

Government of Australia Press Release
25 September 2007

Australia will increase support for international efforts to protect children and civilian populations in times of conflict, and to drive reform of the United Nations system.

() Australia will become a founding donor of the Global Centre for the **Responsibility to Protect** (GCRP), a new independent organisation to protect civilian populations from mass atrocities.

The Centre will advocate international action in line with the UN endorsed concept of the **responsibility to protect** when countries are unwilling or unable to protect their own populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, a concept unanimously endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2005. Australia will provide \$300,000 over two years to the Centre.

The Centre will be based at the City University of New York. The Hon Gareth Evans AO QC, former Australian Foreign Minister, is co-chair of the Centres advisory board.

() Australia is also committed to continuing the reform of the UN, to make it more effective in tackling poverty, providing humanitarian assistance and protecting the environment. Australia will provide \$200,000 to the UN Development Group Office (UNDGO) to support the new UN model, which aims to improve development results on the ground by streamlining UN operations.()

Full text available at: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/KHII-77D9AD?OpenDocument>

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