



**Supplement Submission to the Universal
Periodic Review of the United States of America**

53rd Session

Human Rights Watch

April 2026

Introduction

1. In this submission Human Rights Watch offers information to supplement our April 2025 written contribution¹ to inform the United States' Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. This submission is based on Human Rights Watch's own investigations and reporting between April 2025 and March 2026.²

Rights Violations Linked to Immigration Enforcement Racial Discrimination, Excessive Use of Force, and other Abuses

2. In its 2020 national report, the United States stated that several UPR recommendations focusing on civil rights and non-discrimination³ wrongly assumed that "the United States and federal, state and local governments engage in 'systemic' racial discrimination, racial profiling, and that federal, state and local law enforcement officers are regularly engaged in excessive uses of force."⁴ The second This was never a defensible statement, but the second Trump administration's policies have offered stark new evidence that these abuses are pervasive and real.

3. Human Rights Watch has documented racial profiling and excessive use of force in immigration enforcement operations in Los Angeles,⁵ and Minneapolis.⁶ Many of these operations have relied in large part on arresting and detaining people based on their perceived race, ethnicity, or national origin.⁷

4. During the first few weeks of 2026, federal agents in Minneapolis shot and killed two American citizens, Renee Good and Alex Pretti, who were observing immigration operations.⁸ The agents were members of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP), agencies under the US Department of

¹ Human Rights Watch, *Submission to the Human Rights Council, Universal Periodic Review of the United States*, April 2, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/04/02/submission-universal-periodic-review-united-states-america>.

² Additional information on the human rights issues in the United States can be found Human Rights Watch, *United States – World Report 2026*, February 2026, <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2026/country-chapters/united-states>.

³ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, United States of America, A/HRC/46/15, <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g20/348/52/pdf/g2034852.pdf> (accessed April 8, 2026), para. 26 (Recs 127–129, 137, 139, 141, 143, 144–146, 148–149, 151, 152, 154, 155, 156, 214, 215, 220, 221, 223, 225, 227, 228, 276, 287).

⁴ *National Report of the United States of America, Third UPR Cycle*, A/HRC/WG.6/36/USA/1, August 13, 2020, para. 91, <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/US-report-on-UPR-13-Aug-2020.pdf> (accessed March 30, 2026).

⁵ Human Rights Watch, "ICE Abuses in Los Angeles Set Stage for Other Cities," November 4, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/11/04/us-ice-abuses-in-los-angeles-set-stage-for-other-cities>; Human Rights Watch, "Excessive Force Against LA Protestors," August 18, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/08/18/us-excessive-force-against-la-protesters>

⁶ Human Rights Watch, "State Violence and Community Resistance in Minnesota," February 11, 2026, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/02/11/state-violence-and-community-resistance-in-minnesota>.

⁷ Human Rights Watch, "ICE Abuses in Los Angeles Set Stage for Other Cities," November 4, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/11/04/us-ice-abuses-in-los-angeles-set-stage-for-other-cities>.

⁸ Human Rights Watch, "State Violence and Community Resistance in Minnesota," February 11, 2026, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/02/11/state-violence-and-community-resistance-in-minnesota>.

Homeland Security (DHS). Officers from these agencies have been responsible for the shooting deaths of at least two other people since September 2025, including Silverio Villegas González⁹ and Isaias Sanchez Barboza.¹⁰

5. Human Rights Watch's investigations and those of others indicate that these killings are part of a broader pattern of immigration enforcement officers' use of excessive force during immigration operations.¹¹ In Minneapolis, Los Angeles, and other communities across the US, federal immigration enforcement agents have violently attacked individuals, broken car windows and front doors, hurt people, and operated masked, without visible identification, part of a national campaign of terror.¹²

6. As further evidence of excessive actions by law enforcement, high-speed vehicle pursuits conducted during immigration operations have killed individuals, including people not involved in the pursuit.¹³ In recent years, just over 300 people have been injured and at least 106 people have been killed in the state of Texas alone due to immigration-related high speed vehicle pursuits.¹⁴

Abusive Immigration Detention

7. As a result of the abusive immigration enforcement operations described above and the Trump administration's policy decision to detain "aliens apprehended" "to the maximum extent authorized by law,"¹⁵ the overall ICE detention population has increased by 75 percent from around 40,000 people in January 2025 to about 70,000 in February 2026,¹⁶ including families with children.¹⁷

⁹ Human Rights Watch, "Investigate Death of Mexican National During ICE Stop," September 16, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/09/16/investigate-death-of-mexican-national-during-ice-stop>.

