



A just world for all women and girls

# Human rights in the United States of America



# Issues to be addressed.

1. Constitutional sex equality
2. Child marriage
3. Female genital mutilation / cutting
4. Online sexual exploitation and abuse

# Situation in the United States

## Issue 1: **Constitutional sex equality**

### *Implementation of previous recommendations*

- No previous UPR recommendations have called for constitutional sex equality in the US
- The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which guarantees equality under the law on the basis of sex, has met all constitutional requirements but remains unrecognized and unimplemented



# Situation in the United States

## Issue 1: **Constitutional sex equality**

### ***New developments***

- In January 2025, former President Biden declared the ERA as the 28th Amendment
- This declaration has since been archived by the current administration
- In 2023, the UN Human Rights Committee found failure to implement the ERA violates the ICCPR



# Recommendations

## **Issue 1: Constitutional sex equality**

We recommend the government of the United States of America to:

- Take every step necessary to universally recognize and fully implement the ERA as the 28th Amendment to the US Constitution



# Situation in the United States

## Issue 2: **Child marriage**

### *Implementation of previous recommendations*

- In the last UPR, the US received 1 recommendation on child marriage but it focussed on foreign aid, not domestic law (Costa Rica)

### *New developments*

- 16 states have raised the minimum age of marriage to 18 without exceptions, including Maine, Missouri, and Oregon in 2025 alone
- 34 states and federal laws continue to facilitate child marriage

# Recommendations

## **Issue 2: Child marriage**

We recommend the government of the United States of America to:

- Enact laws at the state and federal levels that set the minimum age of marriage at 18, without exceptions
- Repeal all marital exceptions or defenses to the crime of statutory rape at the state and federal levels
- Amend all federal laws that encourage, condone, or incentivise child marriage

# Situation in the United States

## Issue 3: **Female genital mutilation / cutting**

### *Implementation of previous recommendations*

- In the last UPR, the US received 1 recommendation on child marriage but it focussed on foreign aid, not domestic law (Costa Rica)

### *New developments*

- The STOP FGM Act of 2020 strengthened federal law, but implementation has been weak
- 9 states still lack any FGM/C specific legislation
- Concerning rise in the misuse of FGM/C frameworks to target gender-affirming care

# Recommendations

## **Issue 3: Female genital mutilation / cutting**

We recommend the government of the United States of America to:

- Effectively implement the federal law on FGM/C and oppose its misuse to criminalize gender-affirming care;
- Collect and publish regular, disaggregated data on prevalence rates;
- Encourage and support states to pass comprehensive laws.

# Situation in the United States

## Issue 4: **Online sexual exploitation and abuse**

### *Implementation of previous recommendations*

- OSEA has not been addressed in previous UPR cycles

### *New developments*

- Passage of Take It Down Act and REPORT Act
- Federal bills introduced but not passed - DEFIANCE Act, SHIELD Act
- State laws vary widely, creating jurisdictional gaps in protection

# Recommendations

## **Issue 4: Online sexual exploitation and abuse**

We recommend the government of the United States of America to:

- Adopt survivor-centered laws that address all forms of OSEA, including deepfake and AI-generated content
- Ensure legal frameworks include civil remedies, strong platform accountability, and survivor support mechanisms;
- Sign and ratify of the UN Convention Against Cybercrime

# Thank you from our partners.



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