



## 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 2016

## Introduction

In 2016, 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.

## 2016 Activities

Pillar of Action	2016 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>	<b>Universal Periodic Review (UPR)</b>



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- Produced **reports** for human rights defenders in the field on the UPR sessions of Haiti, Timor Leste, Togo, and Venezuela.
- Issued **joint submissions** at the UPRs of Haiti, Timor Leste, Togo, Venezuela, Brazil, Ecuador, Philippines and India.
- Delivered an **oral statement** during the Human Rights Council Item 6 General Debate, pertaining to the UPR.

### HRC and Treaty Bodies Participation

- Participated in the **Human Rights Council and Treaty Bodies sessions** for the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED), the Committee Against Torture (CAT), the Committee on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR), and the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR).

### Human Rights Council (HRC)

- Produced nine additional **oral statements** with other contributors at the HRC on various themes, including violence against children, international solidarity, the right to development, youth empowerment, and unaccompanied migrant children.
- Promoted a **HRC resolution on Youth and Human Rights**, by assisting Member States in drafting and negotiating the text of HRC resolution 32/1 adopted in June 2016 at the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the HRC.
- Promoted **HRC resolution 33/1 on Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Adolescents and Human Rights**, which was adopted in September 2016 at the 33<sup>rd</sup> session of the HRC.
- Contributed to the realization of the **Panel Discussion on Youth and Human Rights**, held on September 22<sup>nd</sup> during the 33<sup>rd</sup> session of the HRC, by providing inputs for the identification of speakers and on the contents to be addressed.
- Co-sponsored a **side event** titled “Children as Victims and Perpetrators of Violence: Gangs and Migration in Central America” with the participation of children's



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rights defenders from Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.<sup>1</sup>

### Other Advocacy activities

- Participated in the HRC Advisory Committee Session and delivered an oral statement on Youth Empowerment.
- Organized meetings with over 10 Permanent Missions in Geneva to continue efforts for the promotion of **Youth rights** in the framework of the Human Rights Council.

### Research-based reports

- Compilation on the **Impact of Climate Change on the enjoyment of the Rights of the Child**, identifying main challenges and collecting best practices from local human rights defenders across 4 continents.
- Report on **Unaccompanied Migrant Children**, providing a snapshot of the current migration crisis in relation to unaccompanied migrant children. The report will serve as a foundation for further research and analysis of contributions made by local human rights defenders on this issue.
- Report on the **Protection of the Rights of the Child and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

- **Objective 2:** IIMA reinforces the use of the defense mechanisms for children and youth rights among both IIMA educators and society at large.

### Training and Capacity Building

- **Provided three training sessions for 19 human rights defenders, especially educators**, who operate at the local level through courses, seminars and interactive workshops, to raise awareness on Human Rights and the UN mechanisms for the protection of these rights.
- **Provided training for 10 youth activists** who work in the IIMA office and participate in the HRC.

<sup>1</sup> For more detailed information, please refer to the executive summary of the event "Children as Victims and Perpetrators of Violence: Gangs and Migration in Central America", June 2016, available at <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Report-Children-Violence-HD.pdf>



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- **Objective 3:** IIMA shares advocacy tools as well as other human rights-based materials with local human rights defenders and international organizations.

### **Communication & Fundraising**

- **Disseminated information** through the IIMA blog ([iimahumanrights.blogspot.ch](http://iimahumanrights.blogspot.ch)) in order to raise awareness of human rights at the national and international levels. Fifty-seven (57) blog posts were produced in 2016. Information on IIMA's activities was also posted on Facebook and Twitter.
- Submitted a funding application for a project on youth participation.