

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative

THE ROMÉO  
DALLAIRE



CHILD  
SOLDIERS  
INITIATIVE



DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY

[www.childsoldiers.org](http://www.childsoldiers.org)

## Our Manifesto

War has changed. Therefore, our tactics must change too.

Today, children are used as a weapons of war for many state armies and armed groups. Their tactical and strategic use continues to drive conflict, destroy communities and tear at the very fabric of peace efforts around the world.

For far too long we have ignored the strategic and tactical use of children as weapons of war and left those who serve, from militaries, police to peacekeepers poorly prepared to interact in such moral dilemmas, thereby putting themselves at risk and missing opportunities to prevent escalation of violent conflict.

The time has arrived for bold ideas and innovative approaches.

Our mission, to progressively end the use of child soldiers through a security sector approach, is identifying gaps in past knowledge and approaches to better equip those who protect with the practical tools and knowledge necessary to radically alter behaviours and attitudes that make the use of children as soldiers one day “unthinkable”.

Children must but at the heart of the international peace and security agenda. Their continued lack of inclusion represents a fundamental shortcoming in their protection from conflict and in efforts to attain overall peace and security.

To address this gap, the Dallaire Initiative seeks to champion a Children’s Rights Upfront Approach. In short, this approach aims to elevate children higher up on the international peace and security agenda to create points of collaboration and seeks to highlight the need to build international momentum to protect the rights of society’s most vulnerable—children by recognizing their centrality to meaningful peace efforts.

With nearly 250 million children living in conflict-affected countries, there is an urgent need for more adequate protection as they fall prey to recruitment and use by armed forces and groups, killing and maiming, sexual violence, abduction and other grave violations of their rights. All parties to armed conflict must be held accountable for committing grave violations against children.

The time to act, the time to lead is now. All forward together!

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## Welcome Letter

Looking back on our last year, we can say with certainty that it has been our most rewarding and exciting year on record. Over the past year, we have expanded as an organisation, developed new ground-breaking projects, and continue to incubate our unique prevention oriented approach to end the use of children as weapons of war in new countries and contexts.

When it comes to cracking the code and putting an end to the cycle of violence and recruitment of children into armed conflict, it is prevention that will produce the most cost-effective solutions—both financially and morally—than picking up the pieces after war.

We believe that the use of children as soldiers is a tactical and strategic element of current conflicts that must be addressed with innovative ideas. Through our work with security sector actors, policymakers, international organisations, communities and children, we are unlocking new strategies for conflict prevention. Our proactive, targeted and preventative approach is unique in the world. It draws on years of knowledge and experience gained through working with key partners in the field and leverages an approach with those who are committed to ending this crime against humanity.

It is the Dallaire Initiative’s response to affecting attitude and behaviour change that is our organisational differential: seeking to demonstrate that our training, research and advocacy has significant, long-lasting impacts, well beyond the implementation of our immediate programming. As a pioneer in this regard, we have built an identity as a subject leader in preventing the use of children as weapons of war.

Therefore, it is significant that we continue to establish projects and approaches that champion these attitude and behaviours changes. From our world-leading holistic national approach to addressing issues of child soldiery, through training and education initiatives, best exemplified by our ongoing work in Sierra Leone, to our research that is identifying gaps and equipping police officers with the tools to prevent radicalization leading to extreme violence, to our tireless efforts to raise children as a priority on the international peace and security agenda, we are creating more innovative, progressive and holistic solutions to prevent the use of children as weapons of war both at home in Canada and around the globe.

We believe that if we can end the use of child soldiers globally, we will go a long way in preventing and addressing conflicts. We cannot be afraid to go boldly forward together to alter the status quo and end the use of child soldiers—progressively.

All of us at the Dallaire Initiative wish to thank our allies, donors, partners and friends for having assisted our work through the past year. Our efforts to progressively end the use of child soldiers would not have been possible without your ongoing support—support that inspires us to continue to shed light, empower change and make the world a better place for children.

Sincerely,



Dr. Shelly Whitman  
Executive Director  
The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative



LGen Roméo Dallaire (Ret’d)  
Founder,  
The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative

#### International Advisory Committee

LGen the Honourable Roméo Dallaire, O.C., C.M.M., G.O.Q, M.S.C, C.D., (Ret’d)  
General Maurice Baril, O.C., C.M.M, M.S.M, C.D. (ret’d)  
Ishmael Beah, B.A.  
Major General Patrick Cammaert (Ret’d)  
Michel Chikwanine  
Nigel Fisher, O.C, O.Ont., M.S.C., LL.D(Hon Robert Fowler, O.C.  
The Honourable Mobina S.B Jaffer, Q.C.  
The Right Honourable Paul E. Martin, P.C., C.C.  
Dr. James Orbinski, O.C., O.Ont., M.S.C  
Gérard Veilleux, O.C., B.Comm., M.Pub. Admin  
Jody Williams, M.A., M.A., B.A.

#### Current Staff

**Founder:** LGen Roméo Dallaire (Ret’d)  
**Executive Director:** Dr. Shelly Whitman  
**Director of Training:** Darin Reeves  
**Manager of Finance and Administration:** Lisa Nociforo  
**Director, Fund Development (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences):** Lori Ward  
**Fund Development Officer (March 2016):** Lindsay Miles-Pickup  
**Director of Communications:** Josh Boyter  
**Program Administrator, VTECS and Building Connections:** Joëlle Badman  
**Executive Assistant to LGen Roméo Dallaire (Ret’d):** Jessica Davis (May 2016)  
**Program Officer—Research:** Dustin Johnson  
**Program Coordinator—Training:** Jennifer McNeil  
**Program Coordinator—Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist:** Victoria Bryce  
**AMISOM Child Protection Officer:** Musa Gbow

#### Fellows

Ben O’Bright  
Dave Morgan  
Emily Pelley  
William Plowright  
Marion Laurence

#### Volunteers

Jeff Hughes  
Charlotte Banks  
Riley Baumber  
Shane DeRooy  
Sarah Watson

#### Consultants

Jake Bell  
Mubin Shaikh  
Brent Beardsley

#### Credits

Design and Copy: Josh Boyter





## ABOUT US

### — *The Dallaire Initiative*

War has changed. Today, children around the world are now being pulled into conflict at alarming rates, creating the ever-growing threat of child soldiers on the battlefield. The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative aims to work together with global leaders to make a long-term impact in preventing the use of children as weapons of war and thereby breaking the cycle of recruitment. Together we can make the world a safer place by ending the recruitment and use of child soldiers. Together we can stop the children of today becoming the child soldiers of tomorrow.