¹⁰ Jon Schuppe and Erik Ortiz, "Trump's DHS immigration enforcement officers have shot 14 people since September. Here's what to know," *NBC News*, January 16, 2026, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/ice-shootings-list-border-patrol-trump-immigration-operations-rcna254202>.

¹¹ Human Rights Watch, "Minneapolis Killing by ICE Unjustified," August 18, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/01/09/us-minneapolis-killing-by-ice-unjustified>; Human Rights Watch, "Excessive Force Against LA Protesters," August 18, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/08/18/us-excessive-force-against-la-protesters>.

¹² Human Rights Watch, "Masked Federal Agents Undermine Rule of Law," December 16, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/12/16/masked-federal-agents-undermine-rule-law>.

¹³ Human Rights Watch, "Stricter Rules Needed Around DHS Vehicle Pursuits," March 5, 2026, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/03/05/stricter-rules-needed-around-dhs-vehicle-pursuits>.

¹⁴ Human Rights Watch, "Texas Vehicle Pursuits Kill at Least 106, Injure 301," <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/02/13/us-texas-vehicle-pursuits-kill-least-106-injure-301>.

¹⁵ Executive Order, "Protecting the American People Against Invasion," January 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/protecting-the-american-people-against-invasion/>.

¹⁶ Eric Westervelt, Anusha Mathur, Brent Jones, "ICE's Growing Detention Footprint and the Communities Fighting Back," *National Public Radio*, March 23, 2026, <https://www.npr.org/2026/03/23/g-s1-114107/ices-growing-detention-footprint-and-the-communities-fighting-back>.

¹⁷ Alejandro Serrano, "Feds are Opening More Detention Centers in Texas as Trump Administration Steps up Deportations," *Texas Tribune*, March 14, 2025, <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/03/14/texas-immigration-migrant-detention-centers/>.

8. Human Rights Watch has documented arrests and detention, as well as detention conditions, that are not in accordance with US law, policy, or international obligations. Increasingly, ICE has arbitrarily detained noncitizens for prolonged periods without access to bond or parole. Since 2025, ICE has wrongly arrested US citizens, as well as noncitizens seeking to follow legal processes. Overcrowding has dramatically worsened conditions in some facilities.¹⁸ The government also is using facilities not designed for civil detention, including Camp East Montana on a military site in Texas where conditions of detention are substandard, abusive, and dangerous.¹⁹

9. In our July 2025 investigation of immigration detention in Florida, we documented cases of people shackled for prolonged periods on buses near the Krome detention facility without food, water, or functioning toilets.²⁰ Women were sometimes held in a male-only facility without access to showers or medical care.²¹ During one incident, officers made men eat while shackled with their hands behind their backs: “We had to bend over and eat off the chairs with our mouths, like dogs,” one man said.²²

10. For decades, Human Rights Watch has documented how ICE has subjected hundreds of thousands²³ of people in detention to a system characterized by pervasive examples of abusive treatment,²⁴ medical neglect and substandard care,²⁵ and prolonged solitary confinement.²⁶

11. ICE deported 363 pregnant, postpartum, or nursing women between January 1, 2025, and February 16, 2026, according to DHS. DHS reported that “(a)s of February 16, 2026, there were 86 detainees that were identified as pregnant in ICE detention” including 9 in

¹⁸ Human Rights Watch, *You Feel Like Your Life Is Over: Abusive Practices at Three Florida Immigration Detention Centers Since January 2025*, July 21, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2025/07/21/you-feel-like-your-life-is-over/abusive-practices-at-three-florida-immigration>.

¹⁹ Human Rights Watch, “Close Fort Bliss Immigration Detention Site,” December 8, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/12/08/us-close-fort-bliss-immigration-detention-site>; Michael Biesecker and Ryan J. Foley, “Cuban immigrant in ICE custody died of homicide due to asphyxia, autopsy finds,” *PBS News*, January 22, 2026, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/cuban-immigrant-in-ice-custody-died-of-homicide-due-to-asphyxia-autopsy-finds> (describing the deaths of three individuals at Camp East Montana in just over one month).

