



Geneva, 31 October 2025

Social Forum 2025

Fifth Session

Panel: **Education for political rights – Participation, citizenship and voice**

Speaker: Ms. Lucia Actis Alesina

Oral statement submitted by
IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice

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

With the support of
VIDES Switzerland

Concerning

**THE CONTRIBUTION OF EDUCATION TO THE RESPECT, PROMOTION,
PROTECTION AND FULFILMENT OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL**

IIMA is honored to take the floor and we thank the panelists for their contributions.
Indeed, young people are the beating heart of humanity, holding an immense, untamed energy waiting to be released in all its strength and beauty.

We are the generation that refuses to accept that war is inevitable.
We are the generation that still considers peace, justice and dignity for all as a concrete and achievable outcome.
We are ready to raise our voices.

But here lies the problem: we shouldn't *have* to scream to be heard.
While being ready to give our contribution, we ask to be trusted, included and empowered to unlock our potential and voices as changemakers.

So please, **let us paint our canvas too.**
Give us the brushes, the light, the space to create our vision of a just world.
And to do this, we need **Human Rights Education as well as active, effective and meaningful participation.**
Through them, **awakening conscience, turning awareness into action, and action into transformation will become possible.**

Together, let us stand for a more just and peaceful world.
Together, let us rediscover our shared purpose and renew our joint commitment to human rights.

Thank you.