



IIMA HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2025

Introduction

In 2025, IIMA carried out various activities in accordance with the following Pillars of Action: Advocacy, Training and Capacity Building, and Communication.

Pillars of Action

1 – **Advocacy**

We provide UN experts and Member State representatives with relevant and reliable information on how human rights are being implemented at the local level, including the denunciation of violations. IIMA Human Rights Office carries out this action in close collaboration with local members. Moreover, we provide local human rights defenders, including educators and youth, with the possibility of participating in relevant UN meetings and to advocate for their own rights.

2 – **Training and Capacity Building**

We organize training courses, both online and in-person training, in Geneva and at the local level, to make Human Rights Defenders aware of the UN international mechanisms and procedures intended to protect human rights.

3 – **Communication**

We disseminate information in order to raise awareness of human rights at the national level.

Networking and Partnership

Within the above-mentioned pillars of action, we **work in synergy with other Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Institutions** in order to bring major issues to the attention of the international community and to identify top priorities for the human rights agenda.

The pillars of action are further defined below, and include their relationship to the strategic objectives of the organization.



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2025 Activities

Pillar of Action	2025 Activities
➤ Objective 1: IIMA enables local actors, including children and young people, to express their views on the implementation of their human rights and to share best practices throughout the world in order to support Governments in complying with their international human rights obligations.	
Advocacy	Universal Periodic Review (UPR) • The Office run consultations with human rights defenders in Nepal, Solomon Islands, Paraguay, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Timor-Leste in order to prepare <i>ad hoc</i> training and/or submit UPR submissions for these countries in 2025. • IIMA issued joint submissions at the UPR of Panama, Honduras, the United States of America, Nepal, and Paraguay.¹ • IIMA participated in the UPR pre-session of Kenya and Spain and prepared the briefing report for the local members in the country under review. The report was also shared with several Permanent Missions of UN Member States. (see Annex 1-Kenya and Annex 2-Spain) • In order to assess the impact of advocacy actions undertaken by Kenya and Spain on the UPR recommendations addressed to their specific countries the Office completed the UPR Advocacy Assessment Tables for Kenya and Spain.

¹ The submissions and the following advocacy actions on Panama, Honduras, United States of America, Nepal, Paraguay were the result of an extensive capacity building initiative addressed to local human rights defenders. All submissions are available at: <http://iimageneva.org/reports/>



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- IIMA, in partnership with VIDES International, delivered **oral statements on Item 6** during the 58th, 59th, and 60th sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC) pertaining to the **UPR outcomes of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Spain, and Kenya.**

Treaty Bodies

IIMA participated in the following Treaty Bodies sessions:

- 77th session of the **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)** for the **Philippines**;
- 78th session of the **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)** for **Colombia and Chile**;
- 90th session of the **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** for the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** and the **Republic of Congo (Brazzaville)**;
- 91st session of the **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** for **Mexico**;
- 98th session of the **Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)** for **Ecuador and Honduras**;
- 115th session of the **Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)** for the **Philippines**;

Reports are produced and shared with local human rights defenders.

The Human Rights Council (HRC)

- **IIMA and VIDES produced oral statements** at the **58th, 59th, and 60th sessions** of the **Human Rights Council** on the following themes:
 - ✓ rights of persons with disabilities & digital technologies
 - ✓ violence against children
 - ✓ situation of children in armed conflict
 - ✓ sale, exploitation, and abuse of children
 - ✓ right to education
 - ✓ trafficking in persons, especially women and children
 - ✓ extreme poverty and human rights



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- ✓ discrimination against women and girls
- ✓ right to development
- ✓ youth and human rights
- ✓ democracy and climate change
- ✓ education for political rights - participation, citizenship, and voice

- **IIMA and VIDES co-sponsored additional oral statements at the 58th, 59th, and 60th sessions of the Human Rights Council** on various themes, including:

- ✓ human rights in sustaining and increasing the gains made in the HIV response
- ✓ water and sanitation condition in Makala prison DRC
- ✓ multilateralism
- ✓ human rights of migrants
- ✓ international solidarity,
- ✓ Internally displaced persons
- ✓ Evaluation of the implementation of the 4th phase of The World Programme for Human Rights Education

Other UN sessions

- **Fifth Session of the Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law: “Democracy and climate change: focusing on solutions” (13-14 October 2025).** IIMA and VIDES contributed to the Forum by bringing forward the perspectives of hundreds of young people from 33 countries, gathered through a global consultation ahead of the session. Moreover, a young speaker took the floor on behalf of IIMA and VIDES during the Forum.²
- **United Nations Social Forum (30–31 October 2025).** This year discussions focused on the contribution of education to the respect, promotion, protection, and fulfillment of all human rights for all. IIMA and VIDES attended and contributed to the session by bringing the perspective of young people. Two oral statements were delivered.³

² See: <https://iimageneva.org/fifth-session-of-the-forum-on-human-rights-democracy-and-the-rule-of-law-democracy-and-climate-change-focusing-on-solutions/>.