²⁰ Human Rights Watch, *You Feel Like Your Life Is Over: Abusive Practices at Three Florida Immigration Detention Centers Since January 2025*, July 21, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2025/07/21/you-feel-like-your-life-is-over/abusive-practices-at-three-florida-immigration>.

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² *Ibid.*

²³ US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, “Detention Statistics,” <https://www.ice.gov/detain/detention-management>, (accessed March 10, 2026).

²⁴ Human Rights Watch, ACLU, NIJC, “Justice Free Zones: US Immigration Detention under the Trump Administration,” April 30, 2020, https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/supporting_resources/justice_free_zones_immigrant_detention.pdf.

²⁵ Human Rights Watch, “Code Red: Fatal Consequences of Dangerously Substandard Medical Care in Immigration Detention,” June 20, 2018, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2018/06/20/code-red/fatal-consequences-dangerously-substandard-medical-care-immigration>, (accessed March 10, 2026).

²⁶ Human Rights Watch, “The US Should End Solitary Confinement of Immigrants,” July 29, 2024, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/07/29/us-should-end-solitary-confinement-immigrants>, (accessed March 10, 2026).

the final trimester, and 16 miscarriages in detention had been recorded by late September 2025 for that same year.²⁷

12. 46 people have died in immigration detention facilities between January 2025 and March 2026, according to US government sources.²⁸

Deportations, Often to Harm, without Due Process

13. In its 2020 national report, the United States claimed immigrants facing removal “receive procedural protections.”²⁹ This has been untrue in hundreds of documented cases.

14. In March 2025, in defiance of regular procedural protections, the Trump administration invoked the 1798 “Alien Enemies Act” (AEA) to forcibly disappear and summarily deport at least 137 Venezuelan nationals to a notorious prison in El Salvador, the Center for Terrorism Confinement (CECOT).³⁰ Another 115 Venezuelans were sent to CECOT through removal proceedings. Human Rights Watch found that the Venezuelans sent to CECOT were held incommunicado, tortured, and in some cases sexually abused.³¹

15. Prior to 2025, the AEA only had been used three times in the context of a war declared by the US Congress. Its use for immigration transfers prompted a federal judge to conclude that the Venezuelans were “denied their due-process rights.”³² Despite and in violation of this ruling and others, most of the men sent to El Salvador have received no further hearings and have been returned to Venezuela.

16. The United States also deported Salvadoran nationals back to El Salvador who faced serious risks of persecution or other human rights abuse there,³³ including dangerous

²⁷ Human Rights Watch, “US Ramps Up Deportation of Pregnant People,” March 20, 2026, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/03/20/us-ramps-up-deportation-of-pregnant-people>.

²⁸ US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, “Detainee Death Reporting,” <https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting> (accessed March 30, 2026).

²⁹ *National Report of the United States of America, Third UPR Cycle*, A/HRC/WG.6/36/USA/1, August 13, 2020, para. 91, <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/US-report-on-UPR-13-Aug-2020.pdf> (accessed March 3, 2026).

³⁰ Human Rights Watch, *Repeal the Alien Enemies Act: A Human Rights Argument*, May 1, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2025/05/01/united-states-repeal-the-alien-enemies-act/a-human-rights-argument>

³¹ Human Rights Watch, *You Have Arrived in Hell: Torture and Other Abuses Against Venezuelans in El Salvador*, November 12, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2025/11/12/you-have-arrived-in-hell/torture-and-other-abuses-against-venezuelans-in-el>.

³² *JGG v Trump*, US District Court for the DC District, December 22, 2025, <https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/69741724/215/jgg-v-trump/>

³³ Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2026*, “El Salvador,” <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2026/country-chapters/el-salvador>.

conditions for people deported there.³⁴ Human Rights Watch documented that El Salvador forcibly disappeared and arbitrarily detained Salvadorans deported from the US since 2025.³⁵ Like most detainees in El Salvador, they were unable to communicate with relatives or lawyers. In five cases, relatives learned about deportees' whereabouts only through the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.³⁶

17. In another example of unjust and inhumane deportations, the Trump administration has sent people to countries they are not citizens of and have no ties to, including Cameroon, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Eswatini, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uzbekistan, and Poland.³⁷ In multiple cases, the Trump administration has used third-country transfers to block access to asylum in the US or to circumvent court orders prohibiting the government from returning people to their countries of origin due to risks of persecution or torture.

