

On June 18, 2012, for the purpose of discussing its Alternative Report, the Children's Studies Center for Research, Policy and Public Service of CUNY Brooklyn College was invited as one of three U.S. non-governmental organizations to attend the Pre-sessional Working Group meeting and appear before the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland. Gertrud Lenzer, Founding Director of the Children's Studies Center, attended and participated in the official Pre-sessional Working Group meeting and hearings in Geneva.

The U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child also met with representatives of ECPAT-USA, of The Center for the Human Rights of Children at Loyola University Chicago, and of the Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights at the University of Chicago, which also had submitted Alternative Reports to the Committee.


As of November 2009, 193 countries have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The only countries that have not ratified it are Somalia, South Sudan, and the United States of America.

While the U.S. has not ratified the UNCRC, it has ratified the "Optional Protocol to the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography" (OPSC), an international treaty which requires countries to prohibit the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. (Text and articles of the OPSC: [http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc-sale.htm](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc-sale.htm)) As part of the treaty obligations, the U.S. must report every five years on its progress in preventing the articles of the Optional Protocol.
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