



## Human Rights Office

International Institute Maria Ausiliatrice - IIMA

NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

# REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2021

## Introduction

In 2021, IIMA carried out various activities in accordance with the following Pillars of Action: Advocacy, Training and Capacity Building, and Communication.

## Pillars of Action

1 – **Advocacy**: we provide UN experts and Member States representatives with relevant and reliable information on how human rights are being implemented at the local level, including denunciation of violations. IIMA Human Rights Office carries out this action in close collaboration with local members. Moreover, we provide local human rights defenders, including educators and youth, with the possibility to participate in relevant UN meetings and to advocate for their own rights.

2 – **Training and Capacity Building**: we organize training courses, in Geneva and at the local level, to make Human Rights Defenders aware of the UN international mechanisms and procedures intended to protect human rights.

3 – **Communication**: we disseminate information in order to raise awareness of human rights at the national level.

Within the above-mentioned pillars of action, we work in synergy with other NGOs and Institutions in order to bring major issues to the attention of the international community and to identify top priorities for the human rights agenda.

The pillars of action are further defined below, and include their relationship to the strategic objectives of the organization.

## 2021 Activities

Pillar of Action	2021 Activities
	<p>➤ <b>Objective 1</b>: IIMA enables local actors, including children and young people, to express their views on the implementation of their human rights and share best practices throughout the world in order to support Governments in complying with their international human rights obligations.</p>
<b>Advocacy</b>	<p><b>Universal Periodic Review (UPR)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Produced <b>reports</b> for human rights defenders in the field</li></ul>



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on the UPR sessions of Lebanon and Myanmar.

- Issued **joint submissions** at the UPR of Papua New Guinea, United Republic of Tanzania, Ireland, Togo, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Timor-Leste and South Sudan.
- Participated in the **UPR pre-session of Venezuela** through the intervention of Norayma Angel, Director of the Oficina de Derechos Humanos del Vicariato Apostolico de Puerto Ayacucho (Amazonas, Venezuela).<sup>1</sup>
- **Co-sponsored the online event “Safeguarding human rights in Papua New Guinea: Addressing implementation of UPR recommendations”** (24 November 2021).<sup>2</sup>
- Delivered **oral statements** during the 46<sup>th</sup>, 47<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Human Rights Council Item 6, pertaining to the UPR of United States of America, Honduras, Lebanon, Solomon Islands, Paraguay and Mozambique, respectively.
- Run **consultations** with human rights defenders in Brazil, Ecuador, India and Philippines in order to prepare ad hoc training and submit UPR submissions for these countries in 2022.

### Human Rights Council (HRC)

- Produced and/or co-sponsored **fourteen additional oral statements and 1 written statement** at the 46<sup>th</sup>, 47<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> HRC sessions on various themes, including the right to education, the rights of indigenous people, the right to development, and the rights of children and youth.
- Participated in **HRC special sessions** on “The human rights implications of the crisis in Myanmar” (12 February 2021) and on “The grave human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem” (27 May 2021).

### Research-based reports

<sup>1</sup> <http://iimageneva.org/iima-participates-in-the-upr-pre-session-of-venezuela/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://ccig-iccg.org/ccig-hosts-webinar-to-mark-the-39th-upr-session-of-papua-new-guinea/>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Contribution to UNEP, OHCHR and the Universal Rights Group's Global Survey on good practices aimed to support environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs), their work and communities</b>, with inputs from IIMA members in Brazil, Spain and Philippines.</li></ul>
<p>➤ <b>Objective 2:</b> IIMA reinforces the use of the defense mechanisms for the rights of children and youth among both IIMA educators and society at large.</p>	
<b>Training and Capacity Building</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Provided Targeted Online trainings to 42 human rights defenders, especially education coordinators, from Brazil, Ecuador, India, and Philippines</b> to engage with the UPR of their respective countries.</li><li>• <b>Contributed to an Online Workshop for 32 participants from Europe and Middle East</b>, focusing on the commitment of Civil Society for the promotion of Human Rights.</li><li>• <b>Contributed to an Online Workshop for 180 IIMA coordinators of South-Asian schools, in Cambodia, Myanmar, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau, Japan, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Korea, Timor Leste, and Vietnam</b>, focusing on "Salesian Educators - Advocates of Human Dignity and Human Rights".</li><li>• <b>Contributed to the Online Events for 1200 participants from Spain and 55 participants from Austria and Germany respectively</b>, focusing on Human Rights and the Common Good.</li><li>• <b>Facilitated monthly Online Trainings for South-Asian and European IIMA members, to support local efforts for Environmental Justice.</b></li></ul>
<p>➤ <b>Objective 3:</b> IIMA shares advocacy tools as well as other human rights-based materials with local human rights defenders and international organizations.</p>	
<b>Communication &amp; Fundraising</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Participated in various NGO working groups and platforms such as the Right to Education, the Right to Development and Solidarity, the Catholic NGO Forum, and the International Catholic Center of Geneva.</b></li><li>• <b>Update and development of IIMA website in English and</b></li></ul>



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### **Italian.**

- **Disseminated information** through the IIMA website ([www.iimageneva.org](http://www.iimageneva.org)) in order to raise awareness of human rights at the national and international levels. Nineteen (6) web articles were produced in English and Italian in 2021. Information on IIMA's activities was also posted on Facebook, Twitter and other partners websites.
- **Participation in a national coalition of 16 local NGOs in the framework of the UPR of Papua New Guinea.**<sup>3</sup>
- **Interview on the Radio in PNG.** IIMA Representative in Papua New Guinea, was interviewed on the national radio on the topic of women's rights and the commitment of the Salesian Sisters in the Universal Periodic Review of PNG.
- **Annual narrative and financial reporting.**

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<sup>3</sup> <http://iimageneva.org/in-country-consultation-for-papua-new-guineas-universal-periodic-review-2021-enhancing-the-participation-of-civil-society/>