The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative was established in 2007 by retired Lieutenant-General the Honourable Roméo Dallaire, former force commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR). Our mission is to progressively eradicate the use of child soldiers through a security sector approach.

To achieve this important objective, the Dallaire Initiative conducts activities on three fronts:

- It conducts world-class interdisciplinary research to build—and share—knowledge, which in turn leads to new solutions;
- It engages in high-level advocacy activities to create and promote the political will to end the use of children as soldiers;
- It delivers tactical, prevention-oriented training to security sector actors, so as to support broader security sector reform.

In every aspect of its work, the Dallaire Initiative seeks to collaborate with concerned governments, security sector actors, academics, humanitarians and communities. In particular, its unique approach working with soldiers, police, prison personnel and private security operators – many of whom are the first point of contact for child soldiers outside of their armed force or armed group – is both ground breaking and critical to the interruption of children’s recruitment.



The ultimate focus of the rest of my life is to end the use of child soldiers and to eliminate even the thought of the use of children as an instrument of war.”

— LGen Roméo Dallaire (Ret’d)

*Founder*

THE ROMÉO DALLAIRE  
CHILD SOLDIERS INITIATIVE



Photo Credit: Peter Bregg

## TOWARDS PREVENTION

### — *A Holistic Approach*

The contemporary use of children as weapons of war continues to challenge the international community. Often left picking up the pieces after the child has served as a soldier, we have failed to protect the child, and ultimately prevent their recruitment and use as a child soldier in the first place. Tackled from a humanitarian approach, security sector actors are not part of the international response or solution to the prevention of the use of child soldiers.

Through taking a security sector approach, we complement international efforts, including child protection, international law, and demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration programs. Engaging with security sector actors, who are often the first point of contact for child soldiers in the field, we can create a comprehensive international response that enables us to take a preventive

approach to the issue of children used as weapons of war.

The use of child soldiers is a security concern, and security sector actors must be part of the solution. Through this prevention-oriented approach, we aim to create the necessary tools and training, supported by research, to better protect children from recruitment, and in so doing, help end this crime against humanity, community-by-community, country-by-country, once and for all.

Photos from from left to right

- |   |   |
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| 01. Photo Credit: Josh Boyter             | 03. Photo Credit: The Dallaire Initiative |
| 02. Photo Credit: The Dallaire Initiative | 04. Photo Credit: Josh Boyter             |



## Our Pillars

These action-oriented pillars underpin our approach in preventing the use of children as weapons of war.

### Pillar One



#### Training

We deliver tactical, prevention-oriented training to security sector actors, to promote broader security sector reform.

### Pillar Two



#### Research

We conduct world-class interdisciplinary research to build—and share—knowledge, which in turn leads to new solutions.

### Pillar Three



#### Advocacy

We engage in high-level advocacy activities to create and promote the political will to end the use of children as soldiers.





# CHILDREN'S RIGHTS UPFRONT

A Children's Rights Upfront approach seeks to elevate children higher up on the international peace and security agenda to create points of collaboration and aims to highlight the need to build international momentum to protect the rights of society's most vulnerable—children.

Today, children represent the primary weapon system used by seven state armies and 51 armed groups in 14 contexts around the globe. Their use represents both a tactical and strategic choice by those who deploy them as weapons of war. However, since the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989, only 17 out of 246 peace agreements, cease fires and related documents signed between warring parties, included provisions for child combatants.

The lack of inclusion of children within the international peace and security agenda represents a fundamental shortcoming in the overall protection of children from conflict. To address this gap, the Dallaire Initiative seeks to champion a Children's Rights Upfront Approach.

In short, this approach aims to elevate children higher up on the international peace and security agenda to create points of collaboration and seeks to highlight the need to build international momentum to protect the rights of society's most vulnerable—children.

A Children's Rights Upfront Approach is a fundamental pillar of the Dallaire Initiative's ongoing advocacy and prevention-oriented approach for ending the use of children as weapons of war. By addressing the rights and needs of children, the international community can address the underlying factors that contribute to the use of children in armed conflict.

With nearly 250 million children living in conflict-affected countries, there is an urgent need for adequate protection as they fall prey to recruitment and use by armed forces and groups, killing and maiming, sexual violence, abduction and other grave violations of their rights. All parties to armed conflict must be held accountable for committing grave violations against children.

## How does a Children's Rights Upfront Approach work?

### Raising the Rights of Children

The Dallaire Initiative advocates to include children as a critical stakeholder in the international peace and security agenda. By prioritising the inclusion of children, they maintain a voice at the table and ensure their needs and protection. Also, by addressing the rights of children, the international community addresses the underlying factors that contribute to the use of children in armed conflict.

### Creating a Point of Collaboration

The protection of children is one of the sole issues that continues to bring together key international actors. For example, the Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most widely ratified international agreement to date. As such, children continue to represent a critical rallying point for the international community to unite around and move towards solutions.

### Developing Action

Once identified, the Dallaire Initiative through training, advocacy, research and education activities supports points of collaboration. The Dallaire Initiative seeks to champion a holistic approach, bridging humanitarian and security sector responses through top-down, bottom-up context-specific interventions, while minimising the duplication of efforts.