18. Given the risks of torture, refoulement, and other abuses in Cameroon, the US violated international law by deporting people there. Human Rights Watch found that Cameroonian authorities detained 16 asylum seekers and a stateless man the US sent there in early 2026, pressuring them to repatriate.³⁸ Three asylum seekers were thereby coerced to repatriate, constituting chain refoulement.

19. The US deported to Costa Rica and Panama hundreds of asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Russia, China, Iran, Cameroon, and other countries in the Middle East, Asia, Europe, and Africa without giving them access to asylum procedures in the United

³⁴ Human Rights Watch, *Deported to Danger: United States Deportation Policies Expose Salvadorans to Death and Abuse*, February 5, 2020, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/02/05/deported-danger/united-states-deportation-policies-expose-salvadorans-death-and>

³⁵ Human Rights Watch, "El Salvador Deportees Forcibly Disappeared," March 16, 2026, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/03/16/us/el-salvador-deportees-forcibly-disappeared>

³⁶ Organization for American States, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, "Resolution No. 82/25 PM 1150-25, 1152-25, 1153-25 - William Alexander Martínez Ruano, José Osmin Santos Robles, and Brandon Bladimir Sigarán Cruz, El Salvador," November 17, 2025, <https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/decisions/mc/precautionary.asp?Country=SLV&Year=2025>

³⁷ Human Rights Watch, "Nobody Cared, Nobody Listened": *The US Expulsion of Third-Country Nationals to Panama*, April 24, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2025/04/24/nobody-cared-nobody-listened/the-us-expulsion-of-third-country-nationals-to>; Human Rights Watch, *The Strategy is to Break Us: The US Expulsion of Third Country Nationals to Costa Rica*, May 22, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2025/05/22/the-strategy-is-to-break-us/the-us-expulsion-of-third-country-nationals-to-costa>; Human Rights Watch, "El Salvador Torture of Venezuelan Deportees," November 12, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/11/12/us/el-salvador-torture-of-venezuelan-deportees>; Thomas Naadi, "Ghana agrees to accept West Africans deported from US," BBC News, September 11, 2025, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c9v7m0pgv8no>; Human Rights Watch, "Abuses in Cameroon after US Depports Third Country Nationals," February 20, 2026, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/02/20/abuses-in-cameroon-after-us-deports-third-country-nationals>; Human Rights Watch, "US-Africa Expulsion Deal Flouts Rights," September 23, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/09/23/us/africa-expulsion-deals-flout-rights>.

³⁸ Human Rights Watch, "Abuses in Cameroon after US Depports Third Country Nationals," February 20, 2026, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/02/20/abuses-in-cameroon-after-us-deports-third-country-nationals>.

States.³⁹

20. The Trump administration has also revived “asylum cooperative agreements” with El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, and made new agreements with Belize, Ecuador, Paraguay, Rwanda, and Uganda.⁴⁰ As a result, based on the notion that third countries will hear claims, US immigration judges have begun “pretermissions”—denying asylum claims without a full hearing and ordering deportations to dangerous countries, where people have no community or familial ties and in many cases are unable to access full and fair asylum hearings.⁴¹

21. In March 2026, a six-year-old immigrant was detained and deported from the United States with his mother, and relatives were not allowed to deliver the child’s hearing aids to him in detention.⁴²

Recommendations (paragraphs 2-21):

- Withdraw all rights-violating executive orders, regulations, and policies relating to immigration promulgated since January 2025.
- Ensure fair treatment under the law, including the due process rights and procedural protections during all immigration processes.
- Ensure accessibility in immigration procedures for people with disabilities, including sign language, alternative communication formats, assistive

³⁹ Hamed Aleaziz, Annie Correal, Maria Abi-Habib, and Julie Turkewitz, “U.S. Deports Migrants From Asia to Panama,” *New York Times*, February 13, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/13/us/politics/trump-deportations-panama.html>; Human Rights Watch, *The Strategy is to Break Us: The US Expulsion of Third Country Nationals to Costa Rica*, May 22, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2025/05/22/the-strategy-is-to-break-us/the-us-expulsion-of-third-country-nationals-to-costa>; Human Rights Watch, *Nobody Cared, Nobody Listened: The US Expulsion of Third-Country Nationals to Panama*, April 24, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2025/04/24/nobody-cared-nobody-listened/the-us-expulsion-of-third-country-nationals-to>.

