

Human Rights Council
19th Session
Item 6 : UPR : Timor Leste
Speaker : Ruth M. Kilcullen

Madame President

Marist International Solidarity Foundation and Franciscans International welcome the adoption of the UPR report for Timor Leste today. We would also like to acknowledge the Government of Timor Leste's detailed and constructive participation in the UPR process. We appreciate the commitment of the Government of Timor Leste in promoting human rights despite the challenges they face as a new nation.

With regard to the right to education, we commend the development of the National Strategic Action Plan for Education 2011-2015 which places the child's physical, psychological and social needs at the forefront of the decision-making process. We urge the Government of Timor Leste to maintain its commitment to promoting universal basic primary education as a top priority.

We note that there are deficiencies as regards equal access to quality education, especially for children with disabilities. We strongly urge the Government of Timor Leste to ratify the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** immediately and to fully implement article 28 of the Convention without discrimination.

With regard to juvenile justice and violence against children, we welcome the decision to adopt the Children's Code, which prohibits corporal punishment in all settings. We call for the assurance that all child victims of violence and abuse have access to adequate care, counselling and assistance with recovery and reintegration services. Such measures are necessary for the protection of the rights and the dignity of the child.

We endorse the UPR recommendations to establish all necessary institutional mechanisms to protect children from abuse within the juvenile justice system. We also endorse the recommendation to ensure that the principle of the 'best interest of the child' is fully integrated into draft legislation on juvenile justice, and that children in conflict with the law are deprived of their liberty only as a mean of last resort.

FMSI and FI believe that it is the duty of the government to ensure that children's rights are protected and to adopt effective measures to that end.

Thank you Madame President