

Stakeholder Submission to UHR review

Submitted by UNA-USA, Santa Barbara & Tri-Counties

This document was created by Nancy Martin with support from our local UNA-USA Chapter, Santa Barbara, and Tri-Counties, California. Our website is www.unasb.org. We feel that it is our responsibility to share the information that we have with the countries reviewing the United States. Respectfully submitted by Nancy J. Martin, UNA-USA, Santa Barbara & Tri-Counties Chapter; martin.nancy78@gmail.com. 1 (805) 845-9399

UPR of the USA

The United Nations Association - United States of America (UNA-USA) consists of local chapters and regional divisions. The stakeholder submission brought together multiple UNA-USA chapters to meet with local officials, including the city council, to identify major issues and mobilize people's responses to realize rights. UNA-USA chapters also invited partners in specific human rights to contribute to the stakeholder submission between December 10 and April 2026. In addition to the UNA-USA chapters and divisions, we also had the national UNA-USA Human Rights Affinity Group coordinate a national webinar series to help UNA-USA members share their recommendations to advance human rights and host in-person meetings in multiple cities and communities to gather input and insights on human rights in our nation.

Issues:

The issues that were focused on were (1) corruption in political rights, (2) environmental rights, (3) immigrant and refugee rights, (4) transgender rights, and (5) women's rights.

(1) Corruption is affecting everyone and all of our human rights in the United States. Large corporations and their owners are donating large sums of money to political parties, and, in return, this administration rewards them with the ability to do what they want. Our federal government and president are threatening anyone who crosses them, including the Pope. See "Faithful America" newsletter from April 9, 2026.

(2) California and Santa Barbara have spent the last two years trying to protect the coastline and ocean after the second oil spill in Santa Barbara coastal waters in 2015, the Refugio Oil Spill. Plains Oil Company caused the spill with a leak in pipeline (901), a

transportation pipeline, which ran down to the beach. The company didn't respond for three days, and it was never repaired, but shut off by the Coastal Commission as an environmental hazard. Plains Oil and ExxonMobil sold to Sable, which repaired the pipeline without permits and continued to work without permits after Sable was fined and given a Cease and Desist order, which it did not follow. California State, local agencies, and environmental groups have tried to stop oil production on the Central Coast, and several lawsuits are pending over permits and other issues. However, recently, the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement announced that Platform Harmony has started producing 22,000 barrels of oil per day, which they are selling to Chevron. The federal government says that it has the power to control the oil production on the coastline.

(3) Right now, our immigrants with green cards, court cases pending, and no papers are living in a constant state of fear. They are afraid of being picked up if they go to work, to the store, or take their children to school. And they have good reason to fear. ICE has been showing up at 7:00 in the morning, and identifying people in their cars, taking their children to school or the doctor. ICE has been able to track immigrants and identify where they live and work. When ICE Agents appear, they refuse to identify themselves or provide warrants. The ICE agents throw people to the ground (including women and eighty-year-old attorneys). Immigrants are concerned about losing their jobs and their ability to earn enough money to afford adequate housing, food, and health care. Immigrants are not being allowed to show their documents or call their families before being taken to detention centers or deported to another country by the Federal Government, even if they have the correct documents. Santa Barbara has a high number of immigrants from South and Central America, but some individuals are being deported to Africa.

(4) Transgender individuals are facing new problems along with their documents (from passports to driver's licenses and bank accounts) that don't agree with their identities. In twenty-six states, continued "Best Care Practices" for transgender youth are no longer allowed. That means that the families need to move to another state, another country, or travel for care. Unfortunately, the government is going after doctors who continue to treat their patients.

(5) Women in thirteen states have lost the ability to receive abortions, unless they leave the state. They know that they won't have control over their bodies, and they don't have equal rights. Women may soon lose the ability to obtain birth control. The quality of medical care for women has gone down, and the government is trying to close Planned

Parenthood Centers in many states. Women can no longer access health care with Medicaid at Planned Parenthood. We are all concerned about our health, the care of our environment, and sustainability. Chemicals, pesticides, radiofrequency radiation, heavy metals, and plastics are degrading the environment. There are more cancers, asthma, and birth defects. We are losing our biodiversity. Our climate is changing, and we want to protect our environment and our health in Santa Barbara.