⁴⁰ Camilo Montoya-Galvez, “Trump Eyes Asylum Agreement with El Salvador to Deport Migrants There,” *CBS News*, January 27, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-eyes-asylum-agreement-el-salvador-deportation-migrants/>; Immigration Policy Tracking Project, Guatemala Agreement, <https://immpolicytracking.org/policies/united-states-and-guatemala-sign-asylum-cooperative-agreement/#/tab-policy-documents>; Immigration Policy Tracking Project, Honduras Agreement, <https://immpolicytracking.org/policies/united-states-and-honduras-sign-asylum-cooperative-agreement/#/tab-policy-documents>; Immigration Policy Tracking Project, Belize Agreement, <https://immpolicytracking.org/policies/united-states-and-belize-sign-asylum-cooperative-agreement/#/tab-policy-documents>; Immigration Policy Tracking Project, Ecuador Agreement, <https://immpolicytracking.org/policies/united-states-and-ecuador-sign-asylum-cooperative-agreement/#/tab-policy-documents>; Immigration Policy Tracking Project, Paraguay Agreement, <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/08/signing-of-a-safe-third-country-agreement-with-paraguay/>; Immigration Policy Tracking Project, Uganda Agreement, <https://immpolicytracking.org/policies/united-states-and-uganda-sign-asylum-cooperative-agreement/#/tab-policy-documents>.

⁴¹ National Immigration Project, and Center for Gender and Refugee Studies, “Practice Advisory: Fighting for a Day in Court: Understanding and Responding to Pretermission of Asylum Applications,” August 27, 2025, <https://resources.humanrightsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/advisory-avoiding-pretermission-1.pdf>

⁴² Human Rights Watch, “Child in the US Deprived of Hearing Aids During Deportation,” March 10, 2026, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/03/10/child-in-the-us-deprived-of-hearing-aids-during-deportation>.

technologies, and individualized accommodations.

- Halt all deportations/transfers to third countries that violate due process or concern people with pending or recognized protection claims.
- Repeal the Alien Enemies Act.
- Use immigration detention only when necessary and for the shortest time needed, use alternatives to immigration detention wherever possible, and ensure all conditions (including medical and mental health care) in detention facilities comport with US law, policy, and international standards.
- Cease detaining children.
- Adhere scrupulously to ICE's existing policy of not detaining pregnant, postpartum, and nursing women absent exceptional circumstances, unless required by law.
- Ensure accountability for abuses in all US facilities used for immigration detention.
- Ensure accountability for all incidents of excessive use of force by immigration enforcement officers, and for all preventable deaths in detention.
- Create oversight and accountability mechanisms for all entities engaged in US immigration law and policy, including but not limited to DHS and its agencies and the Department of Justice's Executive Office for Immigration Review.

Civil and Political Rights, Including Racial Justice

Policing, Incarceration, and Excessive Sentences

22. In its 2020 UPR cycle, the United States supported recommendations to reform its criminal legal system, including reducing harsh sentencing, police violence, and racial discrimination.⁴³

23. Instead, using a variety of measures, the Trump administration has worked to loosen accountability over local law enforcement while expanding federal influence over them.⁴⁴ Its policies create perverse incentives at odds with rights-respecting policing.⁴⁵ When officers face fewer consequences for misconduct alongside pressure to work in alignment with federal rights-abusive policies, trust is lost and policed communities

⁴³ Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, United States of America, Addendum,, A/HRC/46/15/Add.1, March 4, 2021, Paras. 6 (Recs. 134, 135, 142, 220, 223, 225-228, 230, 232-236, 249, 250, 256-260, 262, 270, 271), 9 (Recs. 218, 221, 237, 241, 247, 252, 253, 263), and 10 (Rec. 251), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/46/15/Add.1> (accessed March 10, 2026).

⁴⁴ Executive Order, "Strengthening and Unleashing Americas Law Enforcement to Pursue Criminals and Protect Innocent Citizens," April 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/strengthening-and-unleashing-americas-law-enforcement-to-pursue-criminals-and-protect-innocent-citizens/>.

