

Report Submitted to the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism on the Review of the United States of America

Submitted to: The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to complete the reporting requirements for the report submitted by the United States of America to the Universal Periodic Review mechanism, as one of the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council.

Submitted by: Partners for Transparency (with consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council).

Date: April 2026

Introduction:

Partners for Transparency (Partners) submits this report to the Working Group responsible for the Universal Periodic Review in order to assess the extent of progress made by the United States of America in implementing the recommendations addressed to it during the periodic review process conducted in November 2020 regarding its human rights record. Partners also aims to monitor the State party's continued compliance with the international commitments and obligations it undertook during the third cycle of its human rights review.

In this context, Partners expresses its deep concern regarding the United States' failure to participate in the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review after it declined to submit its national report and to attend the scheduled Review session on 7 November 2025. This makes it the first country in the history of the Universal Periodic Review, an exercise spanning nearly 20 years, to refuse to participate, reflecting a troubling decline in the level of its commitment to international accountability mechanisms. Partners also continues to express deep concern about serious violations of human rights resulting from military operations carried out by the United States against Iran since 28 February 2026, which have led to grave consequences for the humanitarian situation. These include threats to the right to life and the safety of civilians, the targeting of civilian objects, and actions that raise serious questions regarding the extent of the United States' compliance with

A.

148 Misr Helwan El-Zyrae Road, El Matbaa Sq, H.El Maadi, Cairo, Egypt

W.

www.pfort.org

E.

info@pfort.org

T.

+ (20) (2)253 44 705

T.F

+ (20) (2)253 44 704

M.

+ 20 1277050886

international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

In addition, during the United States' most recent periodic review of its human rights record, it received a total of 347 recommendations, of which it accepted 280 recommendations either fully or partially, while rejecting approximately 67 recommendations. The human rights situation in the United States indicates that, although the U.S. Government accepted approximately 81% of the total recommendations it received in the most recent review cycle and affirmed its international commitment to implementing them, Partners has observed that the U.S. authorities failed to take decisive and concrete measures to implement a broad range of the recommendations it accepted. Over the preceding years, they were unable to improve the country's human rights record and address the most serious human rights violations from which it has suffered. These include violations related to the intensification of racial discrimination and inequality, as well as crimes and incitement/hate speech against religious minorities and persons of immigrant background, alongside the worsening of armed violence and the unlawful use of force.

In light of the foregoing, Partners reviews the most important human rights developments and updates that have occurred in the United States' human rights record since the most recent Universal Periodic Review cycle, with a focus on the key issues that are of particular concern to Partners, as follows:

Scope of International Obligations and Cooperation with International Human Rights Mechanisms and Bodies

Partners has followed with concern the United States' failure to attend the Universal Periodic Review session scheduled for the Human Rights Council of the United Nations, after it did not participate in the review of its human rights record in the fourth cycle, thereby becoming the first country in the history of the Universal Periodic Review, which spans nearly 20 years, to refuse to participate. The United States also failed to submit its national report by the due date of 4 August 2025, and subsequently refrained from attending the session scheduled for 7 November 2025. This clearly reflects a troubling decline in the level of its commitment to international

A.

148 Misr Helwan El-Zyrae Road, El Matbaa Sq, H.El Maadi, Cairo, Egypt

W.

www.pfort.org

E.

info@pfort.org

T.

+ (20) (2)253 44 705

T.F

+ (20) (2)253 44 704

M.

+ 20 1277050886

accountability mechanisms.

In this regard, within the framework of the previous Universal Periodic Review cycles, the United States of America received a set of recommendations calling on it to broaden the scope of its international obligations and to ratify the relevant international human rights instruments. However, the United States of America failed to take any decisive steps to implement these recommendations. Out of nine core international human rights instruments, the United States has ratified only three agreements. It therefore remains the only country in the world that has not yet ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The United States is also not a State party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, or the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The United States has also not ratified the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the International Labour Organization Conventions No. 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise, and the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and the Arms Trade Treaty.