³ See: <https://iimageneva.org/social-forum-2025/>.



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Research-based Reports

IIMA and VIDES contributed to the call for inputs of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the theme: “Democracy and climate change: focusing on solutions”.

The main purpose of this contribution to the aforementioned call for inputs is to bring the perspective of young people and their insights on the main topic, so that they are reflected and considered in the discussions of the Fifth session of the Forum on Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law to be held on 13 and 14 October 2025.

To this end, the IIMA and VIDES Human Rights Office created and distributed an online survey within their local youth network. Between 6 and 12 May 2025, 513 responses were received from over 33 countries across 5 continents. The survey participants belong to the following groups: adolescents (14-17 years old), young adults (18-25 years old), adults (26-35 years old), and Educators who work with adolescents and young adults (over 35 years old).

The inputs of IIMA and VIDES were submitted to the OHCHR on 15 May 2025 and can be accessed on the OHCHR website.⁴

- **Objective 2:** IIMA reinforces the use of defense mechanisms for the rights of children and youth among both IIMA educators and society at large.

Training and Capacity Building

Training Sessions in loco

The Office provided 3 training sessions in Geneva for 7 youth activists coming from Italy, the USA, Germany, Spain, who collaborated with the IIMA Human Rights Office. Each training session coincided with the sessions of the Human Rights Council, of the Treaty Bodies, and of the Universal Periodic Review.

⁴ See: <https://iimageneva.org/thank-you-for-responding-to-iima-vides-survey/>



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The Office is grateful to former interns who continue to lend a hand in preparing reports, statements and documentation.

Online training and capacity-building workshops

- **UPR Engagement - Online Training for human rights defenders of Panama**

The online training focused on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and how to prepare a UPR Submission consisted of three modules:

Module 1 -: The UPR and the forms of participation of civil society actors (January 28, 2025); and

Module 2-: How to draft a UPR Submission (February 6, 2025).

14 IIMA local members in Panama, including Salesian Sisters, lay people, collaborators, and young people, attended the training. Afterward, they constituted the Panama Coordination Team (ECOPAN) in charge of drafting the UPR submission, with the support of IIMA Human Rights Office.

- **UPR training sessions for Multi-congregational Project: Advocacy Program - Year II**

5 online training sessions relating to the different phases of the UPR were addressed **to girls and young women (14 – 21 years old) as well as local project coordinators** in those 6 countries on how to effectively engage with the Universal Periodic Review. **14 participants from India, 6 from Nepal, 3 from South Sudan, 5 from Ecuador, and 8 from Peru** attended relevant training modules., including representatives from other congregations involved in the multi-congregational project.

- **Webinar on “Youth for Human Rights: Opportunities to Engage and Advocate”**

On June 12, 2025, VIDES International and IIMA Human Rights Office organized an online webinar on “Youth for Human Rights: Opportunities to Engage and Advocate”. Maria D’Onofrio, IIMA and VIDES Advocacy Officer in Geneva, facilitated the webinar.



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The webinar highlighted the good practices of IIMA and VIDES on the empowerment of youth and the importance of including the perspective of young people and promoting their participation in the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). The presentation also dealt with the role of civil society within the HRC.

The second part thematically dealt with Achievements and Upcoming Opportunities for Youth Advocacy within the HRC.

35 young people from different countries participated in the webinar.⁵

- **Misean Cara Member Managed Grant (MMG) Projects - Introductory Session on “Engaging with Human Rights Advocacy”**

The Office provided training, technical support, and individual guidance to ensure a more effective and robust human rights advocacy work within the framework of the Misean Cara Member Managed Grant (MMG) Projects led by the Salesian Sisters in Ireland. The participants were composed of members of the different Project Teams coming from **Tanzania, South Sudan, Lesotho, Madagascar and India.**: ARO Guwahati, NDF-India, Mumbai, Trichy, Kannagi Nagar. This capacity building initiative, to be implemented , through April 2026, started with an introductory meeting held on December 9, 2025.

The purpose of this introductory meeting is to present the proposed training content and hear inputs from the local teams, so that the training content can be tailored to their needs. **20 participants**, member of the various Project Team participated.

Workshops in the Philippines and Papua New Guinea

Sr. Sarah Garcia, Director of the IIMA Human Rights Office, conducted several workshops for IIMA members in the Philippines (FIL) and Papua New Guinea (PNG) in the months of July and August 2025.

