

STATEMENT OF THE CONGREGATION OF OUR LADY OF CHARITY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES FROM THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd expresses its profound concern regarding the decision of the United States Government to withdraw from the United Nations Universal Periodic Review (UPR). This unprecedented step—marking the first full disengagement from the UPR by any country—undermines the universality and integrity of a mechanism designed to protect the inherent dignity and rights of all persons.



Our mission calls us to stand in solidarity with people whose rights are denied or diminished, especially girls and women, migrants, people living in poverty, and those subjected to violence or discrimination. The UPR is an essential avenue through which these realities can be brought to light. By removing itself from this process, the United States diminishes the ability of civil society to bring attention to urgent concerns affecting vulnerable populations in member states.

We are particularly troubled that this decision comes amid serious human rights challenges within the United States, including systemic racism, the erosion of asylum and migration protections, and the shrinking space for civil society. Hundreds of civil society organizations, including many working directly with affected communities, contributed thoughtful and evidence-based submissions in preparation for the review. Their opportunity for meaningful international engagement has now been curtailed.



The Congregation urges the United States to reconsider its position and re-engage in good faith with the UPR. We also call on the Human Rights Council and the international community to safeguard the principles of universality, accountability, and cooperation that guide this mechanism. In this moment of global tension and uncertainty, the commitment of all nations to human rights is essential.

Rooted in our Gospel mission of reconciliation and justice, we stand with all those striving to ensure that no person—especially the most marginalized—is left without protection, dignity, or voice.



Rise Up AND Act for Justice