In addition, Partners has deep concerns about the United States' withdrawal from the United Nations Human Rights Council in February 2025, which entails cutting U.S. financial and political support for the Council. This raises concerns about the impact of this withdrawal on the global human rights system, particularly since the U.S. Government is among the largest financial contributors to the Council and the

A.

148 Misr Helwan El-Zyrae Road, El Matbaa Sq, H.El Maadi, Cairo, Egypt

W.

www.pfort.org

E.

info@pfort.org

T.

+ (20) (2)253 44 705

T.F

+ (20) (2)253 44 704

M.

+ 20 1277050886

United Nations system.¹ This is compounded by the suspension of funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which helps Palestinian refugees. This is in addition to the imposition of U.S. sanctions on officials of the International Criminal Court on 6 February 2025, in response to the Court's issuance of two warrants for the arrest of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the former Minister of Defence, Yoav Gallant, on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Such measures undermine international justice institutions and limit the capacity of international human rights mechanisms and bodies to carry out their roles in protecting and promoting human rights.²

Partners further emphasizes that the United States' withdrawal from international organizations and institutions and its imposition of sanctions on some of them reflect a lack of clear cooperation by the U.S. Government with international bodies and mechanisms for the protection of human rights, while disregarding the recommendations submitted to the U.S. Government by United Nations Member States during the previous Universal Periodic Review cycles.

Grave Human Rights Violations Linked to U.S. Military Operations against Iran

The United States of America committed grave human rights violations in the context of military operations it is carrying out, in cooperation with Israel, against Iran since 28 February 2026. In this period, humanitarian conditions have witnessed a sharp and accelerating deterioration, amid an unprecedented escalation in the targeting of civilians and civilian objects. This raises serious concern regarding the extent to which the United States complies with the rules of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, particularly the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution, which require parties to a conflict to take all necessary measures to avoid harm to civilians and to minimize, to the greatest extent possible, losses among them during military operations.

¹ Trump withdraws the U.S. from the United Nations Human Rights Council. npr. February 4, 2025. Link: <https://tinyt.co/3BX4>

² IMPOSING SANCTIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT. The White House. February 6, 2025. Link: <https://tinyt.co/3BX9>

A.

148 Misr Helwan El-Zyrae Road, El Matbaa Sq, H.El Maadi, Cairo, Egypt

W.

www.pfort.org

E.

info@pfort.org

T.

+ (20) (2)253 44 705

T.F

+ (20) (2)253 44 704

M.

+ 20 1277050886

In this regard, available data indicate that the military operations have resulted in the deaths of at least 1,607 civilians, including at least 244 children, as of 3 April 2026. This reflects the scale of grave human losses and the direct catastrophic impact of the conflict on the most vulnerable groups, in particular children.³ In addition, 307 health and medical facilities and emergency care services, including hospitals and ambulance centers, have been affected, which has directly undermined the health system's ability to respond to the growing humanitarian needs, exacerbated the suffering of injured and ill persons, and reduced their chances of accessing essential healthcare under conditions of extreme humanitarian complexity.⁴

Moreover, the military operations have caused widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure across multiple areas within the country. Specifically, 115,193 civilian units, including 91,498 homes and 22,580 commercial establishments, have been severely damaged or destroyed. This has led to the displacement of large numbers of people and to their deprivation of shelter, housing, and sources of livelihood. At least 736 schools and educational centers have also been destroyed or suffered severe damage as a result of direct strikes or blast waves. This reflects a disturbing pattern of attacks against civilian objects and directly affects the right to housing and education, as well as the standard of living, while also undermining the continuity of the educational process and depriving thousands of children of their right to education in a safe environment.⁵

In a related context, the targeting of "Al-Shajarat Al-Tayyibah" Primary School for Girls in the city of Minab on 28 February 2026 constitutes a striking example of these violations. The school was subjected to two successive missile strikes in close succession, resulting in the killing of 168 children, most of whom were girls. This underscores the gravity and seriousness of the violation. The attack cannot be considered an incidental event or the result of unintended error; rather, it points to a

³ Day 35 of U.S. and Israeli Attacks on Iran: Fire Breaks Out on Vessels in Bandar-e Charak. Hrana. April 3, 2026.

