



29 September 2025

His Excellency Mr. Jürg Lauber, President of the UN Human Rights Council  
UN Human Rights Council Session 60  
Agenda Item 6: General Debate  
Oral Statement by The Advocates for Human Rights  
Delivered by Amy Bergquist

Mr. President:

The Universal Periodic Review's strength lies in its universality. The Advocates for Human Rights and 40 cosignatory civil society organizations express our grave concern for the future of the UPR and we call on you, Mr. President, as well as all UN Member States, to take urgent measures to safeguard the UPR's integrity.

The Council in its 58th session failed to adopt Nicaragua's UPR outcome, and the Council has rescheduled that adoption for the current session. It is unclear, however, whether Nicaragua will participate.

But the UPR faces another imminent threat: The United States of America is refusing to participate in its review, scheduled for November 7. As civil society organizations based in the United States, we depend on the UPR to signal to U.S. authorities, even during our country's current human rights crisis, that we can and will hold them to account. We rely on Member States and Observers to take the floor during the review to amplify our voices, helping us speak truth to power.

We call on you, Mr. President, to exercise your good offices to ensure that the United States will have a fourth-cycle UPR. If U.S. authorities continue to refuse to participate, we call on you to take other measures to encourage cooperation and to move forward with that UPR by the end of the fourth cycle.

We further encourage the Council to consider all available tools at its disposal to address the need to bolster the integrity of the UPR in light of recent assaults on its universality. And we call on all Member States to reject the United States' example and to recommit to active, unwavering engagement in the UPR process.

Thank you.

Cosignatories (in alphabetical order):

The Alliance for Diplomacy and Justice  
American Civil Liberties Union  
Amistad Law Project  
Birthmark  
CEDAW Rising  
Center for Global Law and Justice, Northeastern University School of Law

Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law  
Children's Rights  
Cornell Law School's Gender Justice Clinic  
DeKalb County Super District 6  
Florida Coalition to Advance Racial Equity  
Global Rights Advocacy  
Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights  
The Holy H.O.E. Institute  
Human Rights Cities Alliance (HRCA)  
Human Rights Educators USA, a project of the Center for Transformative Action  
Human Rights First  
Human Rights and Gender Justice Clinic, Main Street Legal Services  
ICAAD  
If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice  
Immigration Services and Legal Advocacy (ISLA)  
International Human Rights Clinic - Santa Clara Law  
Ipas US  
Just Making a Change for Families  
Mindbridge  
National Homelessness Law Center  
PEN America  
Physicians for Human Rights  
Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance  
Release Aging People in Prison  
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights  
Southern Border Communities Coalition  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
State Innovation Exchange  
Ubuntu Institute for Community Development  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)  
United Nations University - RCE Hawai'i Moananuiakea  
Witness to Innocence  
Women's All Points Bulletin WAPB  
Woodhull Freedom Foundation