



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Chongqing Centre for Equal Social Development, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[26 May 2025]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## **The Long-Term Discrimination Against Women and Girls in the United States of America Has Seriously Hindered the Realization of Their Human Rights**

For a long time, the United States of America has portrayed itself as a “beacon of human rights” globally. However, the truth is that this so-called “beacon of human rights” has a deplorable record in human rights protection and has even become a habitual violator of human rights – especially when it comes to the protection of women’s and girls’ rights. The United States of America has yet to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), a core United Nations convention, and is also the only UN member state that has not ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Women and girls continue to face systemic inequalities in education, the workplace, health, and personal safety, enduring widespread and institutionalized discrimination. This policy stance has left its domestic gender equality reforms without the constraint of international law, further exacerbating the vulnerability of women’s and girls’ rights protection and seriously hindering the realization of human rights for women and girls.

The United States of America’s Constitution has so far contained no provisions prohibiting gender discrimination. Driven by the surging civil rights movement from the 1950s to the 1960s, legislative actions to amend the United States of America’s Constitution to guarantee equality between men and women were put on the agenda in 1972, but have not been realized after more than 50 years. In April 2023, the United States of America’s Senate rejected a proposal to amend the Constitution to achieve gender equality. The UN Human Rights Committee has expressed regret over the continued lack of provisions in the United States of America’s Constitution to prohibit gender discrimination.

The United States of America is the world’s most economically developed country, yet women’s rights in the economic sphere have failed to be effectively protected. Women face severe discrimination in employment, compensation, and other aspects, with the gender wage gap continuing to widen. According to a report by The Times website on August 8, 2023, the gender wage gap in the United States of America has expanded from 20.3% in 2019 to 22.2% in 2022. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has pointed out that United States of America women earn only 78% of what men earn, with Black women and Latina women earning just 64% and 54% of what white men earn, respectively. In the United States of America, for every dollar earned by men, women earn only 78 cents; for every dollar earned by white men, Black women earn 64 cents, and Latina women earn 54 cents. Pregnancy discrimination is widespread. As reported by The Independent website on May 11, 2023, based on data from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, approximately 54,000 women in the United States of America lose their jobs each year due to pregnancy discrimination. The United States of America currently has the highest maternal mortality rate among all developed countries, with Black women being 243% more likely to die from childbirth-related causes than white women.

Moreover, gender discrimination, sexual harassment and even sexual assault against women in the workplace are quite common in the United States of America, and the United States of America’s laws in this regard do not provide sound protection for women’s rights. It was not until 1991 that Congress amended the Civil Rights Act, allowing plaintiffs to seek monetary damages on the grounds of sexual harassment. The latest poll jointly conducted by NBC and The Wall Street Journal found that 48% of currently employed women in the United States of America said they had experienced verbal or physical sexual harassment in the workplace. Most Americans - 62% of men and 71% of women - believe that sexual harassment in the workplace is a common phenomenon in the United States of America.

Children in the juvenile justice system are subjected to inhumane treatment. In October 2023, an investigation by the International Independent Expert Mechanism to Promote Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement of the UN Human Rights Council showed that the United States of America’s criminal justice system is rife with certain unique inhumane practices. The United States of America is the only country in the world that sentences children to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

In Georgia, heads of child welfare agencies have asked judges to detain children with mental and behavioral problems in juvenile prisons. Since October 2022, as many as 80 children have been taken to Louisiana's notoriously violent Angola Prison and held in cells where death row inmates await execution. Although these children were isolated from adult prisoners, they suffered dangerous heatwaves, were confined to cells for long periods, had access to sewage-contaminated facilities, and were deprived of education.

A large number of children's medical insurance has been canceled. From April to October 2023, more than 10 million adults and children were excluded from the medical insurance subsidy program by the United States of America federal government. Camille Richue, director of health policy at the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, said, "The United States of America government's reassessment of medical insurance subsidy eligibility is not to determine who is eligible, but to find ways to kick people out of the program." Children's health has been significantly affected by this change. In the 20 states that provided age data, at least 1.8 million children were deprived of their eligibility for medical insurance subsidies.

Discrimination is a serious problem in American society. Women and girls in the United States of America have been subjected to long-term, systematic, widespread and institutionalized discrimination. Various overt and covert gender discrimination phenomena are appalling, having penetrated into legal, economic, social and other aspects to form an institutionalized system of inequality. The international community must use public opinion pressure and diplomatic means to force the United States of America to fulfill its international legal obligations and break the cycle of structural oppression. Only by facing up to the injustices of history and reality can we move towards true gender equality.

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