Link: <https://tinyl.co/4UIU>

⁴ WHO warns about 'multiple attacks on health' in Iran. The new Indian express. April 3, 2026. Link:

<https://tinyl.co/4UIV>

⁵ US-Israeli strikes hit over 115,000 civilian structures in Iran: Red Crescent. PressTV. April 3, 2026. Link:

<https://tinyl.co/4UIX>

systematic pattern of targeting civilian facilities, including educational institutions. This constitutes a grave violation of the principles of distinction and precaution under international humanitarian law, and rises to the level of war crimes that require international accountability.⁶

In light of the foregoing, Partners emphasizes that these grave violations reflect a clear failure by the United States of America to respect human rights and the international obligations related to protecting civilians during armed conflicts. They also reveal a troubling pattern of the disproportionate use of force without adequate consideration of the humanitarian consequences of military operations, leading to serious humanitarian repercussions for civilians in Iran and violating their human rights to life, security, housing, education, and health.

Violence and Racial Hate Crimes against Persons of Immigrant Background and Those of African Descent

In recent years, the United States of America has witnessed a significant rise in incidents of racially motivated violence and racially motivated hate crimes, particularly against persons of immigrant background and those of African descent, as well as racial and religious minority communities. This raises serious concerns regarding the United States' commitment to the values of equality and diversity.

In this regard, official data issued by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) indicate an increase in hate crimes in the United States against immigrants, as well as people of African descent and members of racial and religious minority communities, from 8,263 incidents in 2020 to approximately 11,700 incidents in 2024.⁷ In 2025, the figure reached 12,000 recorded incidents, representing an increase of about 45%.⁸ Overall, Black people and African Americans are subjected to racist violence and anti-Black hate crimes disproportionately. According to FBI data, for example, about 11,862 hate crimes occurred in the United States in 2023, and incidents targeting

⁶ UNICEF warns of rising child deaths in Iran war. Iran International. Mar 6, 2026. Link: <https://tinyt.co/4Ulc>

⁷ The latest FBI hate crime statistics reveal a deeply troubling pattern-Satnam Singh Chahal. Punjab Outlook. October 31, 2025. Link: <https://tinyt.co/4UJP>

⁸ Hate Crimes in the USA: State-by-State Breakdown 2025. India data map. February 14, 2026. Link: <https://tinyt.co/4UJQ>

A.

148 Misr Helwan El-Zyrae Road, El Matbaa Sq, H.El Maadi, Cairo, Egypt

W.

www.pfort.org

E.

info@pfort.org

T.

+ (20) (2)253 44 705

T.F

+ (20) (2)253 44 704

M.

+ 20 1277050886

Black people or African Americans accounted for more than half of these cases (51.3%). These incidents also occurred more than three times compared with incidents targeting other racial or ethnic groups.⁹ In addition, in 2024, approximately 3,200 anti-Black hate crimes were committed in the United States against Black people and people of African descent, representing (27.3%) of the total anti-race hate crimes committed during this period.¹⁰

Moreover, practices related to police violence and the excessive use of force by law enforcement authorities in the United States against individuals belonging to racial and ethnic minority communities, particularly those of African descent, are further worsening. In this regard, the data indicate that Black people or African Americans are between 2.8 and 3 times more likely to be killed by police than White people, which suggests the existence of a pattern of bias and racial stereotyping in the way American police deal with African Americans, causing them to view them as criminals or suspects at all times.¹¹

In addition, the United States has witnessed a notable escalation in hostile rhetoric, double standards, and incitement against foreigners and immigrants at the political level. An alarming trend has emerged among political leaders and government officials, characterized by refusing to accept immigrants, especially those of Arab origins, and persistently calling for their deportation. In this regard, Partners notes that U.S. authorities have taken arbitrary measures against Arab-origin immigrants who participated in activities supporting Palestine, arresting dozens of them in preparation for deportation outside the country, while supporting pro-Israel demonstrations. In March 2025, for example, immigration and customs authorities arrested Palestinian student Mahmoud Khalil, in preparation for his deportation, based on his participation in a protest at Columbia University opposing the Israeli war on the Gaza Strip, constituting an alarming pattern of racial bias, double standards, and a clear violation of the right to freedom of expression and peaceful

⁹ 2023 FBI Hate Crimes Statistics, Us Department of Justice. Link: <https://tinyt.io/C23v>

¹⁰ The latest FBI hate crime statistics reveal a deeply troubling pattern-Satnam Singh Chahal. Punjab Outlook. October 31, 2025. Link: <https://tinyt.co/4UJP>

¹¹ World Insights: Violent law enforcement tears U.S. society wider apart. English news. January 31, 2026. Link: <https://tinyt.co/4UJZ>

A.