“Children are the priority, and they need to be protected from joining armed forces and armed groups. We have a duty to humanity to do this.”

— Dr. Shelly Whitman

*Executive Director*  
THE ROMÉO DALLAIRE CHILD SOLDIERS INITIATIVE



Photo Credit: Josh Boyter

## International Criminal Court Policy on Children

On November 18th, the Dallaire Initiative attended the launch of the *Policy on Children* for the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in the Hague, Netherlands. This policy will help the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC, during the course of its work, to consider the rights and best interests of children and how they experience crimes against them during a conflict. As a result, this policy on children and armed conflict will contribute towards holding perpetrators of grave violations against children, including the enlistment and use of child soldiers, to account and help address issues of impunity related to these crimes.

The Dallaire Initiative played an instrumental role in the development of this policy paper through hosting four workshops with children affected by armed conflict and former child soldiers in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Mogadishu, Somalia, Freetown, Sierra Leone, and Medellín, Colombia during 2015 and 2016.



Photo Credit: Josh Boyter

Dr. Whitman moderates a panel at RISING 2016 with filmmakers from Ground Truth

## Paris Principles and Commitments Ten Year Anniversary

Ten years after the landmark creation of the Paris Principles and Commitments on Children Affected by Armed Conflict, the international community reconvened in Paris to recommit to the principles and chart the pathway forward.

The Dallaire Initiative, now a member of the Paris Principles Steering group, participated in the anniversary events as part of a panel. LGen Roméo Dallaire (Ret'd) spoke to the

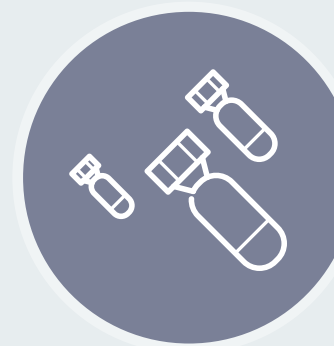
need of raising children as a priority on the peace and security agenda and the necessity to take a prevention-oriented approach to ending the use of child soldiers. During the ten year anniversary, The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P. Minister of International Development and La Francophonie announced Canada's signing of the Safe School Declaration. This announcement represents the culmination of tireless advocacy efforts by the Dallaire Initiative and other organisations protecting education from attack.

## Protecting Children at a Glance



105 States

105 states have endorsed the Paris Principles. By endorsing, states aim to ensure child soldiers are treated primarily as victims, not perpetrators and that their reintegration is a priority.



56 States

56 states have endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration, which seeks to protect education from attack in conflict-affected areas.



Paris Principles

The Paris Principles reflect experience and knowledge from across the globe and are intended to both foster greater programmatic coherence and support and promote good practice on the issue of children affected by armed conflict.

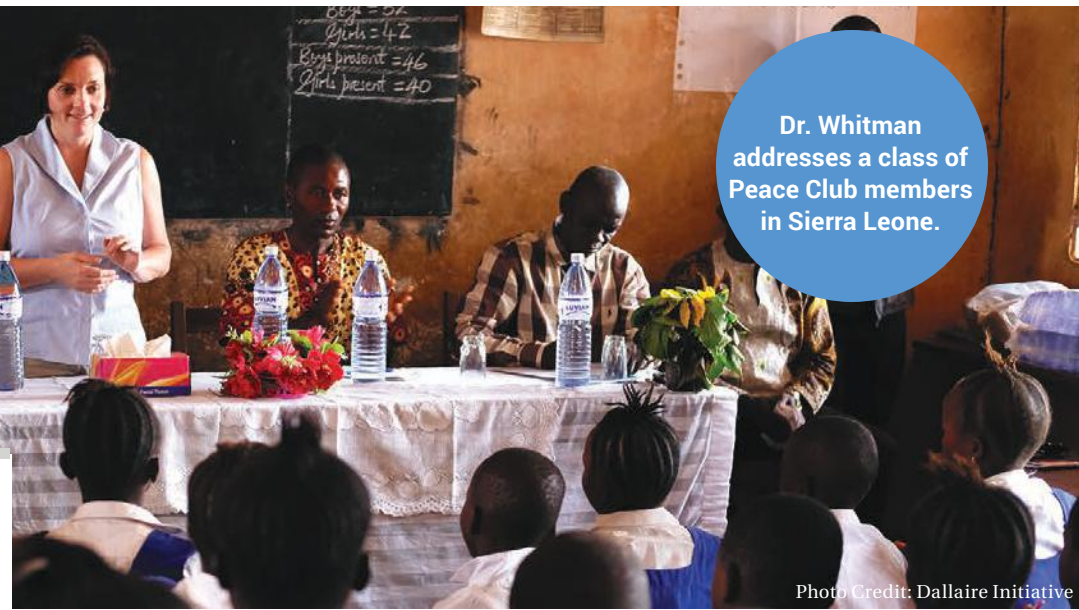


Paris Commitments

The Paris Commitments commit member states to uphold the Paris Principles and spare no effort to end the unlawful recruitment or use of children by armed forces or groups in all regions of the world.

NEXT PAGE  
*A National Approach*





Dr. Whitman addresses a class of Peace Club members in Sierra Leone.

Photo Credit: Dallaire Initiative

## A NATIONAL APPROACH

### — Top Down, Bottom Up

Once the place of mass recruitment and use of some 10,000 child soldiers, Sierra Leone has established itself as a key African peacekeeping nation.

The government of Sierra Leone continues to partner with the Dallaire Initiative to introduce a holistic approach to the issue of child soldiers. Through training with their military, police and prison services, along with developing and delivering a primary school program to educate children on the dangers of recruitment, Sierra Leone is taking proactive action to end the use and recruitment of child soldiers on the African Continent.

