



Geneva, 15 March 2022
49th HRC Session
Item 3 – ID with the Special Representative of
the Secretary-General on Violence against Children
Speaker: Maria Lilian S. Espedilla

Oral statement submitted by
**VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for
Women, Education and Development**

And co-signed by
IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco

VIDES and IIMA welcome the Special Representative's report. We commend her emphasis on children's engagement in building a world free from violence and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the strategy of engaging Member States to prepare for Voluntary National Reviews along the lines of the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, we are deeply concerned by the increase in violence against children due to the direct impact of the pandemic and the mitigation measures adopted in response, especially those among the poor and marginalized communities. These include increased risks of domestic violence, abuse online and child poverty.

VIDES and IIMA support her call to Member States to:

1. Improve data collection on violence against children in order to implement clear and strategic approaches to child violence prevention and response;
2. Identify and support child-led actions that address violence against children and provide children and youth with training and capacity-building;
3. Continue developing effective child protection programs and integrated services for children and their caregivers; and
4. Adopt a comprehensive education program for and the prevention of all forms of violence against children.