minor children who claim refugee status in Canada. The main issues raised include the absence of a national policy on separated children, the inefficient collection of data, the implementation of the Guardianship Protocol, and the moratorium on the acceptance of separated children in Canada.

Furthermore, the disappearance of the Canadian offices of International Social Service (ISS) was met with disapproval. The ISS, a large network of volunteers and affiliated organisations in more than 120 countries, has developed invaluable expertise in the promotion and defence of children's rights.

Sharing Knowledge...

Project LICADHO-IBCR

In winter 2008, IBCR had the opportunity to organise a training course on the rights of child victims of sexual exploitation for personnel of the Cambodian League for the Defence of Human Rights, in collaboration with the Université du Québec à Montréal. The training course, financed by the Canadian International Development Agency, aimed to share knowledge and to reinforce the intervention capacities of the participants.

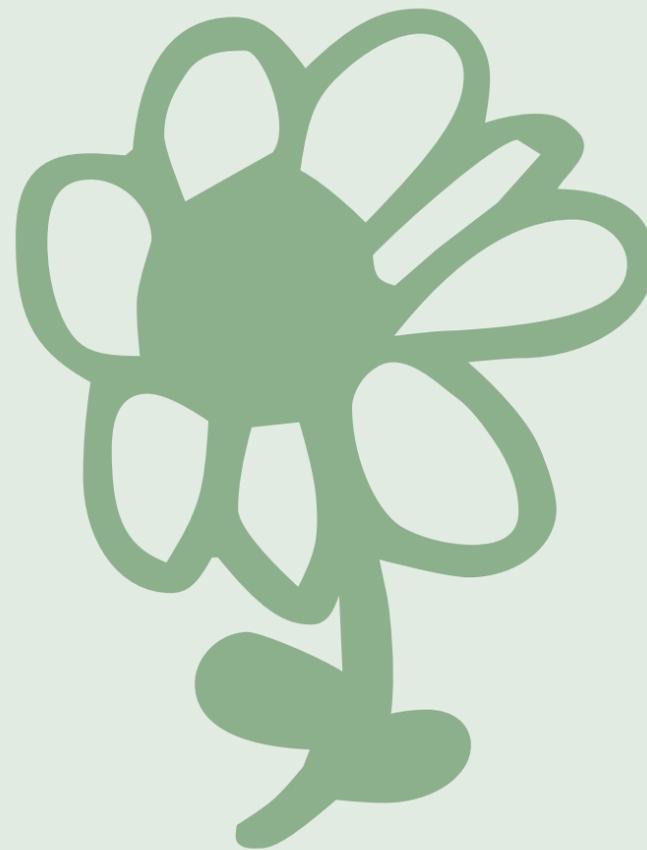
Expanding our scope of activities in the coming years...

Over the next year, IBCR will turn its attention to various specific forms of commercial sexual exploitation affecting children—notably, child sex tourism. Our goal is to examine how governmental and non-governmental actors can effectively fight the sexual exploitation of children in Canada and around the world.

Conclusions and Directions for the Future

Training decision-makers on trafficking in Québec

Aware that the first step in the fight against child trafficking is adopting measures to identify child victims and children at risk, IBCR will undertake a two-year project focused on writing a training module intended for front-line actors. This project, entitled *Trafficking in Girls, a Form of Violence in Our Own Backyards*, is made possible thanks to a subsidy granted by the Women's Programme, Status of Women Canada.



Guillaume Landry,
Programme Manager

Country Profiles Programme

Making a difference
The programme on Country Profiles is one of the core activities of the International Bureau for Children Rights (IBCR). Its main objective is to analyse and report on the status of 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 analyses emphasise progress made, innovative programmes and remaining challenges at the national and regional levels. 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 countries studied in order to help States integrate a variety of conclusions and fully implement the CRC.

North Africa

IBCR has received financial support from the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to analyse progress made in five North African countries (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) in their implementation of the CRC and its Optional Protocols. This second publication features a regional analysis which allows the comparison of good practices between neighbouring countries.

With the support of UNICEF's New York office, the report was translated into Arabic, published in both languages (English and Arabic) and disseminated to a wider audience in the countries studied as well as throughout the world. The translation gave the Bureau the opportunity to reach a greater number of contributors and stakeholders involved in children's rights. The Arabic translation also enabled us to reach the five countries simultaneously, which was a great help in making the regional analysis relevant.



A summary of work accomplished and its reception in the field ...

The Arabic version of the report was officially launched in Cairo (Egypt) in June 2007 within the framework of the Third Regional Conference for the Middle East and North Africa on Violence against

Children. This event brought together hundreds of decision-makers, government representatives, experts on the rights of the child and staff of various international, regional and national non-governmental organisations. More than 300 participants took part in the Conference and the media of the region were present to cover the event. The launch of the Arabic version of the Country Profiles generated a great deal of enthusiasm and received praise from many, including government representatives of the region. It was the first opportunity for IBCR to return to the region examined in its research, to present the results to concerned stakeholders and to pursue a dialogue with local governments.

The success of this second edition of the Country Profiles is very encouraging. For example, during the launch in Cairo, the Tunisian representative informed participants that Tunisia had changed its legislation, harmonising the minimum legal age of marriage to 18 years of age for boys and girls. Save the Children UK also used the regional report to train its staff in Egypt on child labour, studying what is being done around this problem in other countries in the region. UNICEF Tunisia similarly indicated that they use the report to introduce new staff members to the state of the rights of the child in the region.

