

# ALLONS-Y

Journal of Children, Peace and Security

VOLUME 5 | MARCH 2021



# Allons-y

## Journal of Children, Peace and Security

Volume 5 | March 2021

### ISSN

2371-4387 (Print)

2371-4395 (Online)

**Editors** Catherine Baillie Abidi and Dustin Johnson

**Contributors** Catherine Baillie Abidi, Vanessa Brown, Clare Hutchinson, Dustin Johnson, Nidhi Kapur, Anna Naa Adochoo Mensah, and Hannah Thompson

**Design and Production** Megan Churney

**Front Cover and Back Cover Photo** Jessica Wiebe

**Publisher** The Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

The Editors would like to thank the Dallaire Centre of Excellence for Peace and Security for their funding in support of this issue, and the peer reviewers for their critical contributions to this issue of *Allons-y*.

The views, opinions, and analyses expressed in this volume are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security, Dalhousie University, or the authors' respective employers.

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For more information, please contact  
[dustin@dallaireinstitute.org](mailto:dustin@dallaireinstitute.org) or [catherine@dallaireinstitute.org](mailto:catherine@dallaireinstitute.org)

## ABOUT THE COVER ART

“Having been deployed to Afghanistan as a soldier and having seen the reality of children living in war first-hand, the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative resonates with me on many levels. I believe in education and the power of collaboration. I admire the Dallaire Initiative’s approach to collaboration with concerned governments, security sector actors, academics, humanitarians and civilian communities to elevate children’s rights, well-being, and security in war and conflict zones - especially the direct work with soldiers, police, prison personnel, and private security operators which is critical to the interruption of children’s recruitment on the ground.”

Interdisciplinary artist Jessica Lynn Wiebe is a former artillery soldier in the Canadian military whose body of work centers on reflections of militarism, military life, memory and commemoration. Her interdisciplinary approach investigates the mechanisms of war, including the complex politics around gender, economy, architecture of war, and the human condition. By engaging and challenging deeply-held beliefs and emotions about the military and war, her work generates dialogue among members of the public, government, and those who serve. Jessica was born and raised in Brandon, Manitoba, and currently practices in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Wiebe participated in the Canadian Forces Artist Program (CFAP) 2018–2019 through the Canadian War Museum (CWM) in Ottawa.

*This publication was made possible by funding from the Government of Canada*



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

# UN ONU

PEACEKEEPING

Defence Ministerial

#PeaceConf17

MAINTIEN DE LA PAIX

Réunion des ministres de la Défense

#ConfPaix17



*Photo caption: The launch of the Vancouver Principles at the UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial in Vancouver, Canada on 15 November 2017.*

*Photo: The Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security.*

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Photo by Josh Boyter

# ABOUT THE DALLAIRE INSTITUTE

The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative (Dallaire 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 develop new strategies and tactics to progressively end the recruitment and use of children as soldiers worldwide. As of April 2020, the Dallaire Initiative has now become the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security.

To achieve this important objective, the Dallaire Institute conducts activities on four fronts:

- World-class, interdisciplinary research to build and share knowledge, which in turn leads to new solutions.
- High-level advocacy activities to create and promote the political will to end the use of children in violence as central to the achievement of global peace and security.
- Education and programming to sustain the efforts to make the recruitment and use of children as soldiers unthinkable by inspiring leaders, educators, and policy makers to implement new approaches, conduct research, and actively share their knowledge on the prioritization of the children's rights upfront approach.
- Comprehensive, prevention-oriented training to security sector actors, in the service of broader security sector reform, as well as collaboration with civil society to create and implement tools that protect children from the dangers associated with recruitment.



*Lt. Gen. Roméo Dallaire, Rwanda, 1994.  
Used under permission from the National Speakers Bureau.*



# ABOUT ALLONS-Y: JOURNAL OF CHILDREN, PEACE AND SECURITY

In January 1994, General Dallaire, then the Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), sent a fax to UN headquarters in New York warning of the impending genocide. He signed the fax with the line “peux ce que veux. Allons-y” – “Where there’s a will, there’s a way. Let’s go.” At the time, there was not a will among the international community, with lethal results for nearly a million Rwandans.

Since then, General Dallaire has worked tirelessly to ensure that there is both a will and a way to prevent mass atrocities in the future. However, action must be informed by understanding for it to be effective, and this has led to General Dallaire’s focus on preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers. The creation and adoption of the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers in 2017, is helping to focus and drive action by the international community to prevent the recruitment and use of child soldiers through ensuring that security sector actors are trained and prepared to prevent recruitment. Doing so requires learning from experiences and sharing knowledge on all aspects of training, education, research, and prevention in this area.

Published since 2016, the Dallaire Institute journal *Allons-y* now focuses on supporting the implementation of the Vancouver Principles. In this and future issues, commentaries, peer-reviewed research and policy articles will focus on all aspects of the implementation of the Vancouver Principles. The articles provide guidance, policy recommendations, and new knowledge to support the international community’s work to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers.