



Sisters of Our Lady
of the Missions

Geneva, 16 September 2025
60th HRC Session
Biennial panel discussion on youth and human rights
Speaker: Ilaria Vavala'

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

Caritas Internationalis

Edmund Rice International

Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale (FMSI)

Office International de l'Enseignement Catholique (OIEC)

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

Concerning
***Role of youth in fostering peaceful societies and creating
an enabling environment for the enjoyment of human rights by all***

Biennial panel discussion on youth and human rights

Thank you, Mr. President

IIMA, on behalf of this NGO coalition, welcomes this biennial panel on young people's role in fostering peaceful societies.

Youth are vital partners in building a just and peaceful society, yet they are **often excluded** from **decisions** that affect them, denying communities the energy, innovation, and leadership they offer in promoting human rights and peace.

Education empowers them to engage fully and drive social transformation; whereas its **absence undermines** their potential as active peacebuilders. Young people - particularly those in contexts

of poverty, conflict, displacement and discrimination - **face barriers in their access to human rights**, with girls and young women disproportionately affected.

How can we achieve sustainable peace, if we do not educate and empower youth to strive for it?

Ensuring youth access to rights is a **strategic investment** in the **resilience** and **stability** of societies as empowered youth will certainly challenge injustice, resolve conflicts peacefully, and advocate for inclusive societies.

We urge Member States to:

- 1. Remove barriers to youth participation in all decision-making processes.**
- 2. Guarantee quality education and Human Rights Education for all young people, as means to unlock their potential as peacebuilders.**
- 3. Protect and systematically mainstream youth rights through existing UN Human Rights mechanisms, especially the UPR and the Treaty Bodies.**

Thank you.