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53rd HRC Session

*Item 3 – ID with Special Rapporteur on
Violence Against Women & Girls*

Speaker: Tiana Jurisic, MPH

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 Rapporteurs report. We commend her emphasis on engaging human rights mechanisms in preventing violence against women and children within the context of custody.

We are concerned about the pseudo-concept of parental alienation used in the justice system by fathers. Allegations of domestic violence tend to receive insufficient scrutiny by courts who undermine women and child victims.

While recognizing that there are situations of abuse that require alternative care and separation from the family, **we highlight the importance of involving relevant stakeholders to build a circle of protection. Promotion of personalized and community-based high-quality alternative care solutions** should align with the UN “Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children.”¹

VIDES and IIMA support the Special Rapporteur’s recommendations to Member States to:

1. Implement specific guidance to the judiciary to assess the evidence before them, to promote the child’s welfare;
2. Ensure the child’s views are sufficiently represented in family law procedures and allow child participation based on age, maturity and understanding, while safeguarding the obligations contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Thank you.

¹ *Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children* was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2009.