Meanwhile, there is a concern about corruption's impact on governance and the steps needed to actualize the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Recommendations:

Protect women's rights over their own bodies. Put before Congress, promote, and ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) this year. Promote this treaty and put it into practice by 2028.

We are the only nation that has not passed the Rights Of The Child. Put before Congress and ratify The Declaration Of The Rights Of The Child (CRC) by the end of this year. Article 25 (section 2) guarantees that motherhood and childhood are entitled to special assistance, and all children shall enjoy the same protection. Article 26 states that everyone has the right to free education in the elementary and fundamental stages. Guarantee the right to healthy food, adequate housing, healthcare, and preschool education for children.

Guarantee that everyone has the right to seek asylum from persecution in the U.S. (Article 26). Protect and respect the rights of all people, including transgender and gay individuals. Protect immigrants and refugees, including minors, by allowing access to representation in the court and freedom to find shelter, food, and healthcare while waiting for their cases to go through court. Guarantee that no one will be subjected to arbitrary arrest, deportation, or detention without a fair trial. (Article 9). Provide the right to a fair trial, equality before the law, and freedom of movement. Guarantee that no one will be subjected to torture, cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment (Article 5) and that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home, or correspondence, or attacks upon his honor and reputation. (Article 12). Guarantee that everyone has the right to a nationality and that of birthright nationality. Protect our immigrant population, including people with green cards, students with all of the necessary documents, and citizens. These people work on our farms, in our hospitals and nursing homes, in our restaurants, and for many landscape companies.

Protect people with disabilities, older people who have worked all their lives, and the homeless who are struggling to survive. Protect Social Security for older people when they retire or are disabled. Provide health care for all, as many other countries do. Support a strong Department of Education. Reduce the size and amount of money spent on the military and invest the money in the Department of Peace and the Department of Education. Respect and provide Native Americans with adequate housing, healthy food, clean water, medical care, and the right to decide what passes through their tribal land. Allow them to protect the rivers and lakes from pollution.

Recognize that our climate and environment are changing. Due to the degradation of the environment, many plant and animal species are endangered or going extinct. People are getting more cancers, asthma, and birth defects. Everyone needs support, plants, animals, and people alike. Support life by stopping this degradation of the environment caused by chemicals, pesticides, radiofrequency radiation, heavy metals, and plastic. Reign in the big corporations and stop them from polluting and harming the environment and people's health. Require large corporations to clean up the pollution of air, land, and water. This includes oil, coal, and plastic companies. Require new studies of pollutants that cause cancer, asthma, and lung disease. Support citizens and communities in stopping corporations from polluting and harming our environment. Help us clean up the pollution of our air, water, and land. Stop the weather modification programs that are operating under the radar. Support communities after disasters and help them get back on their feet.

Corruption is a fundamental human rights issue, and human rights defenders are often attacked for exposing abuse of power. The government needs to track, monitor, expose, eliminate, and discourage corruption in the United States. The government should elevate legal ethics. To discourage and eliminate corruption, define strong guardrails characterized by transparency and accountability. Guarantee that sound, relevant, qualified personnel are hired at all levels of government and are dedicated to following the law. Incentivize all governmental departments to seek out savings rather than spending their annual budget. Encourage and protect people who witness corruption and are willing to record details of abuse observed. Expand and support civics education in schools to help the public sector to value honesty, transparency, and accountability. Elevate legal ethics in the court with lawyers. Make every effort to advance the principles of transparency, accountability, and citizen involvement to help prevent waste, fraud, and abuse. Improve how the government shares information and engages with the public. Work on international cooperation and partnership so we don't

lose our friends and so we gain new allies.

The government needs to support civics education to help value honesty, transparency, and accountability. Establish an independent Human Rights Institution following the Paris Principles. Safeguard and honor the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP), founded in 1984, and guarantee that it has funding and respect to study and find peaceful resolutions to conflicts around the world. The United States should protect peace in our country and the world.

Protect our journalists and public news and education stations. Safeguard our social media and protect the people of the United States from hate speech, violent sexual speech, and name-calling to prevent discrimination and hate crimes. Protect our journalists' freedom to write the truth and express themselves without name-calling or threats. Protect freedom of thought and speech at school, in the community, and at protests. Protect the journalists and public radio and television. Protect the freedom of the press and the right to speak up without derogatory language on social media.