



# **Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice - IIMA**

**SALESIAN SISTERS OF ST. JOHN BOSCO – Human Rights Office**

NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

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## **2015-2020**

# **STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

## Program of Activities 2019

- I. Presentation of IIMA**
- II. Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives 2015-2020**
- III. Action Plan and 2019 Activities**



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## I. PRESENTATION OF IIMA

**IIMA (ISTITUTO INTERNAZIONALE MARIA AUSILIATRICE)** or Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco, is a religious association born from the principles of St. John Bosco which require the dedication of oneself to the service of young people and children, in particular, the poorest and those living in difficult situations.

IIMA promotes and defends **HUMAN RIGHTS**, especially those of **CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE** and **WOMEN. EDUCATION**, understood as integral development, is at the center of our commitment, and we believe that our total dedication to children and young people is the best gift we can give to humanity.

IIMA **WORKS** in **1455 CENTERS** in **95 COUNTRIES** on **FIVE CONTINENTS**.

IIMA obtained **SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL** in 2008. It contributes to the work of the Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review and Treaty Bodies through the IIMA Human Rights Office in Geneva (Switzerland).

Established by decision of the General Council of the Salesian Sisters in June 2007, the **IIMA HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE** is the official representative of the Institute of the Salesian Sisters at the United Nations in Geneva, in accordance with the directives of Chapters XX<sup>1</sup>, XXI<sup>2</sup>, XXII<sup>3</sup> and XXIII.

IIMA Human Rights Office collaborates with VIDES International in order to carry out its activities.

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<sup>1</sup> We select...An anthropology of solidarity ... in collaboration with movements aligned with the dignity of the person. ...The search for channels that, in the public opinion of the world, promote the recognition of the rights of the person.

<sup>2</sup> We believe...They must be present, with simplicity and courage, where decisions are made about youth and life, in order to unite the Gospel with History

<sup>3</sup> We have a urgent call to defend... the rights of all, especially the young and the weak, and encourage dialogue about the possibility of peaceful coexistence between different cultures, ethnic groups, and religious dominations. We are committed to...Rediscovering the audacity of missionaries of "Da mihi animas"...Giving witness to the protective love of God in new and expanding frontiers.

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## II. VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

### Vision

**A WORLD WHERE ALL BOYS, GIRLS, AND YOUNG PEOPLE CAN REALIZE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL TO BE FREE AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS.**

A dream that becomes a commitment:

Education, a Right for All

We truly believe that the right to education is the vehicle to implement all other rights: receiving adequate education empowers people, and by developing their potential, enables them to build a dignified life.

***Everyone has the right to education***

(Art 26(1) Universal Declaration of Human rights)

***Education is both a human right in itself and an indispensable means of realizing other human rights***

(General Comment No. 13 of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)

### Mission

IIMA works to **promote the right to education and Human Rights Education for all**, prioritising preventive intervention in urgent situations and the sharing of best practices.

### 2020 Thematic Priorities

The promotion and protection of **children's rights**, especially children at risk, is at the core of IIMA actions.

The **Empowerment of Young People** through the full exercise of their Human Rights allows for active political and civil engagement. Empowered youth will find ways to make those rights a reality for the rest of the society.



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## 2020 Strategic Objectives

- To enable local actors, including children and young people, to express their views on the implementation of their human rights and share best practices throughout the world in order to support Governments in complying with their international human rights obligations.
- To reinforce the use of the defense mechanisms for children's and youth's rights among both IIMA educators and society at large.
- To share advocacy tools as well as other human rights-based materials with local human rights defenders and international organizations.

## Our Action

The solid and unrelenting work of our Human Rights Defenders working in the field makes IIMA a reliable partner to support the action of the United Nations to implement human rights worldwide.

## Pillars of Action

1 - **Advocacy**: we provide UN experts and Member States representatives with relevant and reliable information on how human rights are being implemented at the local level, including 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 to participate in UN relevant meetings and advocate for their own rights.

2 – **Training and Capacity Building**: we organize training courses, 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**: dissemination of information in order to raise awareness on human rights at the national level.

Within the above mentioned pillars of activities, we 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.



### III. 2015-2020 ACTION PLAN AND 2019 ACTIVITIES

Pillar of Activities	2015 – 2020 Action Plan	2019 Activities
<p>➤ <b>Objective 1:</b> IIMA enables local actors, including children and young people, to express their views on the implementation of their human rights and share best practices throughout the world in order to support Governments in complying with their international human rights obligations.</p>		
<p><b>Advocacy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submits <b>reports and oral statements on the situation of children and youth</b> within the Universal Periodic Review and the Treaty Bodies.</li> <li>• Organization of <b>side events</b> to share <b>best practices</b> carried out in the field to ensure the right to education and youth empowerment.</li> <li>• <b>Collaboration with Governments and UN Experts</b> in facing current challenges to the implementation of the right to education worldwide.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Contributions</b> on the human rights situation in <b>Chile, Uruguay, Dominican Republic, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Italy, El Salvador, Madagascar, Angola, Spain, Kenya, Lesotho, Panama, Honduras, United States of America, and Mexico,</b></li> <li>• <b>3 oral statements during the Human Rights Council Sessions</b> (tentative topics: Youth empowerment; Children on the Move; and Climate change and the rights of the child).</li> <li>• <b>Organization of 1 side event</b> at the Human Rights Council Sessions (tentative topics: Children on the move; Prevention of violence among adolescents.)</li> <li>• <b>Promote a follow up HRC resolution on Youth Empowerment.</b></li> </ul>



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|  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advocacy with Member States and UN Experts to take into account <b>Youth's rights.</b></li></ul> |
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- **Objective 2:** IIMA reinforces the use of the defense mechanisms for children's and youth's rights among both IIMA educators and society at large.

## Training and Capacity Building

- **Training for human rights defenders** who operate at the local level through courses, seminars and interactive workshops, to raise awareness on Human Rights and the UN mechanisms for the protection of these rights.
- **2 Training Courses in Geneva** for educators
- **Workshop on the rights of indigenous people in Mexico** (waiting for donor's approval)
- **Formal and Informal Training sessions for young interns and volunteers**

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

## Communication & Fundraising

- **Dissemination of information** in order to raise awareness on human rights at the national level.
- **Communication Strategy**
- **Fundraising Activities**
- **Publication on the Rights of Indigenous People in Mexico**
- **Targeted information mailing lists**
- Update of IIMA Human Rights Office's **website**
- **Submission of 1 funding application**