



55<sup>th</sup> Session of the HRC  
Item 3 – ID with SR on right to privacy  
Geneva, 12 March 2024  
Speaker: Caten Knopf

Oral statement submitted by  
**IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di don Bosco**

And co-signed by  
**VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for  
Women, Education and Development**

Thank you, Mr. President,

IIMA and VIDES welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy. With the rise of digital education, more children and young people are learning online than ever before, yet those in economically disadvantaged areas face greater barriers to access. Many young people lack essential digital literacy for navigating online platforms, educational software, and virtual classrooms, particularly among marginalized populations. Cyber bullying and online harassment are significant challenges for young people. Added to this are rising privacy concerns, especially involving sensitive personal data of children and adolescents.

IIMA and VIDES support the Special Rapporteur’s recommendation to **Promote and foster human rights information and education, particularly in the area of personal data protection and privacy, as a matter of priority, at all levels and in all fields, so that data subjects are aware of, understand and can exercise their rights and, if necessary, can avail themselves of remedies to ensure their effective enjoyment.**<sup>1</sup>

IIMA and VIDES recommend to Member States:

- 1. Implement laws and regulations that protect the online human rights of children and young people, addressing issues such as privacy, digital security, hate speech and online discrimination in order to create a safe and secure online environment.**
- 2. Develop national educational programs to help educators and young people understand and use information and communication technologies (ICTs).**

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy, p.23, § 124, UN Doc. A/HRC/55/46, 18, January 2024.