⁴⁵ Human Rights Watch, "Roadmap on Re-imagining Public Safety in the United States," August 12, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/08/12/roadmap-re-imagining-public-safety-united-states>.

shoulder the resulting legal, financial, and human toll.⁴⁶

24. The United States remains among the world's leaders in incarceration; its prisons and jails disproportionately filled with people of color.⁴⁷

25. Under the second Trump administration, 47 people were executed in 2025—the highest number of executions in 16 years—and 7 have been executed thus far in 2026.⁴⁸

Voting Rights

26. In its 2020 national report, the United States asserted, "Our elections are open and genuinely free and fair."⁴⁹

27. The proposed Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act,⁵⁰ supported by President Donald Trump, would have the opposite effect. The Act claims to address⁵¹ voter fraud. In reality, it builds on a history of voter suppression in the US and would require US citizens to register by presenting passports or birth certificates, documents many US citizens do not have. Alternative pathways to registration under the Act risk being burdensome and, to many, a real barrier to registering and voting. This impact would be felt in particular by people whose names change, such as women and trans people⁵², and people from historically marginalized racial groups.⁵³

Attacks on Racial Justice, Civic Participation, Free Expression

28. Senior US government officials⁵⁴ have targeted civil society groups with threats of prosecution that conflate protected expression with criminal conduct, raising serious due process and free speech concerns.⁵⁵ The administration also deployed national guard

⁴⁶ Human Rights Watch, "Trump's Policing Policies Threaten Human Rights," May 27, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/05/27/trumps-policing-policies-threaten-human-rights>

⁴⁷ Wendy Sawyer and Peter Wagner, "Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2025," Prison Policy Initiative, March 11, 2025, <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2025.html> (accessed March 12, 2026).

⁴⁸ Death Penalty Information Center, "Executions in the United States," <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/executions/2025-2>.

⁴⁹ *National Report of the United States of America, Third UPR Cycle*, A/HRC/WG.6/36/USA/1, August 13, 2020, para. 5, <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/US-report-on-UPR-13-Aug-2020.pdf> (accessed March 3, 2026).

⁵⁰ The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, January 30, 2026, <https://www.congress.gov/119/bills/hr7296/BILLS-119hr7296ih.pdf>.

⁵¹ The Brennan Center, "Briefing Memo: Debunking the Voter Fraud Myth," October 2017, https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/analysis/Briefing_Memo_Debunking_Voter_Fraud_Myth.pdf

⁵² Human Rights Watch, "SAVE America Act Would Harm Women and Trans People," March 20, 2026, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/03/30/save-americas-act-would-harm-women-trans-people>

⁵³ Human Rights Watch, "The SAVE Act Threatens Voting Rights," February 10, 2026, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/02/10/the-save-act-threatens-voting-rights>.

⁵⁴ Human Rights Watch, "Trump Targets Opponents in Sweeping Memorandum," September 26, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/09/26/us-trump-targets-opponents-in-sweeping-memorandum>.

⁵⁵ Human Rights Watch, "Trump's Selective Defense of Protest," January 21, 2026, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/01/21/trumps-selective-defense-of-protest>.

personnel in places where their use was dangerous and unwarranted.

29. The Trump administration dismantled systems of accountability created to protect against racial discrimination, prevent violations of the right to vote,⁵⁶ and address other human rights violations in the United States as well as hold those responsible for abuses to account.⁵⁷

30. The Trump administration has curtailed the government's publication and acceptance of historically accurate information about enslavement and its legacies, including structural racism in the United States.⁵⁸

Recommendations (paragraphs 22-30):

- Ensure that US law enforcement policies are not discriminatory, unwarranted, or disproportionate.
- Ensure police accountability for abuse and refrain from dangerous and unwarranted use of military for civilian law enforcement purposes.
- Adopt measures to reduce incarceration and end extreme sentencing, including by ending capital punishment in the United States.
- Do not enact the SAVE Act or similar legislation, instead adopt policies that make voting easier for every eligible voter in the United States.
- Protect the rights to free speech and assembly.
- Reinstate and strengthen mechanisms of accountability and protections against racial and other forms of discrimination.

Health & Environment, Women's Health, and LGBT Rights

Environmental Rollbacks and Health Impacts

⁵⁶ Human Rights Watch, "Civil Rights Watchdog under Assault by Trump Administration," May 6, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/05/06/civil-rights-watchdog-under-assault-trump-administration>.

⁵⁷ Human Rights Watch, "President Trump's Efforts to Defy Accountability," May 7, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/05/07/president-trumps-efforts-defy-accountability>.

⁵⁸ Human Rights Watch, "The Trump Administration's Assaults on Black History," April 10, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/04/10/trump-administrations-assaults-black-history>.