In the past year, the Dallaire Initiative has trained 498 Sierra Leonean security personnel and piloted new teacher training resources to be delivered in primary schools. In the coming years, we will focus on making this training self-sustaining, locally powered, and widely available through training of trainer programs and look at ways to reach more children both in and out of schools through youth radio programs.

### Education in Action— Training of Trainer and Dallaire Initiative Youth Peace Clubs

In November 2017, the Dallaire Initiative conducted its second-ever trainer of trainer with teachers and educators from three districts—Moyamba, Port Loko and Bombali—in Freetown, Sierra Leone. This training consisted of building the capacity of teachers to facilitate the Dallaire Initiative's education modules and story books, which help educate children on issues of legal rights to understanding the impacts of conflict on children. Once trained, our training of trainer trainees returned to their home districts and schools to develop Dallaire Initiative Youth Peace Clubs.

In January and March 2017, the Dallaire Initiative visited these peace clubs in the three districts. During these visits, Dr Shelly Whitman, Ben O'Bright and Dustin Johnson visited with community and government representatives, parents, teachers and children participating as part of the Dallaire Initiative Youth Peace Clubs. The children demonstrated the lessons they had learned from the teachers facilitating our education curriculum through a mixture of round robin reading, peace statements and dramatisations.

### About the Education Project

While many child-protection agencies are currently implementing child protection-oriented programs in Sierra Leone, none focus on child soldiers from a security sector angle and none seek to discuss security issues with children themselves. The Dallaire Initiative has developed a youth-oriented training module on matters relating to child soldiers and conflict resolution. Presented directly in primary schools across Sierra Leone, the module will educate Sierra Leonean children about three topics:

- Basic legal rights, as guaranteed by national and international legal conventions;
- Primary motives, tactics and strategies of child soldier recruiters;
- Reliable means of evading underage recruitment.

This work is undertaken through an established partnership with the Sierra Leonean Pikin-to-Pikin Movement (PPM). The Dallaire Initiative is also working in collaboration with former Sierra Leonean child soldiers, whose experiences serve to remind us all of the need to prevent any future recruitment.



Ken Hoffer, VTECS alumni, works with training participants in Sierra Leone

Photo Credit: Dallaire Initiative

### A National Approach— Training

The country of Sierra Leone knows first hand the long-term impacts of using children in war. Having endured 11 years in a brutal civil war, Sierra Leone is now committed to ensuring this will never happen again. Located within a region of unrest, it is crucial that the country remains vigilant and engaged to the permanent eradication of the use of child soldiers within its borders since violence has quickly spilt over from neighbouring countries in the region before. The Dallaire Initiative partnered with the Sierra Leone Ministry of Defense, The Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces, Sierra Leone Police and the Sierra Leone Corrections Service, to introduce country-specific training that:

- Outlines the major security sector issues related to the phenomenon of prevention of the use of child soldiers;
- Identifies strategies for preventing the recruitment and re-recruitment of child soldiers;
- Improves interactions between security sector forces and child soldiers in the field, with the overall aim of protecting children from manipulation by armed groups; and
- Works with the legal instruments that guide the protection of children in conflict situations.



Photo Credit: Dallaire Initiative



“Now we are exporting peace to other nations, and it is a testament to how far we have come as a nation.”

### Participant

Sierra Leone PARTICIPANT IN THE DALLAIRE INITIATIVE'S SECURITY SECTOR TRAINING PROGRAM ON CHILD SOLDIERS

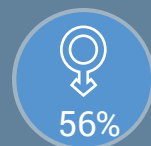


Photo Credit: Dallaire Initiative

### Pre-Deployment Training for Sierra Leone Police

From September 10<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Dallaire Initiative along with Veteran Trainer to Eradicate the Use of Child Soldiers Alumni Ken Hoffer, travelled to Sierra Leone to conduct pre-deployment training for 498 police officers who are destined to partake in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), Mali (MINUSMA) and Sudan (UNAMID). This training represented the largest ever training cohort by the Dallaire Initiative to date.

### Education Project by the Numbers



16 Training of Trainers, November 2016

Number of teachers who participated in the Dallaire Initiative's Training of Trainers for educators in Freetown, Sierra Leone in November 2016.



Number of Peace Club Participants

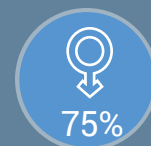
Average number of students in a single Dallaire Initiative Youth Peace Club is 50.



Number of Schools

Dr Shelly Whitman and Ben O'Bright visited during their trip to Sierra Leone to witness the implementation of the Dallaire Initiative education project.

### Training by the Numbers: Police



498 Training Participants, September 2016

Number of police who participated in the Dallaire Initiative's Predeployment training in Freetown, Sierra Leone in September 2016.



Rank Breakdown

Constable 46%  
Sergeant 34%  
Inspector 13%  
Superintendents 7%

NEXT PAGE

Leading From the Front: Training





# LEADING FROM THE FRONT

## — Training

The Dallaire Initiative's training produces better, more specialised soldiers, police, and peacekeepers. Our preventative training changes attitudes, behaviours and policies of militaries, police and peacekeepers, allowing them to counter-act the issue of child soldiers with specific tools and knowledge. This approach represents a strategic investment that over the long term produces more cost-effective solutions.

Many groups or organisations are prepared to tell military, police and peacekeepers what not to do; the Dallaire Initiative focuses on what they can do—empowering the security sector to be part of the solution.

The Dallaire Initiative's proactive, targeted and preventative training ensures that militaries, police, and peacekeepers can prevent the recruitment and use of child soldiers in the field effectively with the necessary tools and knowledge required. This work with the security sector is breaking new ground, and is a critical part of interrupting the cycle of recruitment of children by armed groups. The Dallaire Initiative's training ensures a response by security sector actors that is *just right* and protects all those involved—from the peacekeeper to the child.



“The significance of this doctrine cannot be understated. Within its lines, not only is a baseline set for how Canada understands and actively assists to prevent the use of child soldiers, but how we will better prepare the men and women who face this reality in the field. This will ensure that our armed forces can undertake an active role in helping end this reality of war.”



