

**The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child:  
taking stock and moving forward**

On the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory on the Rights of the Child (IRLRC), the Human Rights Research and Education Centre, the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children and the *Cycle de conférences sur la recherche en droit* of the Civil Law Section invite you to a round table to take place:

**Tuesday, November 19 from 11:30 am to 1 pm  
Fauteux Hall, 57 Louis Pasteur Private, Room 147**



**Moderators:**

- **Mona Paré**, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Civil Law Section, University of Ottawa
- **Kathy Vandergrift**, Consultant and Child Rights Advocate – Chair and President, Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children

**Panelists:**

- **Laetitia Angba**, Lawyer and Project Leader, *Projet FER (Familles-Enfants-Réseaux), Transfert des connaissances, Fondation du Dr Julien*
- **Hala Mreiwed**, PhD Candidate, Department of Integrated Studies in Education (DISE), Faculty of Education, McGill University
- **Elisa Romano**, Full Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, School of Psychology, University of Ottawa
- **Valerie Steeves**, Full Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Criminology, University of Ottawa.

*The round table will be in English and in French.  
There will be no simultaneous translation.*

## BIOGRAPHIES

Biographies are presented in the language used by the participants.

### Moderators

**Mona Paré:** Mona Paré's research interests relate to her work areas prior to joining the Civil Law Section in 2007. She has worked for human rights and child rights organizations, including street children's organizations in Asia and Europe. She was a team member of the United Nations Programme on Disability during the negotiations of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Mona Paré is a founding member of the Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory on the Rights of the Child (LRIDE-IRLRC).

**Kathy Vandergrift,** Chairperson of the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children, has advocated for children's rights in Canada and globally for more than twenty years. Internationally Kathy focused on improving realization of the rights of children in armed conflicts through advocacy at the UN and other international arenas. She has authored numerous reports on strategies for improving implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Kathy has a Master's Degree in Public Ethics from St. Paul's University; her thesis focused on ethical tensions within the Convention on the Rights of the Children and alternative approaches to implementation of the Best Interests of the Child principle. In 2008, she received the global UNICEF Aldo Farina Prize for Children's Rights Advocacy.

### Panelists

**Laetitia Angba:** Diplômée d'une licence en droit civil et d'un baccalauréat en sciences sociales de l'Université d'Ottawa, Laetitia Angba possède une solide expérience dans le domaine communautaire et social. Elle travaille depuis 2014 pour la Fondation du Dr Julien en tant que chef de projet où elle développe et coordonne en équipe, des projets visant le développement et le bien-être des enfants et des jeunes. Se considérant comme une intrapreneure, elle termine actuellement un D.E.S.S. en Administration des affaires à HEC Montréal et siège comme membre sur des conseils d'administration.

**Hala Mreiwed** is a PhD Candidate at the Faculty of Education at McGill University, a child rights education advocate and consultant, and a course lecturer. She is the recipient of several awards including the P. Lantz Fellowship for Excellence in Education and the Arts, Grad Excellence Award in Integrated Studies in Education, FROSC Doctoral research scholarship, and the Dissertation Proposal Award. Mreiwed's research interests in child rights education, equity in education, impact of war-trauma on education, teacher education and training, community-building within classrooms, children's media and creative drama come from her personal, academic and professional experiences in Canada and abroad.

**Dr. Elisa Romano** is a Professor in the School of Psychology at the University of Ottawa and a registered Clinical Psychologist in Ontario. Her research focuses on 1) adverse experiences within the family that can compromise well-being, namely family violence and child maltreatment and 2) development, implementation, and evaluation of interventions that promote child and youth well-being, in particular for maltreatment-exposed young people. To conduct her research, Dr. Romano has established a network of collaborations that span various practice sectors, most notably child welfare, education, and community-based early child and family centres. Dr. Romano is actively involved in both undergraduate and graduate teaching. She provides clinical supervision to students completing their doctoral degree at the University of Ottawa and has a small private practice.

**Valerie Steeves, JD, PhD**, is a Full Professor in the Department of Criminology at the University of Ottawa. She is the principal investigator of The eQuality Project, a seven-year SSHRC-funded partnership of researchers, educators, civil society, policy makers and community groups exploring young people's experiences of privacy and equality in a networked environment. The Project examines how commercial algorithms constrain child rights and set them up for conflict by flooding their social environment with stereotypical media content. Steeves is also the lead researcher of the Young Canadians in a Wired World research project, which has been exploring young people's use of networked technology since 2004.