⁵⁹ Human Rights Watch, "US Retreat from Global Climate Cooperation Threatens Rights," January 12, 2026, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/01/12/us-retreat-from-global-climate-cooperation-threatens-rights>.

31. The United States has withdrawn from international cooperation on the climate crisis,⁵⁹ ceased considering the value of human life when assessing pollutant limits,⁶⁰ rolled back protections against mercury pollution⁶¹ and other toxins,⁶² curbed or ended regulations of climate-warming pollutants,⁶³ and revoked its own scientific finding that greenhouse gases endanger the public.⁶⁴ These will substantially harm Americans' health, particularly children, pregnant women, and communities of color who are most likely to live near fossil fuel infrastructure.⁶⁵

Women's Health

32. The US government claimed in its 2020 national report that it is committed to providing women "life-saving services and helping women and children thrive."⁶⁶ However, the US continues to have the highest maternal mortality rate among high-income nations, even as it seeks to further limit access to reproductive health.⁶⁷ Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy related cause than white women.⁶⁸ Finally, rollbacks on access to abortion continue under the Trump administration, including a policy that imposes barriers to access for 2.1 million women military veterans.⁶⁹

⁵⁹ Human Rights Watch, "US Retreat from Global Climate Cooperation Threatens Rights," January 12, 2026, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/01/12/us-retreat-from-global-climate-cooperation-threatens-rights>.

⁶⁰ Human Rights Watch, "US Will Stop Considering Pollution's Cost to Health," January 15, 2026, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/01/15/us-will-stop-considering-pollutions-cost-to-health>

⁶¹ Human Rights Watch, "Mercury Latest Trump Rollback of Environmental Protections," February 20, 2026, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/02/20/mercury-latest-trump-rollback-of-environmental-protections>.

⁶² Human Rights Watch, "US Congress Moves to Weaken Controls on 'Super-Toxics'," May 27, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/05/27/us-congress-moves-weaken-controls-super-toxics>.

⁶³ Human Rights Watch, "US Greenhouse Gas Deregulation Hurts Reproductive Rights," February 12, 2026, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/02/12/us-greenhouse-gas-deregulation-hurts-reproductive-rights>.

⁶⁴ Human Rights Watch, "US Moves to Kill Ability to Regulate Greenhouse Gases," July 30, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/07/30/us-moves-to-kill-ability-to-regulate-greenhouse-gases>.

⁶⁵ Human Rights Watch, "New Report Warns Trump EPA Undermining Health," March 6, 2026, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/03/06/new-report-warns-trump-epa-undermining-health>.

⁶⁶ *National Report of the United States of America, Third UPR Cycle*, A/HRC/WG.6/36/USA/1, August 13, 2020, para. 66, <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/US-report-on-UPR-13-Aug-2020.pdf> (accessed March 3, 2026).

⁶⁷ Munira Z. Gunja et. al, "Insights into the U.S. Maternal Mortality Crisis: An International Comparison," *The Commonwealth Fund*, June 4, 2024, <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2024/jun/insights-us-maternal-mortality-crisis-international-comparison> (accessed March 3, 2026); Human Rights Watch, "US Abortion Restrictions Causing Preventable Deaths," March 6, 2026, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/03/06/us-abortion-restrictions-causing-preventable-deaths>.

⁶⁸ Center for Disease Control, "Working Together to Reduce Black Maternal Mortality," April 8, 2024, <https://www.cdc.gov/womens-health/features/maternal-mortality.html> (accessed March 3, 2026).

⁶⁹ Human Rights Watch, "US to Cut Veterans' Abortion Access," January 26, 2026, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/01/26/us-to-cut-veterans-abortion-access>.

LGBT+ Rights

33. In its 2020 UPR cycle, the United States supported recommendations to “fully implement laws” to prohibit discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people.⁷⁰ The current administration has done the opposite.

34. We reported on trans youth experiencing anxiety, depression, and suicide attempts. Some said such feelings were exacerbated by federal and state governments’ anti-trans laws and policies which create a hostile, anti-trans climate, endangering youth and destabilizing health care systems.⁷¹

35. As of April 2026, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas prohibit people from updating the gender marker on their driver’s licenses. These states together with Idaho, Montana, and South Dakota prohibit gender marker updates of birth certificates.⁷² At the federal level, the US State Department has stopped issuing passports with a gender other than one’s sex assigned at birth.⁷³ These laws expose many transgender people to discrimination and violence by forcing them to carry documents inconsistent with their identity and gender presentation. This threatens other rights, including people’s ability to travel and vote, unless and until they obtain new identification inconsistent with their gender identity.⁷⁴

36. The Trump administration removed gender-affirming care from the health care services covered under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program,⁷⁵ eroding health care coverage for more than 8 million people.⁷⁶

⁷⁰ Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, United States of America, Addendum, A/HRC/46/15/Add.1, Para. 6 (Recs. 146-148).

