



IIMA
Human Rights Office
Istituto Internazionale
Maria Ausiliatrice



Institute of the Daughters of Mary help of Christians
Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco
Our Lady of Hope Province - AFE- PDO



CONGREGATION OF
OUR LADY OF CHARITY
OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

60th Session of the HRC
Item 6 – UPR Outcome of Kenya
Geneva, 25 September 2025
Speaker: Lucia Actis Alesina

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

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

With the support of
Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Province of East Africa (FMA-AFE) - Kenya

IIMA, on behalf of this NGO coalition, commends Kenya for its constructive engagement in its fourth UPR.

On the right to education, we welcome the acceptance of recommendations 54.137, 54.141, and 54.161¹ to enhance access to **quality education and digital tools**. Limited internet coverage and insufficient digital literacy continue to undermine children's learning opportunities. We call on Kenya to strengthen energy infrastructures and to improve access to affordable internet and digital technologies and learning.

Accordingly, we welcome the acceptance of recommendations 54.78² and 54.203³ on **protecting children from violence, especially online**. However, we remain concerned about the high risks of gross human rights violations to which young people are exposed online. We urge Kenya to

¹ Recommendations 54.137: Continue efforts in improving access to quality education, especially in rural areas (Lao People's Democratic Republic); 54.141: Encourage the Government to further strengthen its education reform programmes by addressing challenges such as teacher shortages, infrastructure deficits and the need for adequate learning materials (Sierra Leone); 54.161: Further strengthen efforts to ensure affordable and equitable access to digital technology for women and girls, particularly in rural areas (Armenia). See Report of the UPR Working Group, UN Document A/HRC/60/10, 25 June 2025.

² Recommendation 54.78: Continue efforts in aligning all acts related to data protection, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence with international human rights standards (Lithuania). See Report of the UPR Working Group, UN Document A/HRC/60/10, 25 June 2025.

³ Recommendation 54.203: Ensure that relevant legal and policy frameworks to protect children also prohibit violence against them, including sexual exploitation, both online and offline (Eswatini). See Report of the UPR Working Group, UN Document A/HRC/60/10, 25 June 2025.

ensure comprehensive digital literacy programmes, especially for girls and young women, on how to use the internet safely and report abuses.

Moreover, while welcoming the acceptance of recommendations 54.186 and 54.207⁴, we report that **violence against women and children** continues to be one of the main challenges in Kenya. We regret that Kenya only took note of recommendation 56.88⁵ and we urge Kenya to invest in prevention programmes, ensure adequate psychosocial support for victims and promote the reintegration of children into their families, whenever possible.

Finally, we welcome the acceptance of several recommendations on the right to health, but we regret that no specific mention of mental health was made. We recommend Kenya to particularly raise awareness and to develop effective policies on **mental health issues affecting young people**, including in remote areas.

Thank you.

⁴ Recommendations 54.186: Continuously strengthen efforts to combat gender-based violence and violence against children and end harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage, in close collaboration with civil society (Austria): 54.207: Legislate against harmful practices perpetrated against children, including child marriage, virginity testing and genital mutilation of both male and female children (New Zealand). See Report of the UPR Working Group, UN Document A/HRC/60/10, 25 June 2025.

⁵ Recommendation 56.88: Ensure the effective implementation of the Protection against Domestic Violence Act 2015, criminalize marital rape and take the necessary measures to eradicate female genital mutilation and child marriage (Spain). See Report of the UPR Working Group, UN Document A/HRC/60/10, 25 June 2025.