

34th Session of the HRC
Geneva, 16 March 2017
Item 6 – UPR Timor-Leste

Oral statement submitted by
VIDES Internazionale

Co-sponsored by
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Thank you Mr. President,

VIDES Internazionale and IIMA welcomes Timor-Leste's support to a significant number of recommendations made by Member States including those made in collaboration with UN agencies during its second review under the UPR. We also appreciate Timor-Leste's willingness to contribute to the further improvement of basic infrastructure for women's and children's rights.

Nevertheless, we note with deep concern that further efforts are required to fully ensure women's and children's rights. We would like to call attention to recommendations that have particular relevance for the rights of women and children as the most vulnerable groups in Timor-Leste, due to the discrimination and human rights abuses to which they are subjected. Among many obstacles faced by women and children, we urge the Government to deeply consider inadequate political and social participation, barriers to quality education, unemployment and lack of reasonable payment as the main causes of current inequalities they suffer from.

We also stress to the Government that corporal punishment, particularly in the education system, is still present. Moreover, women and girls are often victims of violence in their own families and it is mostly solved using traditional laws and practices within the family rather than through the judicial system. Therefore, we call on the Government to promptly adopt effective measures to address this pressing issue.

As Pope Francis said, Children are the joy of the family and of society. They are a gift. They carry in themselves the memory and hope of a love that has become tangible by kindling the life of another human being. We are convinced that the Timor-Leste Government should support their women and children through a coherent and efficient protective action from all forms of domestic violence, promote education programs, and continue assisting and monitoring programs in collaboration with non-governmental organizations.

Thank you for your attention, Mr. President.