



International Alliance for Peace and Development

Report of the International Alliance for Peace and Development

Regarding the Universal Periodic Review of the United States of America

The International Alliance for Peace and Development submits this report as part of the review of the United States of America during its fourth review under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The report aims to assess the extent to which the United States has implemented the recommendations accepted during the third review, as well as to examine the consistency of its policies and practices with the pledges it accepted in this context.

The report also examines developments in the human rights situation in the United States, with a focus on civil and political rights, as well as economic and social rights. The report pays particular attention to the most vulnerable groups in society, including women and children, and reviews the challenges facing these groups in light of international obligations.

In this report, the International Alliance for Peace and Development presents a set of recommendations that it hopes will be included in the OHCHR's summary of contributions from civil society and other stakeholders. This report aims to highlight outstanding issues that require further reform to ensure the realization of fundamental rights and freedoms for all individuals without discrimination.

First: Cooperation with International Human Rights Mechanisms

The International Alliance for Peace and Development noted that the largest group of recommendations made to the United States during the Universal Periodic Review in November 2020 related to ratifying international treaties and strengthening cooperation with international human rights mechanisms. The US government accepted several recommendations calling for ratification of additional treaties, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

However, despite the US's support for these recommendations, it remains late in acceding to some core treaties that represent important international obligations. For example, the US has not yet ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, nor has it ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, despite having signed it on July 17, 1980.

In addition, the US has not acceded to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, despite having signed it on October 5, 1977, nor has it ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Although the United States signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child on February 15, 1995, it has not yet ratified it. It has also not completed the ratification process of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which it signed on July 30, 2009¹. Furthermore, the United States has not supported recommendations to ratify the 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention (1930, No. 29), reflecting its continued reservations regarding certain international mechanisms aimed at promoting and protecting human rights at the international level².

Second: Civil and Political Rights

1. The Right to Life

The International Alliance has reviewed multiple reports indicating serious violations of the right to life in the United States, resulting from several intertwined factors. In 2023, the country witnessed an unprecedented surge in deaths resulting from police violence, exposing serious gaps in the law enforcement accountability system. At least 1,247 deaths resulting from police brutality were recorded, at a rate of nearly three deaths per day. This situation is partly due to law enforcement policies that tend to protect their members at the expense of conducting serious investigations into killings, hindering effective accountability efforts.

Even more alarmingly, more than half of police-related killings are inaccurately classified in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's official death database as general homicides or suicides, obscuring the extent of these violations.

In addition, mass shootings have become one of the most serious threats to the right to life in the United States. Armed attacks on schools and educational institutions are part of the country's escalating gun violence crisis. According to data reviewed by the alliance, 388 mass shootings were recorded during the first eight months of 2024, including 23 mass killings. Gun violence also claimed the lives of 988 people under the age of 17, some of them in mass shootings in public places, including educational institutions.

A shocking example was the shooting at Apalachee High School in Georgia, which left four people dead and nine others injured. Faced with this growing crisis, some schools have taken extreme measures, such as arming teachers, in an attempt to counter the growing threat. This reflects the gravity of the current situation and the failure of current policies to address the structural roots of this problem.

¹ Ratification, Reporting & Documentation for United States of America, Treaty Body Database, <https://2h.ae/wfUt>

² Report of the Human Rights Council on its forty-sixth session, <https://docs.un.org/ar/A/HRC/46/2>

2. Prisons and Detention Facilities

During the last Universal Periodic Review in November 2020, the US government accepted recommendations to improve conditions at detention centers at Guantanamo Bay. However, serious violations persist at these facilities³, revealing a continued escalation in detention policies. In January 2025, the US President issued an order expanding the detention of immigrants at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba to 30,000 people, representing a dangerous escalation in detention policies and exposing migrants and asylum seekers to severe physical and psychological risks.

The mass deportation of tens of thousands of immigrants detained at Guantanamo Bay directly threatens the right to health care and increases the risk of torture and ill-treatment. In this context, reports reviewed by the alliance indicate a severe shortage of medical facilities on the base, as well as a lack of specialized personnel, which constitutes a blatant violation of detainees' rights. Detainees are also forced to wear protective goggles during transfers through the base, and their communications with their attorneys are monitored, violating the right to legal counsel⁴.

In addition, some detention facilities suffer from inhumane conditions, such as rat infestations and sewage overflowing into cells, rendering them uninhabitable. According to reports, immigrants detained in these facilities are often denied legal representation or a fair trial prior to their deportation, raising concerns about arbitrary detention and degrading treatment⁵.