### Statement on Canadian Armed Forces Doctrine on Child Soldiers

*Organizational Statement*  
THE ROMÉO DALLAIRE  
CHILD SOLDIERS INITIATIVE



Photo Credit: Josh Boyter

## Canadian Armed Forces Joint Doctrine Note on Child Soldiers

The Canadian Armed Forces, on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, launched its Joint Doctrine Note on Child Soldiers. This doctrine represents the world's first comprehensive doctrine to be adopted by a country's armed forces to identify the strategic, operational and tactical considerations about the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

This doctrine is the culmination of many years of advocacy efforts by the Dallaire Initiative. In particular, this doctrine will provide a leading example to our NATO allies, in peace support operations with the UN, as well as our partners in global missions towards ending the use of child soldiers once and for all.



Photo Credit: Combat Camera  
Sgt Matthew M. Gregor

## Training on Preventing the Use of Child Soldiers British Peace Support East Africa and African Union Mission in Somalia

In December 2017, the Dallaire Initiative conducted its first training in conjunction with the British Peace Support East Africa (BPST-EA) and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The training included representatives from the Federal Government of Somalia, Somalia Armed Forces and AMISOM and focused on preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers. The initial training, conducted over three days in Karen, Kenya, was designed to inform a nine-day training of trainers to be carried out in February 2017. It was reviewed and opened by Ambassador Francisco Caetano Jose Madeira, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Somalia.

### Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Children during Armed Conflict Training of Trainer

Conducted over nine days and hosted at the Humanitarian and Peace Support School (HPSS) located in Embakasi, Kenya, this training of trainers was a first of its kind training bringing together AMISOM and Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) personnel to learn how to address and prevent the recruitment and use of child soldiers. Through a mixture of in-class and scenario based training, participants were equipped with the tools and knowledge necessary to facilitate training within their governmental departments and communities to prevent the use of children as weapons of war.



Photo Credit: Josh Boyter



Photo Credit: Dallaire Initiative

### In Focus

#### Scenario-Based Training During February 2017 Training of Trainer in Nairobi, Kenya

Over two days, the Dallaire Initiative conducted full-scale scenario based training on some of its twelve interactions for security sector actors encountering child soldiers in the field in Nairobi, Kenya. Training participants, along with actors to create a level of realism, worked their way through the scenarios that included interacting with child soldiers at a check point to children being used as porters. This scenario-based training was witnessed by Her Excellency, Ms Sara Hradecky, the Canadian High Commissioner to Kenya, which is demonstrative of Canada's commitment to the region of East Africa and the safety of children.



“By protecting Somali children, we will greatly help this vulnerable group - the sooner we break the cycle of violence plaguing Somalia, the sooner we can help return Somalia to peace.”

### Colonel Leakey

*Commanding Officer*

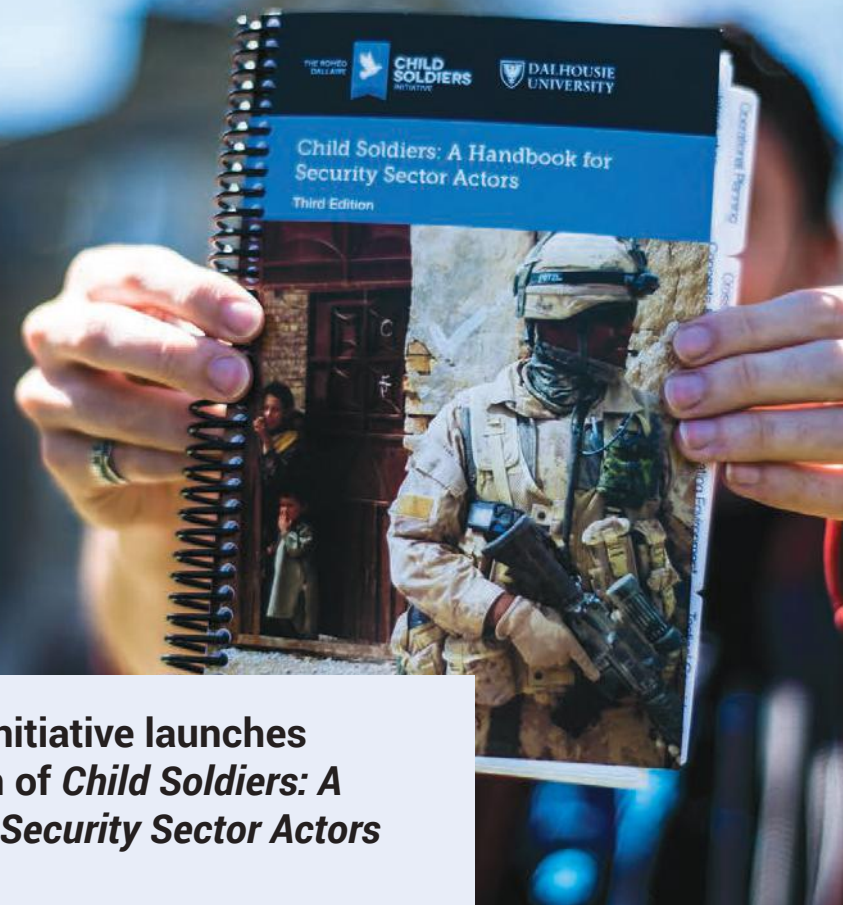
BRITISH PEACE SUPPORT  
TRAINING-EAST AFRICA





## TOOLS TO PROTECT — Knowledge in action

The Dallaire Initiative continues to translate knowledge into action with tools specifically designed for the security sector—for military, police and peacekeepers



### The Dallaire Initiative launches the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of *Child Soldiers: A Handbook for Security Sector Actors*

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the Dallaire Initiative released the third edition of its practical handbook for security sector actors dealing with child soldiers. This edition builds on the experiences and research the Dallaire Initiative has gathered from the field.

