

Human Rights Council – 30th session

Item 6: Universal Periodic Review Outcomes: United States of America

Statement by Action Canada for Population and Development

Action Canada makes this statement in collaboration with the Sexual Rights Initiative and an independent activist from the United States.

While we welcome the United States Government's intention to ratify CEDAW, CRC and CRPD, we regret its lack of support for recommendations to ratify the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

We are also deeply concerned about the continued refusal by the USG to allow its foreign assistance to be utilised for providing safe abortion services where legal, and in situations of conflict, as well as to provide for paid parental leave. We urge the government to reconsider its position on these issues.

We welcome the USG's support for recommendations pertaining to ending gender-based violence, discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, trafficking and sexual exploitation of children, and ensuring equal pay for equal work and access to reproductive health services. In implementing these recommendations, we urge the government to:

1. Integrate awareness raising programs regarding sex workers' rights into anti-trafficking efforts and train civil servants such that trafficking and sex work are not conflated;
2. Revise the National HIV Strategy to condemn laws criminalizing non-disclosure, exposure or transmission of HIV;
3. Extend funding and technical support for comprehensive sexuality education that is factually, technically, and medically accurate;
4. Defend reproductive rights from state-based restrictions which function to meaningfully restrict the constitutional right to access abortion and contraception;
5. Extend funding and technical support to assist states, municipalities, and police departments that protect the rights of sex workers;
6. Strengthen compliance, monitoring, and enforcement mechanisms to ensure adherence to the rules implementing the Prison Rape Elimination Act; and
7. Pass the Paycheck Fairness Act to alleviate gender disparities in the workplace, including disparities in pay.