

rights *per se* have never been raised by either party, neither as a point of contention nor of consensus, in the entire peace process" (8), despite the fact that children played a major role as combatants, were victims of widespread violence and abuse and were displaced in huge numbers. Future societal stability demands attention to the rehabilitation of child victims of violence, while joint commitment of former warring parties to child protection and development can be an important step towards reconciliation and reconstruction.

The Security Council has not traditionally taken children into account in its definition of the mandates of peacekeeping and peace operations. Canada can help remedy this. Training of peacekeepers on child rights should be obligatory. Their accountability for their conduct towards children needs to be clearly specified if the child abuse and child prostitution that has been a feature of several peacekeeping missions is to end. Sweden has pioneered the systematic inclusion of child rights in pre-deployment training of peacekeepers and Canada has also moved in this direction.

Whatever the political rationale behind the imposition of economic sanctions, there is now little argument that they have an extremely adverse impact on vulnerable groups, foremost amongst whom are children. As a member of the Security Council, Canada will be in a privileged vantage point to advocate that the United Nations assume its share of the responsibility for the impact on vulnerable groups of sanctions which the Council has authorized. There is a need for a more systematic approach to humanitarian sanctions, for better methods of assessing the impact of sanctions on children, even for recognizing measures taken by sanctioned regimes to provide a safety net for children and other vulnerable groups.

These are some of the ways in which Canada can promote the cause of children exposed to conflict during its tenure on the Security Council. It is not alone in this endeavour and does not have to start from scratch. In a special session held in June 1998, the Security Council expressed its "grave concern at the harmful impact of armed conflict on children" and acknowledged its continued obligation and "intention to pay serious attention to the situation of children affected by armed conflicts" (9). This statement was stimulated by the presence and presentation, at the debate, of Olara Otunnu, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. He can be a useful collaborator with Canada and like-minded countries in combined efforts to ensure that the Security Council fulfils the commitments that it has made. The Special Representative, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UNICEF and UNHCR are collaborating on the development of training modules for peacekeepers in child and human rights. The Office of the Emergency Relief Coordinator has led a coalition of humanitarian and development agencies in the United Nations to assess the humanitarian impact of sanctions. Canada can draw on the support of these and other allies within and outside the United Nations system.

Beyond the opportunities offered by Security Council membership, Canada has embarked on, or could consider, a number of other areas of action and advocacy.