*Child Soldiers: A Handbook for Security Sector Actors* provides security sector actors—military, police, peacekeepers and prison personnel— with updated tools, skills and knowledge to prevent the use and recruitment of child soldiers.

The Third Edition features:

- **Operational Considerations:** providing critical knowledge for commanders, staff, and planners at an operational level to incorporate child soldier concerns.
- **Tactical Considerations:** provides tactical considerations for security



Photo Credit: Combat Camera | Sgt. Roxanne Clowe

- **Updated Interaction Charts:** these charts provide step-by-step procedures for specific situations related to child soldiers. In the third edition, the Dallaire Initiative has created an interaction chart illustrating the standard operating procedure to protect education from attack.

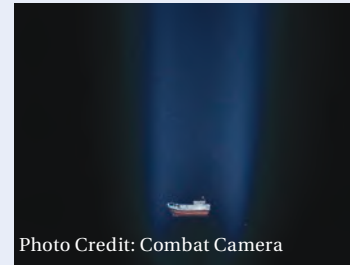


Photo Credit: Combat Camera

### Children Associated with Maritime Piracy: A Handbook for Maritime Security Sector Actors

The Dallaire Initiative continues to establish itself as a global thought leader on the issue of children used in maritime piracy. This phenomenon is seldom documented and poorly understood. The Dallaire Initiative's ultimate goal is to develop tactical solutions for the security sector at sea and preventative programming for communities on shore.

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the Dallaire Initiative launched the first edition of its maritime compendium handbook, *Children Associated with Maritime Piracy: A Handbook for Maritime Security Sector Actors*. A part of the Roméo Dallaire Initiative's landmark publications for security sector actors, *Children used in Maritime Piracy: A Handbook for Maritime Security Sector Actors* aims to highlight and reinforce the various roles that security sector actors (i.e. navies, and private security maritime contractors) can undertake in protecting children used in maritime piracy, both at sea and on land.

## TOOLKIT — Protecting Education from Attack

Over the past year, the Dallaire Initiative, in conjunction with the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) has developed a toolkit for protecting education from attack

The Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) is a unique inter-agency coalition formed in 2010 to address the problem of targeted attacks on education during armed conflict.

Starting in July 2016, the Dallaire Initiative was tasked with creating a set of tools for security sector actors to operationalize the guidelines in military and peacekeeping operations worldwide. The toolkit consists of operational and tactical tools including standard operating procedures, outlined in an interaction chart, aide memoires and reporting templates.

On November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2016, the Dallaire Initiative presented the initial toolkit to GCPEA's primary stakeholders at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Over two days, the toolkit was revised and edited in preparation for its final launch in March 2017.

On March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, the Dallaire Initiative participated in the formal launch of the GCPEA toolkit in Buenos Aires, Argentina. As a much-anticipated centre piece of this two day conference, hosted by the Argentinian Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs together with the Government of Norway to discuss the implementation of the Safe Schools Declaration, The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative launched *Implementing the Guidelines: A Toolkit to Guide Understanding and Implementation of the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict*. Attended by representatives from 80 states, together with international organizations and civil society representatives from around the world, this conference highlighted the release of the Toolkit, made up of practical tools intended as teaching aids, tactical and operational guidance materials and aides-memoire specifically designed for state and non-state military planners, at both the operational and tactical levels.

### The Toolkit at a Glance

**Date of Launch:**  
March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Number of Pages:**  
48

**Number of Tools:**  
9

**Type of Tools:**  
Village Map, Interaction Charts, Operational Planning Materials



Photo Credit: Josh Boyter



The abuse of youth as a weapons of war is a reality that can't be resolved the day you face them in the field."

— LGen Roméo Dallaire Ret'd

Founder THE ROMÉO DALLAIRE  
CHILD SOLDIERS INITIATIVE



### In Focus Safe Schools Declaration

On February 21st, The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P. Minister of International Development and La Francophonie announced Canada's signing of the Safe School Declaration. The Declaration expresses the international community's unwavering support for the protection of students, teachers and their schools during armed conflict and was opened for endorsement by countries represented at the Oslo Conference on Safe Schools, held in Oslo, Norway, on May 28, 2015.

By endorsing the declaration—which also recognises the importance of education— Canada reaffirms its commitment to protect children affected by armed conflict. Safe and peaceful access to schools allows children to thrive and grow, as well as obtain an education that will help them reach their full potential. Canada now joins 57 other countries that have already endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration. The declaration will also inform the planning and conduct of the Canadian Armed Forces during armed conflict.



# RESEARCH

— Action Oriented

The Dallaire Initiative's work is underpinned by world class research that informs our work of preventing the use of children as weapons of war.

The Dallaire Initiative's institutional home at Dalhousie University provides a unique home for world-class research to support our advocacy and training work. As the Dallaire Initiative's other pillars address the current gaps in the international response to the use and recruitment of child soldiers, our research works to fill in the gaps in academic knowledge about child soldiers to provide the evidence to create and implement new solutions.

The academic community has developed a considerable body of evidence about the use of child soldiers over the past few decades, but much remains to be learned. These holes in knowledge lead to gaps in action and missed opportunities for the international community to prevent the use of children as weapons of war. Today's complex challenges require innovative solutions based on sound evidence and understanding of the problem.

Since its inception, the Dallaire Initiative has made significant contributions to the body of knowledge on the use of child soldiers, including their interactions with security sector actors, the involvement of children in maritime piracy, their importance in early warning of mass atrocities, and the gendered dimensions of child soldiery. Over the past year the Dallaire Initiative's research has continued to break new ground and draw international attention to our work.



## Child Soldiers and Disability

OCTOBER 2016

### What

This article in a special issue of the journal *Third World Thematics* examines the importance of considering disability in work on child soldiers, and is one of the first articles in the world to specifically address this intersection of issues.

