

cases of genocide, crimes against humanity and other war crimes.

Canada plays a major role as well in the preparation, debates and follow-up of various UN world conferences concerned with human rights—for example, the 1993 Vienna World Conference on Human Rights and the upcoming 2001 Conference on Racism.

As a signatory of all the principal UN treaties on international human rights, Canada regularly submits its human rights record to review by UN monitoring bodies.

By working through the Canadian International Development Agency, via bilateral assistance as well as participation in the UN funds, programmes and special institutions, Canada continues to help

societies build human rights capacity through strengthening the electoral process, the judicial system, legislatures and independent media.

Women

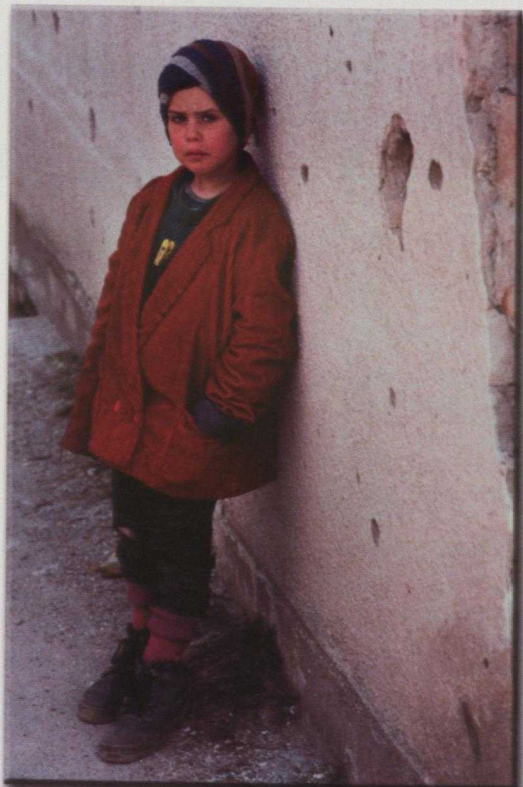
Canada is committed to drawing attention to violations of the human rights of women. On International Women's Day, March 8, 1993, the Commission on Human Rights adopted by consensus a first-ever resolution, introduced by Canada, aimed at integrating the rights of women into the UN human rights mechanisms.

Canadian efforts have also sought to gain recognition that violence against women is a breach of human rights. Canada helped draft the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in December 1993. In 1994, Canada was behind the Commission on Human Rights' creation of the post of Special Rapporteur on violence against women.

Children

A Canadian priority, and a key element in our efforts to improve human security, is strengthening respect for children's rights, particularly by eliminating exploitative child labour, the sexual exploitation of children, the widespread use of child soldiers and the victimization of children in armed conflict.

At the multilateral and bilateral levels, Canada is working in partnership with



CIDA photo: Roger LeMoyne