⁵ See: <https://iimageneva.org/youth-for-human-rights-opportunities-to-engage-and-advocate/>



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The purpose of each workshop was to raise awareness on the human rights challenges faced by those countries and promote active social engagement and care for our common home, from the perspective of human rights and human rights education. Accordingly, relevant topics addressed included “Youth Defenders of Human Rights and the Common Good”, “Creating a Culture of Human Rights and the Common Good”, “Be a Catalyst of Social Transformation”, and “Promoting the Right to Education and Human Rights Education”.

The overall total number of participants in those workshops are as follows: 2084 young people (including youth, students and youth leaders) and 856 educators (and local community members., collaborators, adult groups, religious men and women.

- **Objective 3:** IIMA shares advocacy tools as well as other human rights-based materials with local human rights defenders and international organizations.

Communi- cation and information

Update and development of IIMA website

Disseminated information through the IIMA website (www.iimagineva.org), including outreach materials, articles, UPR Submissions, and oral statements, in order to raise awareness of human rights at the national and international levels.

Contributed several articles on the website of the Salesian Sisters (www.cgfmanet.org) on World Day of Water (March 22), World Day against Child labor (June 12), International Day of the World's Indigenous People (August 9), International Youth Day (August 12), International Day of the Girl Child (October 11), and Human Rights Day (December 10).



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The Office website Youth Page

As the IIMA Human Rights Office continues to push forward the **Youth Agenda and the Network of Youth Promoters of Human Rights and the Common Good**, the Office's Youth Page aims to sensitize and empower more young people among the IIMA members so they can fully develop their potential as human rights defenders and initiators of positive change in society. (see link: <https://iimageneva.org/youth/>).

IIMA LinkedIn Profile

The IIMA Human Rights Office has created a **LinkedIn profile** to expand its network among young people and human rights professionals.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Human Rights Council resolution on Youth and Human Rights, the Office launched a **new social media campaign**: The **#YouthInAction for Human Rights!** Series. Starting from November 2025 and through September 2026, every two weeks, the IIMA LinkedIn profile shares messages and quotes from young activists and from those who promoted the HRC Resolution on Youth and Human Rights. By retracing the path of those who, with passion and dedication, made this important milestone possible, the Office rediscovers a strong sense of commitment to shared goals and renews its dedication to human rights.⁶

To learn more about this initiative, visit the official flyer here (<https://iimageneva.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/flyer-.pdf>).

Networking: IIMA **work in synergy** with other NGOs and Institutions in order to bring attention of the international community to the major issues and identify top priorities for the human rights agenda.

⁶ To learn more about this initiative, consult the official flyer: <https://iimageneva.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/flyer-.pdf>.



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Networking and Partnership

Networking and partnership with NGOs

IIMA continues to take part in various Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) Working Groups and Platforms such as:

1. Catholic-Inspired NGOs (CINGO) Geneva Forum and its Working Groups (WG):

- WG on the Right to Education
- WG on the Right to Development and International Solidarity
- WG on Migration, Refugees, and Human Trafficking

2. Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning (WGHREL)

**3. International Catholic Center of Geneva (CCIG)
UPR Platform**

**4. International Catholic-Inspired NGO Forum
(Rome-based)**

5. CINGO Regional Platforms composed of Paris Platform, Strasbourg Platform, Rome Platform, Geneva Platform, Brussels Platform, and New York Platform.

Collaboration with the OHCHR on the child and youth issues

To promote the rights of children and young people, the Office collaborates with the focal persons of the following units within the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR):

- Child and Youth Rights Unit, Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures, and the Right to Development Division, and the
- Methodology, Education, and Training Section (HRET).

Partnership with VIDES International

Collaboration with VIDES International

The Office continues to share with VIDES International a strong commitment to promoting human rights education and the empowerment of children, youth, and women at the United Nations, including through training and collaboration with VIDES volunteers and other congregations.



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	The ongoing project with VIDES International, Phase 2: “A Multi-Congregational Observatory to Advance Girls’ Rights in 6 Countries in the Post-Pandemic Era: A Joint Effort to Bridge the Digital Divide and Ensure Girls’ Mental Health” (2023–2025). It is funded by Misesan Cara and covers the period from September 12, 2023, to September 11, 2025. Four congregations are involved: the Salesian Sisters (FMA), the Sisters of RNDM, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, and the Comboni Missionary Sisters, present in the following countries: India, Nepal, Kenya, South Sudan, Ecuador, and Peru. IIMA partners with VIDES International at the Human Rights Council by delivering oral statements during the Human Rights Council, submitting written contributions for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and in reply to the OHCHR calls for inputs.
Project	Partnership Agreement between the Salesian Sisters of Ireland and the IIMA Human Rights Office in Geneva The IIMA Human Rights Office will provide a 35-hour training and technical support to the 9 Misesan Cara Member Managed Grant (MMG) projects. The participants come from India, Tanzania, South Sudan, Lesotho, and Madagascar. This training began on December 9, 2025, and will continue through April 2026.