

Chetan Kumar (UN Representative) recently joined the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children in Armed Conflict as a Programme Officer at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. From 1995-1999, Mr. Kumar was Senior Associate at International Peace Academy (IPA), an independent, non-partisan, inter-national institution located in New York and dedicated to promoting the prevention and settlement of armed conflict between and within States. In 1996, he received a PhD in International Relations from the Department of Political Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he was an associate of the University's Program in Arms Control, Disarmament, and International Security. At IPA, Chetan Kumar played an active role in designing, and in conducting IPA's training seminars on peacemaking and peacekeeping for senior policy makers, and in conducting research on peacebuilding.

Sylvia Ladame (Switzerland) works with the International Committee of the Red Cross, Division for Policy and Cooperation within the Movement. She is in charge of the 'dossier' on children in conflict situations. She first worked with the ICRC as a jurist before becoming a lawyer at the Geneva Bar and later a judge for children and Deputy Head of the Services for Protection of Youth, also in Geneva. After spending some years in the commercial sector in New York, she returned to work with the ICRC in 1993.

Christopher Lowry (Canada) directs More Than Bandages, a new MSF-Canada program of resources and training to promote creative approaches to psycho-social rehabilitation of war-affected children. He is an internationally recognised specialist in the protection and promotion of children's health and rights with experience as a development program manager, media producer and writer. Mr. Lowry has written papers for publication by WHO, UNICEF, UNDCP, CIDA, US A.I.D., and Netherlands Ministry for Foreign Affairs. As a senior consultant for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), he recently completed a Survey of Canadian Programming for Children Affected by Armed Conflict. As Director of Educational Media for Street Kids International (1988-1997), he directed the production and distribution of cross-cultural animated adventure cartoons to teach street children about life skills, AIDS, sexual health and substance abuse that are now in twenty-five languages, being used in over one hundred countries. His Karate Kids project won the 1993 Peter F. Drucker Award for Canadian Non-Profit Innovation.

Sarah Maguire (England) is the Human Rights Specialist with the Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs Department of the Department for International Development. Previously practising at the Bar in criminal defence, refugee and family law. Recent experience of conflict situations includes Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Kosovo.

Sarah Meek (England) joined International Alert in 1999. She previously was senior researcher on arms control at the Institute for Security Studies in South Africa, which has undertaken a significant amount of research on small arms related issues and has a programme which focuses on the abuse of children in armed conflict. She previously worked in the United Nations Department of Disarmament Affairs. She has written extensively on arms control issues. She holds an MA in International Policy Studies.

Rory Mungovern (England) is the Programme Co-ordinator for the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers.

David Nyheim (England) is the Director of the Forum on Early Warning and Early Response (FEWER). He has held a range of policy and research positions in the European Commission, University of London, and University of Louvain where he worked on humanitarian preparedness and disease control issues. Mr. Nyheim is trained in political economy (McGill University), medical sciences (Louvain), and epidemiology (LSHTM). His publications cover violence against displaced women, conflict prevention best practice, and human rights and disease control.

Linda O'Neill (Northern Ireland) is a youth support worker working in a deeply sectarian interface area. She has previously worked as a detached youth worker with young people aged 9 – 18 who do not use available resources. She currently works with young people on single identity issues on one side of the division in Northern Ireland in the hope that this may lead to their greater participation in their own communities which in turn may prepare them for contact with the other community in Northern Ireland.