148 Misr Helwan El-Zyrae Road, El Matbaa Sq, H.El Maadi, Cairo, Egypt

W.

www.pfort.org

E.

info@pfort.org

T.

+ (20) (2)253 44 705

T.F

+ (20) (2)253 44 704

M.

+ 20 1277050886

assembly.¹²

Another incident came to the fore on 30 March 2026, when immigration authorities arrested prominent human rights activist Salah Sersour in the city of Milwaukee and brought charges against him related to providing inaccurate information in his residency application and concealing alleged criminal records, as well as claims of a connection to terrorist financing. These accusations were categorically denied by the defense team, which described them as politically motivated and linked to his pro-Palestine activism. He remains detained to this day pending deportation procedures. This raises serious concerns about the use of immigration laws as a tool to restrict freedom of expression and target pro-Palestine activists, reflecting an alarming pattern of bias and double standards in the application of the law.¹³

Racial Discrimination Against Racial Minorities and People of Immigrant Origins

Racial discrimination against individuals belonging to racial minority communities constitutes an increasingly serious concern in the United States, as individuals with immigrant backgrounds and those of African origin face multiple, interconnected patterns of discrimination, particularly in the areas of employment, wages, housing, and education. This reflects the continued existence of deep structural imbalances in equal opportunity and equality.

In this regard, the latest data issued by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in February 2026 indicate the persistence of the wage gap between Black Americans and their White counterparts. The average weekly earnings of Black workers are about \$986, compared with approximately \$1,231 for White workers, meaning that Black workers receive only around 80% of the wages of White workers, despite similar levels of education and experience in many cases. This discrimination is further exacerbated in the context of intersectional discrimination, as Black women face a larger gap. In 2025, their average weekly income was about \$942, compared with approximately \$1,108 for White women, reflecting the intersection of gender-based discrimination

¹² Immigration agents arrest Palestinian activist who helped lead Columbia University protests. March 10, 2025. Link: <https://tinyt.co/3BpS>

¹³ ICE arrests West Bank-born Wisconsin mosque president over terror funding suspicions. The times of israel. 3 April 2026. Link: <https://tinyt.co/4UK0>

A.

148 Misr Helwan El-Zyrae Road, El Matbaa Sq, H.El Maadi, Cairo, Egypt

W.

www.pfort.org

E.

info@pfort.org

T.

+ (20) (2)253 44 705

T.F

+ (20) (2)253 44 704

M.

+ 20 1277050886

with racial discrimination.¹⁴

In the same context, the gaps in the labor market remain clearly evident. Estimates indicate that between 30% and 35% of workers from racial minority groups reported experiencing forms of discrimination in the workplace.¹⁵ In addition, studies related to hiring processes show that the chances of Black or Latino applicants being called for job interviews are lower by a range of 28% to 43% compared with White applicants who have the same qualifications, which reflects the continued persistence of bias patterns in the initial stages of hiring.¹⁶

With regard to housing, racial gaps in homeownership persist. Recent 2026 data indicate that the homeownership rate among Black people fell to about 43.9% in mid-2025, while it was approximately 74% among White Americans, reflecting a significant racial gap in opportunities for owning homes. The data also reveal a historical decline in homeownership rates among younger generations: only about 14.2% of Black people from Generation Z own their own homes, compared with about 31.6% of White people in the same age group, indicating worsening inequalities across generations.¹⁷

In the field of education, manifestations of discrimination against racial minorities and individuals of African origin become clear in the early stages of the educational process. The data indicate that Black boys make up only about 9% of the total preschool-age children, yet they account for 20% of school suspensions/expulsions. This reflects an alarming pattern of early bias within educational institutions and adversely affects their prospects for academic achievement and social integration.¹⁸

In light of the foregoing, it is evident that racial discrimination in the United States remains a multi-dimensional structural phenomenon whose effects extend across

¹⁴ Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. February 20, 2026.

