

Geneva, 17 March 2021

46th HRC Session

Item 6 – UPR Outcomes - United States of America

Speaker: Erica HUDSON

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, Mr. President,

IIMA and VIDES International welcome the United States' participation in the Universal Periodic Review.

Our NGOs commend the United States for enacting the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance and Security at the Southern Border Act in 2019 which requires that the government establish standards for ensuring the health and safety of migrants in its custody and generally prohibits the placing of unaccompanied children in unlicensed holding facilities unless certain conditions are met. We call on the United States to ensure that migrants and refugees, especially children, are treated humanely upon their arrival and throughout immigration proceedings.

We are pleased to see that the United States has committed itself to combatting human trafficking by enacting nine pieces of legislation targeting human trafficking since 2017, including training of federal law enforcement officers and airline personnel. IIMA and VIDES recommend that special attention be given to enacting legislation prohibiting websites from posting pictures and information of minors, exposing them to the risk of human trafficking.

We also recommend that the government requires human trafficking education in high schools as a component of a broader human rights curriculum.

On the topic of education, IIMA and VIDES call on the United States to continue to increase federal funding to public schools in high poverty areas with a special focus on minimizing the funding inequities across state lines. Additionally, our NGOs recommend that the United States make efforts to expand access to free preschool, which has the double benefit of fostering student achievement and allowing parents to hold full-time jobs.

Thank you.