

# Children Studies Program Scores High State Department Honors

By [Becca Fink](#)  
The Excelsior

**Published:** Monday, May 3, 2010

The latest United States Treaty report, released in January, mentioned the Children's Studies Center at Brooklyn College as "one example of the essential role of academic and non-profit institutions" working toward developments in children's services. The Children's Studies Program and Center aim to advance the rights and provide a voice for children and youth. The Center has been involved in countless projects including organizing forums such as the "Implementation and Monitoring of the Optional Protocol to the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography," as stated in the U.S. treaty.

The forum "reviewed the degree to which statutes, regulations, and programs of New York State serve to protect children and adolescents from sexual exploitation with a focus upon necessary law reform and mechanisms to implement and monitor the articles of the Optional Protocol."

The Center has also played a pivotal role in the implementation of new laws in New York. For example, in 2008 The Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Youth Act was enacted, making New York the first state to provide expert services and safe housing for sexually exploited youth as noted in the treaty.

The U.S. treaty also recognized the Center's work in the New York Anti-Human Trafficking Act of 2007. The Act "created new crimes of sex and labor trafficking and facilitation of sex tourism, and established services for human trafficking victims," as identified in the treaty report.

Professor Gertrud Lenzer, Director and Founder of the Children's Studies Program and Center, said the citing of the Center in the U.S. treaty "is only the beginning." Professor Lenzer also said the Center is "excited and thrilled, this is national recognition bringing attention to something people don't know about."

Alongside the work the Children's Studies Program and Center has been doing in the legislation, the Center has also established a new major to Brooklyn College. In the fall of 2009 the Children's Studies Bachelors Degree of Arts was introduced. The major has been declared by over 100 students already.

To view the United States treaty report in full go to: [www.state.gov/documents/organization/136023.pdf](http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/136023.pdf).