



38th Session of the Human Rights Council
Geneva, 18 June 2018
ITEM 3 - SR on Peaceful Assembly and Association
Speaker : Mariko TAKIGUCHI

Oral statement submitted by
VIDES International-
Volontariato Internazionale Donna Educazione Sviluppo

Thank you, Mr. President

VIDES International warmly welcomes the inclusive report of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, and of association. We appreciate as well the active communication with relevant actors.

Children open the first door to society by freely interacting with others and in groups. Such interaction are vital because they foster respect for diversity, mutual understanding and open communication.

In peaceful assembly as in association children learn how to relate with people, to express their opinions, to stand up for the truth and to give a voice to the vulnerable. More importantly, it is in this civic space that children learn participation and commitment to the common good.

In this regard, the Right to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association should be effectively exercised as part of educational learning experience for children. For it is here that the culture of responsibility is created.

Given this premise, VIDES International would like to recommend the following :

- Implement in the schools Human Right Education training for parents, guardians and educators so that they can accompany their children and pupils to active, constructive, responsible participation in nation building.
- Ensure a safe environment that protect civic space rather than restrict it.

Thank you, Mr. President