

more important than ever to have women participate fully into the mix.

## U.S. State Department Report Highlights “Essential” Role of Brooklyn College Children’s Studies Center

The United States Treaty Report released earlier this year cited the Brooklyn College Children’s Studies Center as an example of the “essential role of academic and nonprofit institutions” working in the area of providing oversight of children’s services.

“The work of the Center, along with other non-governmental advocates, has been crucial in the adoption of new laws in the state of New York. The Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Youth Act, enacted September 25, 2008, made New York the first state in the nation to provide

specialized services and safe housing for children who have been sexually exploited,” the report states.

More than half the states in the nation have established an office of the child advocate or an ombudsman with the responsibility for looking after the welfare of children.

Brooklyn College became the first academic institution in the nation to develop an interdisciplinary liberal arts children’s studies program in 1991. Professor Gertrud Lenzer is the founding director of both the Children’s Studies Program and of the Children’s Studies Center;



established in 1997 with mission mandates tied to pedagogy, research, and public service to the community. The full U.S. Treaty Reports may be viewed on the U.S. Department of State website.