



**IIMA**  
Human Rights Office  
Istituto Internazionale  
Maria Ausiliatrice



Fondazione  
Comboniane  
nel Mondo - onlus



CONGREGATION OF  
OUR LADY OF CHARITY  
OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

56<sup>th</sup> Session of the HRC

Item 3 – ID with WG on Discrimination against Women and Girls

Geneva, 27 June 2024

Speaker: Francesca Barosini

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**  
**Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (RGS)**

With the support of  
**Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions (RNDM)**

**Fondazione Comboniane nel Mondo Onlus**

Thank you, Mr. President,

This NGO coalition welcomes the report of the Working Group on countering the escalating gender backlash, which is indeed the condition to move towards the equal enjoyment of human rights for all women and girls.

With the rise of digital education, more children and young people are learning online, yet girls and young women, lack access to these virtual classrooms. Marginalized populations lack basic digital literacy for navigating online platforms and educational software.

Lack of online safety and security is a major barrier to the activism of girls and young women, who are often exposed to attacks, cyberbullying, online violence and harassment. Added to this are rising privacy concerns, especially involving sensitive personal data of children and adolescents.

Real progress is hampered by implementation gaps often due to lack of political will, non-harmonization of national frameworks with relevant international standards, insufficiently allocated resources and capacity, and lack of support measures.<sup>1</sup>

In line with the recommendations of the Working Group, we recommend to Member States to:

- 1. Implement laws and regulations that promote gender equality, addressing issues such as privacy, digital security, hate speech and online discrimination in order to create a safe and secure online environment for young women and girls.**
- 2. Develop national educational programs to help educators and young people understand and use information and communication technologies (ICTs).**

Thank you.

---

<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/56/51, p. 17, § 77.