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ABOUT THE COVER ART

"After 32 years in the Canadian Army, and another 5 years working with the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security, the nature and extent of moral injury became more apparent to me, both in myself and others. Moral injury affects everyone faced with moral dilemmas they are unable to resolve. Children who are recruited and used in armed violence face the same dilemmas and moral injury as the professional soldiers who encounter them. This insidious injury resides within, regardless of the exterior display of stability and can affect them for the rest of their lives."

Bill Watkins is a retired Lieutenant-Colonel who recently served as the Director of Instructional Design and Capacity Building Programmes at the Dallaire Institute. He is currently a PhD student at Leiden University examining the leadership influences in recruitment and radicalization in political violence. He began exploring visual art focusing predominantly on portraiture but has always felt a strong attachment to the underlying message of art and its power to generate critical thinking.

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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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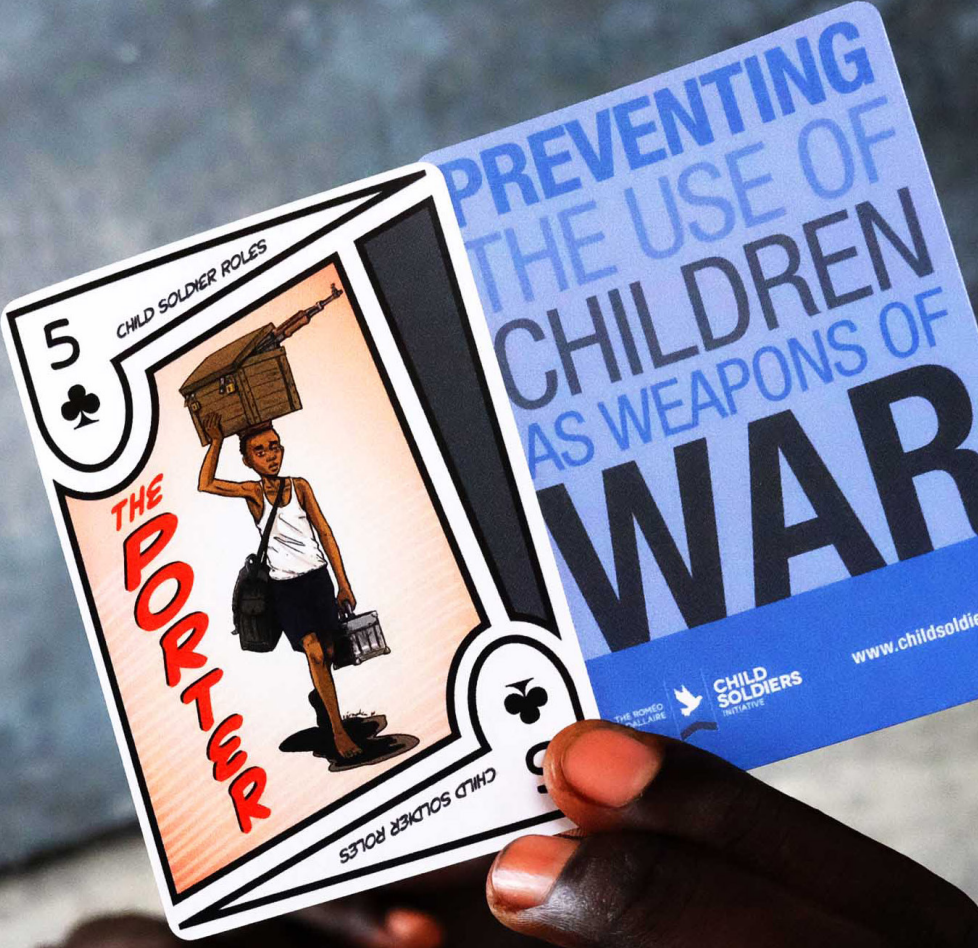
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Participants at the 2019 Vancouver Principles Workshop in Kigali
Photo: The Dallaire Institute

ABOUT THE DALLAIRE INSTITUTE

The Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace, and Security was founded by General Roméo Dallaire in 2007 and Dalhousie University, located in Halifax, Nova Scotia, has provided a home to the Institute since 2010. General Dallaire first experienced the issue of child soldiers as the Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda during the 1994 genocide. During this time, General Dallaire realized that he and his troops were ill-prepared to face them. Drawing on this experience, the Dallaire Institute was created with the unique premise that preventing violence against children requires a dual lens that is focused on prioritizing the protection of children, as well as understanding the significant operational impacts upon security sector actors.

Through interdisciplinary and applied research, global advocacy, academic and practitioner training, and community engagement, the Dallaire Institute advances innovative strategies for preventing the recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts and violence. Uniquely, the Dallaire Institute works directly with the security sector to implement this prevention strategy. The Dallaire Institute has fifteen years of experience working directly with security actors, including the military, police, intelligence, and corrections, to strengthen operational, strategic, and tactical capacities to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts and violence.

The Dallaire Institute advances understanding about the fragile contexts that threaten children, increase their vulnerability to extreme violence and insecurity, and diminish their agency to positively impact change. These challenges perpetuate cycles of inequality and violence that continue over generations. Through this work the Dallaire Institute hopes to build a more holistic, prevention-oriented approach to the issue of children recruited and used in armed violence that complements current efforts while providing innovative solutions with the ultimate vision of building a world where children are at the heart of peace and security.



*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 children. 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 children 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 children.