Link: <https://tinyl.co/4UM8>

¹⁵ Statistics on Workplace Discrimination (2026 Guide). Meditopia. December 18, 2025. Link: <https://tinyl.co/4UMA>

¹⁶ Hiring Discrimination and the Task Content of Jobs: Evidence from a Large-Scale Résumé Audit. arXiv. 2 Apr 2026. Link: <https://tinyl.co/4UM9>

¹⁷ Young Black buyers fall further behind in homeownership race. MPA. 3 Feb 2026. Link: <https://tinyl.co/4UMC>

¹⁸ Holmes Report shows how educational disparities continue to negatively affect Black boys. Amsterdam news. February 5, 2026. Link: <https://tinyl.co/4UMD>

A.

148 Misr Helwan El-Zyrae Road, El Matbaa Sq, H.El Maadi, Cairo, Egypt

W.

www.pfort.org

E.

info@pfort.org

T.

+ (20) (2)253 44 705

T.F

+ (20) (2)253 44 704

M.

+ 20 1277050886

different sectors and disproportionately impact racial minorities. This makes it necessary to take effective measures to address these gaps and ensure the achievement of genuine equality in rights and opportunities.

Recommendations

In light of the foregoing, Partners submits the following recommendations to the Government of the United States of America:

Scope of International Obligations and Cooperation with International Human Rights Mechanisms and Bodies

- Resume effective participation in the Universal Periodic Review mechanism, and commit to submitting national reports on their specified dates and attending the review sessions.
- Ratify the core international human rights treaties that the United States has not yet ratified, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Rejoin the United Nations Human Rights Council and provide financial and political support to strengthen the global human rights system.
- Halt sanctions imposed on officials of the International Criminal Court and respect its independence in pursuing international justice.

Grave Violations of Human Rights Associated with U.S. Military Operations in Iran

- Stop targeting civilian objects, including health and educational facilities and essential infrastructure.
- Ensure compensation for victims and their families for harm caused to them as a result of military operations.
- Fully comply with the rules of International Humanitarian Law, particularly the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution, during military

A.

148 Misr Helwan El-Zyrae Road, El Matbaa Sq, H.El Maadi, Cairo, Egypt

W.

www.pfort.org

E.

info@pfort.org

T.

+ (20) (2)253 44 705

T.F

+ (20) (2)253 44 704

M.

+ 20 1277050886

operations.

- Conduct independent and transparent investigations into violations committed against civilians, and hold those responsible accountable.

Violence and Hate Crimes against Persons of Immigrant Background and People of African Descent

- Strengthen legislation and laws that criminalize hate crimes and racially motivated violence, and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable.
- Improve the hate-crime reporting system to ensure that all cases are recorded accurately, and support victims through legal and psychological services.
- Ensure protection of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and refrain from using immigration laws as a tool to target activists or restrict peaceful activities.
- Train police forces to deal with racial and religious diversity, and prevent the excessive use of force against minorities.

Racial Discrimination against Racial Minorities and People of Immigrant Background

- Issue robust legislation to combat discrimination in employment, housing, and education, and ensure equal opportunities for all citizens without exception.
- Support fair housing initiatives to close the homeownership gap between White and Black Americans.
- Combat discrimination in hiring processes and ensure equal access to the labor market without racial bias.
- Address discrimination within educational institutions, particularly in early education stages, and adopt policies that limit discrimination in disciplinary procedures such as school expulsion.

A.

148 Misr Helwan El-Zyrae Road, El Matbaa Sq, H.El Maadi, Cairo, Egypt

W.

www.pfort.org

E.

info@pfort.org

T.

+ (20) (2)253 44 705

T.F

+ (20) (2)253 44 704

M.

+ 20 1277050886