Across the board, the United States is one of the world's largest users of prisons, housing approximately 25% of the world's total prison population, equivalent to approximately 2 million prisoners. These prisoners are forced to work in prisons, producing billions of dollars' worth of goods and services annually, for extremely low wages, as low as 2-3% of the federal minimum wage, or in some cases, no wages at all. Despite these economic contributions, prisoners do not enjoy any labor rights or benefits and are charged exorbitant fees for basic services inside prisons, exacerbating their suffering.

Furthermore, estimates reviewed by the alliance revealed that more than 14,000 immigrants were held in solitary confinement between 2018 and 2023, for periods exceeding the legal limit of 15 days, which constitutes torture under international standards. Many former detainees reported being subjected to systematic humiliation and torture, including strip searches, sexual assault, being photographed while shackled and naked, and being denied water. Muslim detainees were also denied halal food, a flagrant violation of freedom of

³ Ibid

⁴ Trump Administration Use of Guantánamo to Detain Immigrants Threatens Abuse, Inhumane Conditions, Health Harms: PHR, Relief Web, <https://2h.ae/HxkM>

⁵ "A Dangerous Precedent:" CLINIC Warns of Potential Rights Abuses in Guantánamo Migrant Detention, Clinic Legal, <https://2h.ae/bEId>

religion⁶.

US authorities continue to detain immigrants in overcrowded and inhumane facilities for prolonged periods, where detainees are intentionally denied adequate food, clean water, and healthcare, leading to the deaths of several in custody. In Torrance County, New Mexico, reports documented systematic torture inside detention centers, with guards waking detainees every 15 minutes by violently banging on doors and shining bright lights into cells. Blankets and tissues used by detainees to plug holes in their cells are removed during cold nights, exposing them to extreme suffering. Additionally, toilets are left unattended for extended periods, forcing detainees to sleep in filth, in an environment that violates basic human standards.

Third: Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

1. The Right to Health

The International alliance notes the legal guarantees provided by US federal law regarding the provision of health care to individuals regardless of their legal status. US law does not require US citizenship or a Social Security number to receive health services. The law also prohibits healthcare providers from refusing treatment based on a patient's legal status, or assumptions about their language, appearance, or health insurance. Furthermore, hospitals with emergency departments are legally obligated to examine and treat patients in critical conditions⁷.

Despite these legal guarantees, the high costs of healthcare and medication represent a significant barrier for millions of Americans. Recent statistics indicate that 25% of US citizens cannot afford the medications they are prescribed due to the high prices charged by pharmaceutical companies⁸. This forces them to postpone or forgo treatment, exacerbating their health conditions and threatening their lives. Reports reviewed by the alliance also indicate that 48% of citizens with health insurance face difficulty paying their monthly health insurance premiums, increasing their concerns about obtaining the necessary medical care. Additionally, nearly three-quarters of adults in the United States express concerns about their inability to afford medical expenses for themselves and their families⁹.

2. The Right to Education

The International Alliance for Peace and Development documented a number of systematic practices that impede the right to education in the United States following the fourth UPR

⁶ Federal Records Show Increasing Use of Solitary Confinement for Immigrants, New York Times, <https://2h.ae/LPgV>

⁷ Know Your Rights: Health Care and Health Insurance for Immigrants, NILC, <https://2h.ae/leYU>

⁸ Medicare for All 2023, Fact-Sheet, <https://2h.ae/LNSg>

⁹ Americans' Challenges with Health Care Costs, KFF, <https://2h.ae/kENO>

review. These violations targeted international students, particularly Chinese students, disrupting their educational journeys due to discriminatory practices and unjustified security restrictions. In January 2024, a Chinese student was detained twice by US Customs and Border Protection while on her flight. She was subjected to a humiliating body search by security personnel and forced, under the threat of guns and electric shocks, to accept deportation orders from the United States.

In another incident, a Chinese student from Johns Hopkins University was deported under the pretext that the US Embassy in China had revoked her visa. However, it later emerged that this decision was an arbitrary action by US Customs and Border Protection, not an embassy decision.

US Customs and Border Protection also manipulates student complaint records and often fails to respond to inquiries from American universities regarding their international students. This unjustified response by the authorities forced the students to abandon their studies and leave the United States.

The alliance believes that these actions constitute an unjustified politicization of the educational process, where security and immigration issues are used as a tool to undermine scientific and cultural cooperation between countries. This approach violates international standards guaranteeing the right to education without discrimination and contradicts American academic traditions, which have long encouraged openness and scholarly exchange.

3. The Right to Work

Although US laws prohibit employment discrimination based on race, gender, or national origin, members of racial minorities, particularly Black people, continue to face discriminatory practices in the labor market, limiting their opportunities and negatively impacting their economic situation. Data reviewed by the International Alliance for Peace and Development reveals that 34% of job applicants in 2023 were subjected to discriminatory questions during job interviews, prompting some to change their names to conceal their ethnicity to avoid rejection. Black people face discrimination in hiring in the technology, science, and engineering sectors, where they represent only 6% of workers in these fields. They also lack adequate support in the workplace¹⁰.

