



48th Session of the HRC  
Item 6 - Geneva, 30th, September 2021  
Speaker: Ariana Zenteno-Torres

Oral statement submitted by  
**IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice**  
And co-signed by  
**VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education  
and Development**

Thank You Madame President,

IIMA and VIDES International commend the constructive participation of Solomon Islands in its third UPR.

We welcome the acceptance of recommendations 104.118<sup>1</sup> and 104.121<sup>2</sup> aiming to prevent gender-based violence. However, we are concerned about the continuous practice of the “bride price”, which is more prevalent amongst disadvantaged families who are forced to marry their daughters to a groom, in exchange for monetary compensation. Additionally, family sexual and physical violence in Solomon Islands continues to be one of the highest in the world.<sup>3</sup> The Covid 19 pandemic has only exacerbated the situation, as we have seen an increase of violence against women and children globally, placing women and children in Solomon Islands in a critical and vulnerable state.

**IIMA and VIDES call on Solomon Islands to:**

- 1. Strengthen its efforts in combating violence against women and children by bringing perpetrators to justice, and ensuring victims have quality services available to them; and ensure complete elimination of the practice of “the bride price”.***

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<sup>1</sup>Recommendation 104.118 “Adopt a strategy to eliminate violence against women and children, including sexual abuse and exploitation, and domestic violence, focusing on the affected communities” (Chile); See Report of the Working Group Pg.18, UN Document A/HRC/48/13. 28, June 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Recommendation 104.121 “Effectively implement the Family Protection Act and take measures to prevent gender-based violence” (Japan);

<sup>3</sup> Statistics derived from NIH report on Domestic Violence in the Solomon  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4943125/>

In regards to the right to education, we welcome the acceptance of recommendation 104.110<sup>4</sup> aiming to provide equal access to education for all. However, further steps are necessary in order for children and youth to fully realize their right to education.

**Therefore, we call on Solomon Islands to:**

- 1. Adopt all necessary measures to facilitate access for children and teachers to schools in remote and rural areas, by building new education facilities and providing adequate roads and public transportation.***
- 2. Undertake specific measures to improve the quality of education in rural and urban sectors, including through the provision of adequate classrooms, school materials as well as adequate remuneration and training for teachers.***

Thank You

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<sup>4</sup> Recommendation 104.110 “Ensure adequate access to quality education for all children, including in the outer islands and rural areas.” (Portugal) See Report of the Working Group Pg.18, UN Document A/HRC/48/13. 28, June 2021.