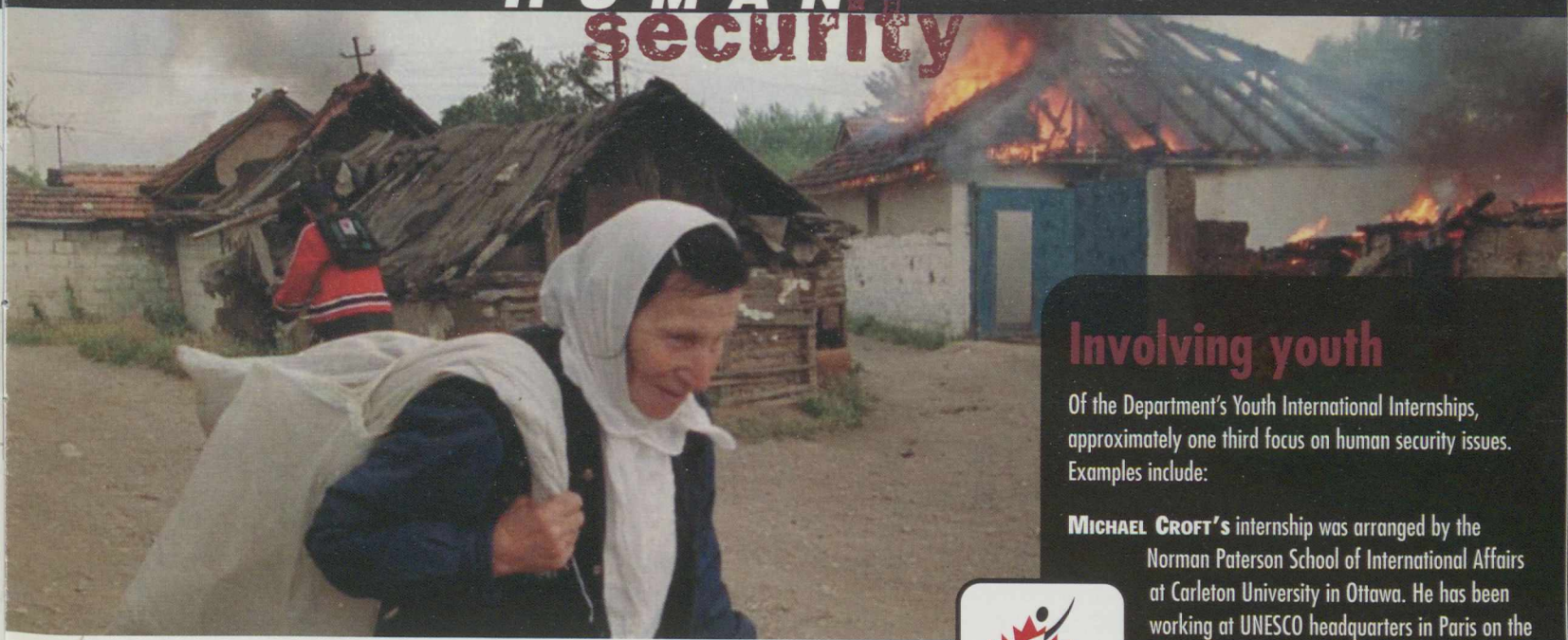


# HUMAN security



## Canada's partners

To be effective, human security initiatives must be developed and implemented through key partners, including institutions, governments and civil society.

One vital partner is the **United Nations Security Council**. As an elected member of the Council for the period 1999–2000, Canada is promoting a strong human security agenda. During our presidency of the Council last February, we sponsored a debate on the theme "The Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict," and we asked the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report and submit recommendations, for study this fall.

Other important partners are the **United Nations General Assembly** and the **UN Specialized Agencies**, where Canada pursues a human security agenda. These include the High Commissioner for Refugees, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, and the Special Representative for Internally Displaced Persons.

Still another partner is the **G-8**. Canada has led efforts to introduce human security issues and perspectives into the working agenda of the Group of Seven and Group of Eight summit meetings. At last June's meeting of G-8 foreign ministers in Cologne, the focus was on the impact of globalization, and human

security concerns were strongly reflected in the agenda.

On a bilateral level, in May 1998 Canada and Norway signed the **Lysøen Declaration**, establishing a partnership for action. The central objective is to provide coherence for human security initiatives, to strengthen them and build momentum around them. Under the agreement, the two countries are consulting and co-operating on landmines, the International Criminal Court, human rights, humanitarian law, the gender dimensions of armed conflict, small arms, war-affected children (including child soldiers), child labour, and Arctic and Northern co-operation.

Broader in scope is the **Human Security Network** initiated in September 1998 by Canada and Norway. This past May in Bergen, Norway, 11 countries and 9 prominent NGOs and international organizations participated in the first full meeting of the Network. It focussed on identifying challenges and approaches for addressing major issues, including landmines, the accumulation and transfer of military small arms, child soldiers, and adherence to international humanitarian and human rights laws.

## Involving youth

Of the Department's Youth International Internships, approximately one third focus on human security issues. Examples include:

**MICHAEL CROFT'S** internship was arranged by the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University in Ottawa. He has been working at UNESCO headquarters in Paris on the Culture of Peace Program, particularly to assist in integrating development, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and issues of gender and ethnicity into the program. He has now completed his internship and is on contract to UNESCO.

**ALUKI KOTIERK** is from Igloodik, Nunavut. As arranged by the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development in Montréal, this intern worked on Indigenous women's issues in Quito, Ecuador.

In an internship mapped out by CANADEM, **SEAN McNAMARA** worked for the International Children's Institute (ICI) in Montréal. He travelled to Sarajevo with a team piloting ICI's "Building Bridges" program in Bosnia. He helped develop classroom sessions for schoolchildren from the Sarajevo canton, and prepared presentations for use by ICI educators.

CANADEM organized 10 internships in Croatia with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Activities included field monitoring, reintegration of refugees, democratization, police monitoring, human rights assistance, and reconciliation. Six of the interns were later hired by the OSCE. For example, **LEANNE BAYER** from Quebec worked in the field office in Karlovac. She is now a Democratization and Human Rights Officer in the Sisak Co-ordination Centre, where she is developing civil society projects.

For more information on the Youth International Internship Program, visit its Web site ([www.dfait maeci.gc.ca/interns/](http://www.dfait.maeci.gc.ca/interns/)) or call 1-800-559-2888 (toll-free from anywhere in Canada). ●—

