



Geneva, 15 March 2023

52<sup>nd</sup> HRC Session

Item 3 – ID with the Special Representative of  
the Secretary-General on Violence against Children

Speaker: Luna Marisa Ponelies

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 an offline and online world free from violence and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda along the lines of the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, we are concerned by the increase in violence against children due to the direct impact of the pandemic, the climate crisis, and humanitarian disasters. The recent cases reported in Iran of poisoning girls through chemical gas sprayed in school areas are extremely worrisome. Apart from that, particularly in the online sphere, children are increasingly at risk of various forms of violence, and mitigation measures do not achieve the rapid improvements needed to ensure children's safety.

VIDES and IIMA call on Member States to:

1. Improve data collection on digital violence against children by using child-centered research methods 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, including migrant and minority groups, with training and capacity-building;
3. Continue facilitating the access and comprehension of judicial processes and support systems for victims and their caregivers; and
4. Adopt a comprehensive education program for children and their caregivers on the detection and prevention of all forms of digital violence against children and its effects.

Thank you!