

globe. Consider that 200 million children under 13 work. Consider that 100 million children live on the street. Consider that half the world's refugees are children. Consider that 5 million children are injured or disabled by war every year.

We must not allow ourselves to be paralyzed by the enormity of the problem. Instead, we must act by addressing specific issues. And surely the most odious form of child labour is child prostitution. There are concrete actions that we can and must take, domestically and internationally, to eliminate this practice.

I am hopeful that we will soon agree on the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. I wish to announce today that Canada is ready now to introduce legislation that will enable criminal prosecution in Canada of Canadians who go overseas to engage in prostitution-related activities with children.

By extending Canadian jurisdiction abroad, the new legislation will address squarely the problem posed by sex-tourism when it involves children under the age of 18.

Although there is not yet any international legal agreement to deal specifically with child sex-tourism, there exists an emerging international consensus that would permit states to deal effectively with this issue. The Convention on the Rights of the Child provides a sufficient basis for this extension of jurisdiction.

Creating new rules or laws to combat the exploitation of children is just one part of an effective strategy. Laws without the means to enforce them are of limited use. Thus, we must look to the ILO [International Labour Organization] and other organizations to find ways to give effect to our international obligations.

Aboriginal concerns are high on Canada's agenda. For over a year now, we have wanted them placed high on the agenda of this Commission. We have wanted them to be treated under a separate agenda item that would accord indigenous issues the special attention they deserve. So it was with a very real sense of satisfaction that I learned of your decision two days ago to establish such a separate agenda item. On my own behalf, and on behalf of Canada's First Nations, I wish to thank the Commission for its understanding and support in this vital matter.

Finally, I wish to address reform and renewal of the UN Human Rights Program.

A major question that confronts us is resources. The financial crisis now facing the UN creates a strange paradox - countries