

and Kosova in 1998, he has sought, with some success, the commitment of conflicting parties to protect children, to desist from using or targeting them, or to allow them access to humanitarian relief. The Special Representative needs political backing, which Canada and other supporters could provide. In addition, Canada might wish to develop its own mediation capacity for children, as well as to support indigenous civil society groups or regional mediation initiatives. Canada can also encourage and support regional organizations to develop and apply codes of conduct (based on international standards and regional cultural norms) regarding child protection during armed conflict and post-conflict recovery; mechanisms to monitor and assure compliance with such standards and to address the impunity of those who continue to target children; regional peacekeeping initiatives; and other initiatives to ensure deployment of capacity to aid children exposed to armed conflict.

Conclusion

The Nobel citation for Amartya Sen stated that his work "has restored an ethical dimension to the discussion of vital economic problems"(10). Canada has the opportunity to do likewise in the international political arena, as it pursues the concept of human security with a coalition of like-minded partners, particularly during its two-year tenure on the U.N. Security Council. A focus on children and specifically on children in armed conflict, can be a potent element of Canada's agenda, since, in international norms and in every society, "there is a Corridor of Peace in our inner being, always, for a child to run through for protection" (11). When children are both prime targets of, and actors in, armed conflict, it is time to take them out of the social welfare or humanitarian closets to which they are usually assigned and place them squarely on the political agenda.

Notes

1. Axworthy, Lloyd, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Address on child labour before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Ottawa, 23 April 1997; Throne Speech before that; other)
- 2. Sen, Amartya. Inequality Re-examined, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1992, pp.158. Passages quoted from pp.128 & 131.
3. Sen, Amartya. Food, economics and entitlements, WIDER working paper WP1. World Institute for Development Economics Research of the U.N. University, Helsinki, February 1986, pp.32. Passage quoted from p.4.