

Canadian Lawyers Association for International Human Rights

Contact: Al Cook, Coordinator

Address: 204-251 Laurier Ave. West, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5J6

Email: contact@claihr.org

Website: www.claihr.org

Telephone: (613) 233-0398 / Fax: (613) 233-0671

Organization's mandate/goals:

The Canadian Lawyers Association for International Human Rights (CLAIHR) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization, established to promote and protect human rights internationally through the use of law and legal institutions.

The Canadian Lawyers Association for International Human Rights: analyses laws, institutions and practices affecting human rights; contributes to developing and strengthening laws and institutions that protect human rights; promotes awareness of human rights issues within the legal community; supports lawyers, legal organizations and others dedicated to achieving human rights.

CLAIHR puts Canadian lawyers' experience and expertise to work to further civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights worldwide. It focuses on the situations of indigenous people, workers and women, particularly in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) within these countries work to achieve respect for human rights and the rule of law within their borders. CLAIHR can support them by accessing information, financial and material resources, and by conducting research which will help them propose and critique legislation for the protection of human rights within their own countries.

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

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

CLAIHR works by responding to requests from its partner organizations to co-operate in developing and implementing projects that advance human rights. CLAIHR also seeks to educate and inform the legal profession and the public at large about human rights issues. CLAIHR placed an initial emphasis on the developing countries of the Western Hemisphere and began working in partnership with legal and human rights bodies in Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Jamaica and Nicaragua. Since 1994, CLAIHR has extended its activities to include projects in Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Honduras, Hong Kong, Namibia, the Palestinian Self-Rule Areas, South Africa and Western Sahara.

Human and Social Development -- *Promote respect for human rights*

In Canada, CLAIHR has brought human rights issues to the attention of the legal community, from whom it encourages contributions, whether in the form of monetary donations or voluntary assistance in its projects, and has worked actively to promote good human rights practices by Canadian businesses operating in the South.