⁷¹ Human Rights Watch, “US: Bans on Gender-Affirming Care Harms Trans Youth,” June 3, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/06/03/us-bans-on-gender-affirming-care-harm-trans-youth>.

⁷² Movement Advancement Project, “Identity Document Laws and Policies,” accessed March 3, 2026, https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/identity_documents.

⁷³ Human Rights Watch, “US Supreme Court Allows Discriminatory Passport Rule,” November 10, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/11/10/us-supreme-court-allows-discriminatory-passport-rule>.

⁷⁴ Human Rights Watch, “US State Revokes Gender-Affirming Identification,” March 3, 2026, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/03/03/us-state-revokes-gender-affirming-identification>.

⁷⁵ Letter from the US Office of Personnel Management to all FEHB and PSHB Carriers, <https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/carriers/fehb/2025/2025-01b.pdf> (accessed March 3, 2026).

⁷⁶ Human Rights Watch, “Trump Moves to Restrict Gender-Affirming Care to Federal Workers, Families,” September 9, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/09/09/trump-moves-to-restrict-gender-affirming-care-to-federal-workers-families>

⁷⁷ ACLU, “Mapping Attacks on LGBTQ Rights in US State Legislatures in 2026,” updated March 20, 2026, <https://www.aclu.org/legislative-attacks-on-lgbtq-rights-2026>

37. Broadly, more than 400 anti-LGBT bills are currently pending before state legislatures.⁷⁷

Health and Other Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

38. The July 2025 federal budget extended tax cuts benefiting the wealthiest and cut federal assistance to programs for health, food, and social protection for millions of people. The budget restricts Medicaid, health insurance for lower-income people, which will likely cause about 11.8 million people to lose coverage by 2034 and result in an estimated tens of thousands of additional deaths each year.⁷⁸

39. The Trump administration has increasingly allowed ideology to shape health policy, restricting access to evidence-based federal health guidance, and weakening public health institutions. The Department of Health and Human Services has removed important health information from its website, cut public health divisions and expert committees, and undercut immunization policy with politically driven interventions not consistent with scientific guidance. Collectively, these actions will disproportionately harm communities already facing structural barriers to care.⁷⁹

40. Congress' failure to extend Affordable Care Act subsidies beyond 2025 dramatically increased healthcare costs for millions, disproportionately harmed older adults and middle-income households, and were set to render an estimated 4.8 million people uninsured.⁸⁰

Recommendations (paragraphs 31-40):

- Reinstate environmental regulations and policies intended to curb climate change, reduce environmental toxicity, and ensure the health of all people in the United States.
- Ensure access to maternal and reproductive healthcare, including abortion access, for all people in the United States.

⁷⁷ ACLU, "Mapping Attacks on LGBTQ Rights in US State Legislatures in 2026," updated March 20, 2026, <https://www.aclu.org/legislative-attacks-on-lgbtq-rights-2026>

⁷⁸ Human Rights Watch, "US: Budget Would Benefit Wealthiest at Expense of Rights," July 1, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/07/01/us-budget-would-benefit-wealthiest-at-expense-of-rights>.

⁷⁹ Human Rights Watch, "US: Informed Health Choices Harder under Trump," October 3, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/10/03/us-informed-health-choices-harder-under-trump>.

⁸⁰ Human Rights Watch, "US: Millions Face Soaring Health Costs as Subsidies Expire," November 5, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/11/05/us-millions-face-soaring-health-costs-as-subsidies-expire>.

- Enact comprehensive state and federal legislation prohibiting discrimination based on both sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Repeal federal and state bans on gender-affirming care and adopt policies to ensure it is accessible.
- Reverse recent tax and budget policies that increase healthcare costs and reduce public funding for health care.
- Restore and protect evidence-based, publicly accessible federal health information systems, ensure the independence of scientific advisory bodies, and adopt policies that guarantee reliable health guidance for all that is based on scientific expertise.