### Why

Disability is one of the most overlooked forms of oppression, and is particularly widespread in conflict-affected countries. Post-conflict reconstruction and development also provides a critical window to foster inclusion.

### Impact on our Work

This article draws attention to how the Dallaire Initiative's work can be made more inclusive and has already opened new possibilities for collaboration with other organizations and researchers.



## Detention of Child Soldiers

MARCH 2017

### What

This article in a volume from the Anti-Torture Initiative accompanying a report from the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture discusses the frequent torture and abuse faced by detained child soldiers, and how the Dallaire Initiative's training can help prevent these crimes.

### Why

From the case of Omar Khadr to the Giwa Barracks in Nigeria, there are many cases of detained child soldiers facing torture and abuse. These crimes both violate children's rights and impede peace and reconciliation.

### Impact on our Work

This article illustrates one of the ways the Dallaire Initiative's training work not only helps to prevent the use of child soldiers, but also aids in the professionalization of the security sector and in preventing human rights abuses against children.



## Protecting Children: South Sudan

FORTHCOMING 2017

### What

This article illustrates an understanding of the challenges that exist in effectively protecting children who are members of an armed force or armed group under International Law within the context of South Sudan.

### Why

South Sudan, established as an independent nation in 2011, is estimated to have approximately 15,000 child soldiers within its borders and is one of the countries of concern highlighted in the UN Secretary-General's Report on Children and Armed Conflict.

### Impact on our Work

This article is an example of collaboration for the Dallaire Initiative to find solutions to an existing context of concern, such as South Sudan, and links organizational training approaches with previous research on early warning and conflict prevention



# ALLONS-Y

— Theory into action

Allons-y is a peer-reviewed journal for academic work by graduate and undergraduate students and young practitioners, complemented by expert commentary. It provides an interdisciplinary platform for youth to contribute to preventing the use of children in armed conflict.

A unique combination of research by young academics and commentary on their work by leading experts and practitioners in the field, Allons-y addresses the all-too-frequent gaps between academic research and real-world practice. By immediately contextualising and applying the analysis presented in the articles by young scholars, the Dallaire Initiative is taking theory and translating it into action.

"Allons-y now forms a core part of our research portfolio," says LGen Roméo Dallaire (Ret'd). "It's a call to action for young people to get involved with our work and tackle some of the most challenging problems facing us today."



Photo Credit: UN Photo | Helena Munkelins

### Vol I

The inaugural issue was published in August 2016 in print and online. Volume I features two articles, one by Dalhousie PhD student Michelle Legassicke on South Sudan, and one by Simon Fraser University masters graduate Jacqueline Salomé on children in maritime piracy. Their works are joined by commentary by Nicholas Coughlan, Canada's former ambassador to South Sudan and Retired Brigadier-General Ken Watkin, QC.

### Vol II

The second issue of Allons-y was published in March 2017. It features three articles, by York University masters student Nuzhat Khurshid on Islamophobia and Islamic Fundamentalism, by Dalhousie University masters student Kathleen O'Brien on Syrian refugee children, and by Dalhousie University PhD student Ben O'Bright on children and cyber warfare.



Our research is not a stand-alone pillar, but provides a foundation of evidence for our work to build upon."

— Dustin Johnson

Researcher THE ROMÉO DALLAIRE  
CHILD SOLDIERS INITIATIVE



### In Focus

Country Reports

To make our training context specific, the Dallaire Initiative uses country reports, which give security sector actors and humanitarians relevant information to the use of children as weapons of war and children affected by armed conflict within a given country. To date, eleven country reports have been developed in conjunction with The Talsky Center and Stahili Foundation covering contexts located both within the Middle East and Africa.

## Research by the Numbers



33

33 Drafts,

Our research publications go through multiple rounds of drafts between their different authors and the peer review process for journals.



59K

59,300 Words

Our small but hard-working staff produced five new research publications over the past year, one of our most prolific years to date.



20

20 Publications: 9 Papers and 11 Country Reports

Our publications over the past year span a wide range of themes, from new training tools on education and maritime piracy to the importance of child soldiers in early warning of mass atrocities.





# WOUNDED WARRIORS CANADA VETERAN TRAINERS TO ERADICATE THE USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS (VTECS) PROGRAM — 2016

The Wounded Warriors Canada Veterans Trainers to Eradicate the Use of Child Soldiers (VTECS) program provides opportunities for veterans to acquire a deep and broad understanding of the skills, knowledge, and attitudes required of security sector actors to legally, humanely and more efficiently interact with children and child soldiers in domestic or foreign operational areas.

Launched in February 2016, the first cohort of VTECS got down to work in May with an online, distance-learning course, which was followed up by a one month residency in Halifax, Nova Scotia at Dalhousie University. The inaugural program provided an opportunity for participants to receive focused education in the field of child protection, and to develop academic and instructor/facilitation skills, benefiting in all areas for veterans transitioning from military to civilian life and employment. In reconstructing their expertise and experiences, Canadian Forces Veterans become community educators and advocates, championing the Dallaire Initiative's vision of a world where children are no longer recruited or used as weapons of war.



Photo Credit: Dallaire Initiative

## VTECS How it works?

The VTECS Program is divided into two core components, a non-residency and residency portion. Through these two portions, VTECS participants are required to complete two credited and two non-credit courses, which will give them the basis to understand the phenomenon of child soldiers and equip them with the skills to sensitise others through education, training, or advocacy.

### Non-Residency

Once accepted to the program, participants are required to complete the Dallaire Initiative's e-learning course during the non-residency portion of the program from March – June 2017. The online course provides background information on the phenomena of children/child soldiers and familiarises participants with the Dallaire Initiative's unique approach to the issue of child soldiers.



