



Geneva 19th June 2025

59th HRC-Session

Item 3 - ID with the Special Rapporteur on the right to education

Speaker: Sophia Weis

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,

We welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on her visit to the United States of America.

We share her concern about the increasing numbers of censorship laws, book bans and content limitations restricting classroom discussions on race, gender identity and diversity.

By limiting students' access to critical knowledge, suppressing inclusive education and creating hostile learning environments, the foundation of a strong democracy is under attack.

The dismantling of the U.S. Education Department, the cutting of federal education funding and the disciplinary measures against students voicing political opinions violate not only the right to education, but also to the right of freedom of opinion and expression.

Therefore, **we recommend the USA to:**

- **Ensure that quality education is affordable for every child, by restoring federal education funding.**
- **Ensure access to education for all, including communities particularly impacted by absenteeism, by implementing comprehensive strategies to remove barriers to regular school attendance.**
- **Invest in mental health support and restorative practices to create a safer and more supportive learning environment.**
- **Guarantee academic freedom, eliminating censorship and allowing students, scholars and teachers to express their views without fear of facing disciplinary measures to silence dissent.**

Thank you.