

1.1. *Questionnaire on Neoliberal Economic Policies and Social, Economic and Cultural Rights*

As a preliminary step, human rights partner organizations in Latin America were contacted to assess their perspectives on the state of economic, social and cultural rights and to suggest areas where ICCHRLA and Canada may be of assistance. These responses and results were tabulated and summarized into the Special Report on Trade, Investment and Human Rights in Latin America (see below). Questionnaire results (Annex B) were translated into Spanish and sent to all of the respondents in Latin America.

1.2. *Special Report on Trade, Investment and Human Rights in Latin America.*

General investigative research on trade and human rights was gathered to provide a theoretical framework for the research. This culminated in the document entitled "Trade, Investment and Human Rights in Latin America", (please see Annex C). This piece was based on published material as well as telephone and in-person conversations with human rights workers, government officials, business people, activists and academics. It also included the input of Latin American human rights organizations, based on in-person meetings and on responses to questionnaires. This is a comprehensive document which addresses the current issues and debates on the topic of trade and human rights. It has served to inform ICCHRLA's board about these concerns and to jump-start our organization's work on how to most effectively begin to address economic, social and cultural rights violations related to trade and investment. The study outlines a wide-breadth of **policy options and strategies** to address economic, social and cultural rights.

1.3. *Case Study: Colombia:*

The link between economic rights and political and civil violations is most explicitly expressed by the situation of trade unionists in Colombia. In an effort to concretize the theoretical research and to illustrate the case of economic, social and cultural rights in Colombia, ICCHRLA organized a delegation of trade unionists to investigate the situation and bring back foreign policy recommendations for the Canadian government and solidarity actions for the trade union movement. (Please see the report by the trade union delegation "A Life Threatening Activity': Trade Unionism Under Attack in Colombia." in Annex D).