### Residency

The residency portion of the program is conducted over a four-week period (July 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 – July 29<sup>th</sup> 2016) at Dalhousie University. Participants are required to complete two upper-level credited academic courses on "Children and War" and "World Politics" taught by professors from the Political Science Department. Also, participants are required to complete a combined "Basic Prevention of the Use of Child Soldiers Course" and a "Train the Trainer Prevention of the Use of Child Soldiers Course" taught by staff from the Dallaire Initiative.



## In Focus Speaker Series

Over the month of July, four international humanitarian experts and leaders descended on Halifax to the Halifax Central Library providing insights and opportunities the international community has in protecting children from war.

### LGen Roméo Dallaire

LGen Dallaire (Ret'd), Founder of the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative discussed the innovative work of the Dallaire Initiative in seeking to prevent the use of children as weapons of war.



### Dr Shelly Whitman & Nakita Malik

During their presentation, Dr. Shelly Whitman and Nakita Malik of the Quilliam Foundation spoke about the reality of children living in the Islamic State and the role violent propaganda plays in recruiting and exploiting children.



### Paula Donovan

Paula Donovan is Co-Director of AIDS-Free World. Her presentation explored AIDS-Free World's Code Blue Campaign, which seeks to end impunity for sexual exploitation and abuse by UN Peacekeepers.



## DOMESTIC PROGRAMS — Building Connections: Working with Police

The Building Connections Program is a response to the growing concern of youth engagement in radicalisation and extreme violence within Canada. Specifically, this project aims to:

- Better understand the role that police can play in preventing the recruitment of youth in extremist groups; and
- Where such recruitment may already have begun, how they can best intervene before legal action is required.

Through the Dallaire Initiative's ongoing consultations, workshops, and meetings with the major stakeholders in the various jurisdictions involved in this project over the past two years has ensured our approaches are addressing the contextual realities that Canadian officers face.

The Dallaire Initiative's solid base of research through an extensive knowledge synthesis report, eight participatory workshops and subsequent analysis on findings in a workshop report are now contributing to the development of responses within the overall vision of ensuring that our children and communities are safer, more secure, and free from violence.

## Resources for Police

The Dallaire Initiative, in partnership with key stakeholders, has developed a full breadth of resources. These resources are being prepared to address the gaps identified within the knowledge synthesis report, connections between police and youth, and to build capacity to address radicalization and extreme violence.

### Connections: Resource and Training App for Edmonton Police

Based on consultations with Edmonton Police Services, Community organisations and youth, the Dallaire Initiative has undertaken the development of a smartphone app. This tool is designed to be easily accessible and mobile to support officers in their interactions with children, enhancing their ability to assist youth they encounter while on duty.

### Understanding the Pathways of Radicalization Table Top Exercise

Utilising the Process of Radicalization Leading to Violence chart the Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Extreme Violence created, the Pathways to Radicalization Table Top exercise takes a rigid, detailed flow-chart and breaks it down into movable hexagonal cards that can be worked through individually and in concert. This enables each piece of the radicalization puzzle to be expanded on with more detail and information included on the cards. The table top exercise will allow for the complexity of personal and social circumstances that can lead to radicalization leading to violence to be better illustrated through an ever changing, modifiable story board.

## In Focus E-Learning

The launch of our inaugural Child Soldiers & At-Risk Youth online course, delivered in partnership with Dalhousie University's Certificate in Police Leadership Program took place March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

Building on the Dallaire Initiative's past experiences developing learning modules for an online environment, the *Child Soldiers & At-Risk Youth* online course is designed to provide those who work in the security sector with a comprehensive overview and comparative understanding of the issue of child soldiers from both a domestic and an international perspective. Following completion of the course, learners will be able to identify how, why and where children are used by armed groups, gangs and various other forces; understand and discuss the security dimensions of preventing the use of children by armed groups, gangs and forces; and lastly, provide the learner with relevant tools and knowledge to respond to this issue in the field.

The aim of the overall Police Leadership Program is to enhance management and leadership skills for those in policing or law enforcement positions.



The protection of children and the Dallaire Initiative approach has applicability at home and abroad and illustrates the importance of working with Canadian Police to ensure the safety of children from violence.

— Dr Shelly Whitman

Executive Director THE ROMÉO DALLAIRE CHILD SOLDIERS INITIATIVE





# EXTRAORDINARY COLLABORATORS

— 2016

All financial contributions to the Dallaire Initiative help us conduct the training, research and advocacy needed to help eradicate the use of child soldiers

Thank you for supporting us in making the use of child soldiers unthinkable

- Anonymous X 26
- Jamie Aalbers
- George Abbass
- Kathleen Abbott
- Michael Agbeti
- Sandy and Margot Aird
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- UNICEF South Sudan
- Embassy of Rwanda in Addis Ababa
- Canadian Embassy in Jordan
- Canadian Embassy in London
- Ciudad Don Bosco
- Government of Slovenia



## FINANCIAL REPORT

— 2016 to 2017

Fiscal year 2016/2017 proved to be another successful year for the Dallaire Initiative as we realized an increase of investments in our special project work from \$688,330 to \$1,017,517. Major gifts and donations were the second biggest source of revenue at \$411,322. Our operating revenues and expenses totaled \$1,464,142 with 15% of overall expenses directed to program costs.

Our programs and special projects operated under a balanced budget – this is an important measure of our financial success, diligent stewardship, and energetic program management. As we enter a new fiscal year financially well positioned to support our strategic direction, we look forward to fulfilling our mission of ending the use and recruitment of child soldiers within a continued framework of effective operational and fiscal management.

### Where we get the money?

In-Kind Gifts	\$25,000
Grant and Special Purpose	\$1,017,517
Gifts and Donations	\$411,322
General & Deferred Revenue	\$10,303
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,464,142</b>

### How we use our funds?

In-Kind Gifts	\$25,000
Special Projects	\$734,287
Operating Expenses	\$303,519
Programmatic Pillar	\$399,419
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,464,142</b>



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