



Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice - IIMA

SALESIAN SISTERS OF ST. JOHN BOSCO – Human Rights Office

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

2021-2025

STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Program of Activities 2022

- I. Presentation of IIMA**
- II. Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives 2021-2025**
- III. Action Plan and 2022 Activities**



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I. PRESENTATION OF IIMA

IIMA (ISTITUTO INTERNAZIONALE MARIA AUSILIATRICE) or Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco, is a religious association born from the principles of St. John Bosco which require the dedication of oneself to the service of young people and children, in particular, the poorest and those living in difficult situations.

IIMA promotes and defends **HUMAN RIGHTS**, especially those of **CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE** and **WOMEN**.

EDUCATION, understood as integral development, is at the center of IIMA's commitment, and it believes that its total dedication to children, young people, and women is the best gift the *Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice* can give to humanity.

IIMA obtained **SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL** in 2008. It contributes to the work of the Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review and Treaty Bodies through the IIMA Human Rights Office in Geneva, Switzerland.

The **IIMA HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE** was established in June 2007 by the decision of the General Council of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (also known as the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco). The IIMA Human Rights Office represents the Institute at the United Nations.

IIMA Human Rights Office collaborates with VIDES International and networks with several Civil Society Organizations in order to carry out its activities.

At present IIMA **WORKS** in over **1300 CENTERS** in **97 COUNTRIES** on **FIVE CONTINENTS**.



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II. VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

Vision

A WORLD WHERE ALL BOYS, GIRLS, AND YOUNG PEOPLE CAN REALIZE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL TO BE FREE AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS.

Education, a Right for All

A dream that becomes a commitment

We truly believe that the right to education is the vehicle to implement all other rights: receiving quality education develops people's potentials, enables them to build a dignified life, and empowers them to be active agents of change in creating a more humane, just, and peaceful world.

Everyone has the right to education
(Art 26(1) Universal Declaration of Human rights)

Education is both a human right in itself and an indispensable means of realizing other human rights

(General Comment No. 13 of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)

Mission

IIMA works to **promote the right to education and Human Rights Education for all**, prioritising preventive intervention in whatever context it finds itself and the sharing of best practices.

Thematic Priorities

The promotion and protection of **children's rights**, especially children at risk, is at the core of IIMA's actions.

The full implementation of human rights for **women and girls** is a *conditio sine qua non* to eradicate discrimination and violence against them to ensure gender equality and their inclusion.

The **Empowerment of Young People** through the full exercise of their Human Rights allows for active political and civil engagement. Empowered youth will find ways to make those rights a reality for the rest of the society.



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Strategic Objectives

- To enable 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 fulfilling their international human rights obligations.
- To reinforce the use of the defense mechanisms for the rights of children, youth and women among both IIMA educators and society at large.
- To share advocacy tools as well as other human rights-based materials with local human rights defenders and international organizations.

Our Action

The solid and unrelenting work of our Human Rights Defenders working in the field makes IIMA a reliable partner to support the action of the United Nations to implement human rights worldwide.

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 UN relevant meetings and advocate for their own rights.

2 – **Training and Capacity Building**: we organize training courses, in Geneva and at the local level, for Human Rights Defenders to: make them aware of the UN international mechanisms and procedures intended to protect human rights; and to enable them to effectively monitor the implementation of human rights in their own countries.

3 - **Communication**: dissemination of information in order to raise awareness on human rights at the national level.

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



III. 2021-2025 ACTION PLAN AND 2022 ACTIVITIES

Pillar of Activities	2021 – 2025 Action Plan	2022 Activities
<p>➤ Objective 1: 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>		
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submits reports and oral statements on the situation of children, youth and women within the Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review and the Treaty Bodies.• Organization of side events to share best practices carried out in the field to ensure the right to education and promote the full development of children and youth without any discrimination and highlight youth empowerment.• Collaboration with Governments and UN Experts in facing current challenges to the implementation of the right to education worldwide.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contributions on the human rights situation in Tanzania, Ireland, Papua New Guinea, Venezuela, India, Brazil, Ecuador, Philippines, Myanmar, Argentina, Zambia, Benin (tbc), Peru (tbc), Mali (tbc), France (tbc), Israel (tbc).• Oral statements during the Human Rights Council Sessions (tentative topics: Right to education, especially for girls; Youth rights; Children's rights.• Advocacy with Member States and UN Experts to take into account Youth's rights.• Follow up on the implementation of the Human Rights Education Action Plan for Youth (4th phase of the World Program).



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

Training and Capacity Building

- **Training of local human rights defenders** to enable them to monitor the implementation of human rights by effectively engaging with the UN mechanisms for the protection of these rights.
- **10 Online Training Courses** for educators and students.
- **8 Online Training Courses on how to engage with the UPR, addressed to local human rights defenders in view of their participation in the UPR process of their respective countries.**
- **IIMA Network of Youth Human Rights Defenders** (Building strategies and Plan of Action)

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

Communication & Fundraising

- **Dissemination of information** in order to raise awareness on human rights at the national level.
- **Communication Strategy**
- **Fundraising Activities**
- **Data collection for monitoring SDGs implementation in countries where IIMA is present**
- **Targeted information mailing lists**
- Update of IIMA Human Rights Office's **website**
- **Submission of 1 funding application**