That said, IBCR quickly realised that the real value of the project lies less in the publication of the report than in the use which is made of it.

The collaborative stage: the Great Lakes region in Africa

In March 2008, IBCR received support from the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie to undertake a new children rights monitoring project in central Africa, aimed at measuring progress made and at promoting good practices in Burundi, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

Aware of the need to make the Country Profiles Programme an initiative which creates measurable impacts in realising the rights of the child and, consequently, to increase the programme's ability to support concrete actions that do this, IBCR hopes to facilitate the dialogue between various stakeholders around the principles and objectives of the CRC. Towards this end, IBRC is currently working to ensure that the content of the report produced within the framework of this project serves as the basis of a four-day seminar, in which approximately 40 participants would be invited to Brazzaville (Congo) to share and exchange regional practices and policies on the rights of the child. This opportunity to gather key stakeholders in the region could serve to help develop their skills in integrating child participation. Furthermore, this regional seminar would allow the Bureau to share its analysis and to initiate dialogue between civil society and government authorities; the main objective would be to influence decision-makers in favour of implementing international commitments for all children of the region.

Improving our approach and involving all stakeholders ...

IBCR has adapted its approach in order to share knowledge and to increase collaboration with its partners in the field. We hope not only to support them in producing their own, independent country profiles and detailed regional analyses, but also to use their findings to intervene in favour of the implementation of the CRC in their country and region. This project is based on the notion that civil society organisations have played, and should continue to play, a key role in the protection and the promotion of human rights and children's rights in particular. It is a longer-term approach which will be applicable to an unprecedented number of partner countries within the same region, and as such will give the Bureau greater success in reinforcing the capacities of these partner organizations. Hopefully it will therefore help ensure the lasting involvement of all stakeholders.

Programme on Children affected by Armed Conflict

A long-term involvement

The International Bureau for Children Rights has been involved for several years in the promotion and the protection of the rights of the children affected by armed conflicts. This involvement began in 1999 within the framework of the second cycle of audiences for the International Tribunal for Children's Rights. A series of consultations and research was carried out to better understand the challenges faced by children and to study the options allowing us to fill the gaps in the international system on this subject.

A renewed commitment

For several years, IBCR has been an active member of the Canadian Working Wroup on Children and Armed Conflict, a network that brings together the main stakeholders from the Canadian civil society in order to promote the advancement of the cause of children in armed conflicts by finding better strategies and policies in Canada and in the rest of the world. This Working Group changed its approach in 2006 by integrating government authorities as core member of the Group, thereafter changing its name to the Forum on Children in Armed Conflicts. The Forum thus combines the needs and priorities of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders working together towards the realisation of the rights of children in armed conflicts.

IBCR: Coordinator of the Canadian Forum on Children in Armed Conflicts:

Since September 2007, the International Bureau for Children's Rights assumes the role of coordination of the Forum and co-chairs the Forum's meetings with governmental representatives. As such, the IBCR organised a two-day workshop in Ottawa (Canada) on the reintegration of children affected by armed conflicts. In collaboration with other members of the Forum on Children in Armed Conflicts and Saint Paul University in Ottawa, this event was organised thanks to the



generous support of the Canadian International Development Agency. Bringing together more than 120 participants, including a dozen international guests and around forty young people, this workshop allowed for a greater understanding of the current challenges associated with the process of reintegration of children, notably the rights and particular needs of girls, social and psychological challenges in reintegration, limitations in current methods of financing and opportunities for collaboration with peacekeeping missions.

In February 2008, the International Bureau for Children's Rights was invited by the Spanish government and the Spanish Coalition to End the Use of Child Soldiers to make a speech at a conference in Madrid (Spain) on the situation of girls associated with armed forces and groups in West Africa. This event marked the sixth year since the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict; it brought together ten experts and sixty participants around the theme of girls affected by armed conflicts.

In March 2008, the International Bureau for Children's Rights hosted another workshop, this time in Montreal. A total of 31 experts from ten different countries met to discuss the need to invest more in the prevention of the negative impacts of armed conflicts on children, particularly in relation to the United Nations Security Council Resolution

1612. This workshop contributed to a research effort on this question which was completed at the end of March and submitted to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada. This workshop had numerous outcomes, including the inclusion of several points raised throughout it within the new guidelines relative to the implementation of the Resolution 1612 developed by the head office of UNICEF in New York; among these points were the need to include a clear communication strategy, and the importance of connecting 1612 with other initiatives in prevention efforts on the field. Other examples include the integration of several ideas discussed during the workshop within the working group on Resolution 1612 in Afghanistan, or the new linkage with programmes in Western Canada for children affected by armed conflict currently living in Canada.

Pursuing the work

IBCR intends to maintain its commitment towards children affected by armed conflicts by pursuing its collaboration with the Canadian Forum on Children in Armed Conflicts. Initiatives are currently being explored to publish a second edition of IBCR's publication Laws on Norms and Laws Applicable to Children in Armed Conflicts and to further deepen our knowledge of various subjects, including the situation of girls in armed conflicts.

