



UPR Outcome of the United States of America at the 46th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

Statement by the American Civil Liberties Union

March 17, 2020

We commend the Biden administration for reengaging with the Human Rights Council, prioritizing racial justice at home, and promising to champion equality abroad. To lead by the power of example, the administration should take bold actions to fully implement U.S. international human rights obligations.

Consistent with its promise to promote racial equity, we call on the administration to adopt a plan of action within one year to fully implement the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which the U.S. ratified in 1994.

To be a human rights leader, the U.S. government should avoid selective championing of human rights and abandon the previous administration's policy to create a hierarchy of rights or delegitimize certain rights, such as abortion rights or social and economic rights.

To be a global champion of human rights, the U.S. should fully cooperate with human rights mechanisms, including Special Procedures, and provide unimpeded access to detention facilities, including at Guantanamo Bay.

To lead by the power of example, the U.S. should refrain from blocking accountability mechanisms against the United States or its allies, whether mandated by the Council or by other international bodies like the International Criminal Court (ICC). In this regard, the Biden administration must immediately lift Trump's sanctions on the ICC and unequivocally reject threats and punitive measures against it.

To fully implement the UPR recommendations and honor its human rights commitments the U.S. government's actions on the domestic level should also include:

- Creating permanent and transparent federal mechanism to implement its human rights obligations in close coordination with state, local and tribal governments;
- Expanding the mandate of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (USCCR) to include human rights, providing the USCCR with adequate resources and strengthening its independence.

President Biden should honor his promises to fight mass incarceration, end the racist “war on drugs”, and abolish the federal death penalty. The Biden administration should also end juvenile life without parole and limit the use of life sentences.

Meaningful accountability measures against racist police violence should be taken, including by adopting federal use of force standards that conform to human rights norms. Independent oversight structures with teeth must be created and the right to redress must be respected to ensure accountability.

To affirm that Black Lives Matter, we need nothing less than transformative change. The U.S. must finally reckon with the horrific legacy of genocide and slavery, as well as confront white supremacy, which created systems that routinely and intentionally harm and kill people of color with impunity, especially Black, brown, and Indigenous Peoples.

The U.S. government must address systemic racism more broadly, especially historic and current economic injustices, by supporting reparations, closing the wealth gap, and reinvesting in life-affirming alternatives to policing that will keep people of color, poor, and other marginalized communities safe and help them thrive.