

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.

Another important focus of Canada's initiatives has been the recognition that violence against women is a violation of human rights. Canada was instrumental in the development of the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 1993. In 1994, Canada led in creation of the position of UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women by the Commission on Human Rights.



CHILDREN

Strengthening respect for children's rights is a Canadian priority and a key element in our efforts to improve human security, particularly in eliminating exploitative child labour and the sexual exploitation of children.

At the multilateral and bilateral levels, Canada is working in partnership with developing countries to protect children, strengthen their rights and assist victims of the sex trade. Amendments to the Canadian Criminal Code make it possible to prosecute in Canada those Canadians who go abroad to abuse

children sexually. Canada is supporting the negotiation of an ILO Convention on the Elimination of Exploitation of Child Labour and is also supporting the ILO's International Program for the Elimination of Child Labour. Canada's bilateral development cooperation is being used, for example, to improve primary education for girls, eliminate child labour, and fund preventive education and training efforts targeting children at risk of recruitment into the sex trade.

"Canadian values, including the promotion of human rights, are an integral part of our broader foreign policy. We are committed to integrating human rights activities into the peace, security and development activities of the UN; in the same way, we are committed to integrating them into our own international relations."

Lloyd Axworthy

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

