



39th Session of the HRC
Geneva, September 2018
Item 6 – Canada UPR outcomes
Speaker: Erica HUDSON

39th SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
ITEM 6 UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
CANADA

Oral statement submitted by
VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development
And co-signed by
IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice

Thank you, Mr. President.

VIDES with IIMA welcome Canada's acceptance of recommendations 46, 76, and 77, pledging to end discriminatory practices against indigenous women and children. We are additionally pleased to see that Canada has committed itself to implementing Jordan's Principle, ensuring that indigenous children receive the same healthcare and social services as other Canadian children¹. Accordingly, this NGO coalition highlights that education empowers and lifts communities out of poverty, and therefore recommends that special attention be given to ensure the quality of education for all children in the country.

However, we regret that Canada has merely noted recommendation 274 to put an end to the detention of refugee and asylum-seeking children.² This detention violates the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As affirmed by Article 3 of the CRC, the best interest of the child should be a primary consideration in all measures affecting the child.³ The best interest of a child is never detainment, whether they are accompanied or unaccompanied.

In response, VIDES with IIMA call on Canada to:

- Fully implement CRC provisions and principles;
- Continue its efforts to address disparities in the education of indigenous children;
- Integrate human rights education into provincial curriculum standards.

Thank you, Mr. President.

¹ Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Canada, September 2018, available at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G18/210/82/PDF/G1821082.pdf?OpenElement>

² Recommendation 274: Put an end to the detention of refugee and asylum-seeking children, through alternatives that fully take into consideration the best interest of the child (Ecuador)

³ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Guidelines on the Applicable Criteria and Standards relating to the Detention of Asylum-Seekers and Alternatives to Detention, 2012, para 51 available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/503489533b8.html>