

International Bureau for Children's Rights

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Organization's mandate/goals:

The IBCR's mission is to protect, defend and promote the rights and the welfare of all children in every corner of the globe. Its objectives are to ensure that children's rights are respected in accordance with the principles set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In each of the current program areas - fighting sexual exploitation, protecting war-affected children, and promoting the rights of the child - the IBCR intends to raise awareness and increase public understanding of what children are going through, what their rights are, and what can be done to improve the situation when problems arise.

These activities involve youth and children directly in the promotion of their rights. Working with youth and children means working within their environment, be it through the schools, the religious community or the neighbourhood organizations. Activities in each of these areas are carried out both on a national and international scale with a clear focus on the participation of developing countries. In pursuing its mission, the IBCR encourages concerned groups and individuals to exchange ideas, share best practices and discuss common solutions to various obstacles to the successful implementation of children's rights.

Areas of expertise relevant to 2001 UN Conference on Small Arms:

Consultation, Co-operation and Information Exchange -- *Coalition Building*

The IBCR is supporting and working with partner organizations in different countries. The activities can only be developed with the help and co-operation of other like-minded organizations. For example, one of the many benefits of the Hearings of the International Tribunal for Children's Rights is that they help to create and strengthen connections between organizations from around the world and to bring together individuals and organizations from all regions internationally who otherwise may never have had the opportunity to exchange ideas or share experiences.

Working with Vulnerable Groups -- *Promoting general child welfare*

The IBCR denounces, condemns and publicizes any situation which contributes to the continuation of children's suffering and violation of their rights. As well, they intervene, through the Tribunal, in high priority situations.

The IBCR raises awareness and urges citizens and governments to take responsibility for the violation of children's rights. They call for concrete action to ensure the welfare and protection of children and recommend appropriate actions.