In a related context, the alliance notes that the federal minimum wage has not been increased since 2009, leaving approximately 29.9 million people in the United States struggling to meet their basic needs, including difficulty buying food or paying rent. This situation has led to a series of labor strikes in sectors such as health, media, manufacturing, film, and television, as

¹⁰ Black workers' views and experiences in the U.S. labor force stand out in key ways, PEW, <https://2h.ae/XAQI>

workers demand improved wages and working conditions.

Moreover, Black people are paid less than their white counterparts, with the median weekly earnings for workers over the age of 16 being \$878 in 2022, compared to \$1,059 for white workers. Black nursing workers also suffer from lower wages and longer working hours than their peers of other races¹¹. This disparity reflects the persistence of racial discrimination in the American labor market.

Fourth: Rights of Priority Groups

1. Women's Rights

Despite the United States' continued progress in women's rights, there are still some violations affecting various aspects of women's lives, highlighting shortcomings in this area. The International Alliance for Peace and Development attributes this shortcoming to the United States' failure to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Furthermore, the U.S. Constitution does not explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sex, unlike the constitutions of most UN member states¹².

Moreover, millions of women in the United States suffer from a lack of access to quality and appropriate healthcare. It is estimated that at least 2.2 million women of reproductive age do not receive their full rights to obstetric care, while another 4.8 million women face barriers to accessing maternity care. This reality also reveals systemic racial discrimination in the healthcare sector, with African-American mothers at significantly higher risk than women of other races. According to statistics, the maternal mortality rate for African-American women is 70 deaths per 100,000 live births, three times the rate for white women. Infant mortality among African-American women is also high, at 11 deaths per 1,000 live births, twice the rate for infants of other races.

These figures highlight the painful reality of racial discrimination in the American healthcare system, where African-American women suffer from a lack of access to quality healthcare, in addition to implicit racist practices that negatively impact the quality of medical services provided to them¹³.

2. Children's Rights

The United States is the only country that has not yet ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It has often left the responsibility for regulating many children's rights to state

¹¹ Ibid

¹² Women's Rights Organizations Raise Concerns with The UN Over the US's Failure to Uphold Human Rights of Women and Girls, equality now, <https://2h.ae/bLyp>

¹³ Ibid

governments rather than the federal government, exposing children's fundamental rights to multiple risks. According to research reviewed by the Alliance, laws in 22 US states allow children to be sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole, while 41 states allow child marriage, and only nine states enforce a legal minimum age for marriage¹⁴.

In addition, children in the United States face legally sanctioned physical violence in both educational institutions and homes. Laws permit corporal punishment in schools in all but three states, and all states permit corporal punishment in homes provided it does not cause serious injury, facilitating domestic violence and child abuse under legal protection. Regarding child labor, the Alliance notes that federal laws allow children to work in agriculture before the age of 18, sometimes full-time and in unsafe conditions. Nearly half of all states do not set a minimum age for workers in this sector, resulting in children as young as seven working on farms, deprived of their rights to education and recreation, and exposed to serious health risks¹⁵.

In the health sector, studies reviewed by the alliance reveal that between April and October 2023, 20 US states excluded approximately 1.8 million children from government health insurance programs, posing a serious threat to children's health, particularly in poor and middle-income families. Furthermore, an estimated 62% of unaccompanied migrant children in the United States are exploited in crimes related to drug trafficking and pornography production, reflecting a serious gap in legal protection mechanisms for children¹⁶.

Fifth: Recommendations

- Consider ratifying international human rights treaties that the United States has not yet ratified, including conventions on women's rights, children's rights, and the rights of persons with disabilities.
- Consider amending national and local legislation to ensure its compliance with international human rights standards, as well as adherence to pledges accepted by the United States under the Universal Periodic Review mechanism.
- Consider passing federal legislation regulating arms sales, including the establishment of a national registry of all types of weapons, including small arms, to ensure enhanced public safety and reduce gun-related violence.
- Ensure non-discrimination against detainees based on their religion or ethnicity, and work to improve detention conditions to comply with international human rights standards.
- Consider implementing recommendations related to closing illegal detention centers such as Guantanamo Bay, ending the practice of mass deportations of migrants and asylum seekers, and ensuring respect for human rights in all deportation procedures.

¹⁴ A Big New Report on American Children Is Out. It's Horrific., SLATE, <https://2h.ae/JQlt>

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ Ibid

- Ensure humane detention conditions that respect the rights of detainees, and ensure the prevention of abuses within places of detention, especially those faced by women, migrants, and religious minorities.