

Advocacy Factsheet Paraguay



Marists
of Champagne
SECRETARIAT OF
SOLIDARITY-CMI



Marist International
Solidarity
Foundation ETS
FMSI
For the benefit of children

ABOUT US

The **Marist International Solidarity Foundation** (FMSI) is a non-governmental organization committed to promoting the rights and welfare of children, especially those living in vulnerable situations. FMSI works closely with the Marist Brothers and partners worldwide to implement programs focused on education, child protection, healthcare, and emergency relief. By leveraging its presence in various countries, FMSI advocates for **child rights** and supports local communities in their pursuit of social justice, dignity, and sustainable development. Through its engagement in international mechanisms like the United Nations, FMSI seeks to raise awareness and influence policies that ensure a better future for children across the globe.

EMPOWERING YOUNG VOICES

The UPR report was prepared with the **active and meaningful participation of children and young people from Paraguay**, ensuring that their voices and recommendations are placed at the center of these human rights discussions. This statement reflects the concerns and priorities they themselves identified in the UPR process.

ISSUE IDENTIFIED

Children reported widespread experiences of violence, including sexual abuse, harassment, domestic violence, and institutional violence. Many shared that when they try to report abuse, their complaints are not taken seriously, investigations are delayed or dismissed, and protection protocols often fail to respond in time.

Children described feeling unheard and unsafe in schools, health services, police stations, and judicial settings. They told us that they are frequently required to be accompanied by an adult in order to be listened to, even when that adult may be the source of violence. This creates fear, silence, and impunity.

Children also highlighted violence and insecurity in digital spaces, where online abuse is increasing while prevention, data protection, and investigation remain weak.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We therefore encourage Member States to recommend that Paraguay:

1. Ensure that all reports of violence against children activate protection protocols within clear and short timeframes, particularly in schools and public institutions;
2. Guarantee child-friendly, autonomous, and confidential access to protection, health, and justice services, without requiring adult accompaniment;
3. Strengthen institutional accountability, including training of education, health, police, and child protection authorities on a rights-based approach;
4. Invest in prevention, including safe digital environments and education on violence and rights.

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UPR submission

