

Submission to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review of

**United States of America**

Second Cycle

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\*Submitted by: HELP ORG INC SALT Program – Help Elevate & Liberate People  
Organization Incorporated Sapelo Ancestral Land Trust Program & Raccoon Hogg  
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[Raccoon Hogg Community Development Corporation Endorses this Report]

## **HELP ORG INC – Help Elevate & Liberate People Organization Incorporated**

### **Submission to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review of United States of America**

#### **I. SUMMARY**

In short: the Gullah Geechee Culture on Sapelo Island, McIntosh County, Georgia, USA, but not limited to, suffers from extreme systemic cultural deprivation and impacts the following issues:

The Gullah Geechee Culture on Sapelo Island, McIntosh County, Georgia, USA, suffers from extreme systemic cultural deprivation by local, county, state and federal government collusion. The illegal construction of resort developments outside of the Historic District Building and Zoning Code is causing irreversible cultural and environmental decline. An indigenous African American community that was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1996 is fighting to survive. Over 50 years of unregulated land gauging and new developments have eroded Sapelo Island's culture and environment. In 2014, the people continue to suffer from lack of access to land, food, water, housing, healthcare and education.

**Land Rights:**

**Economic Justice:**

**Indigenous Rights:**

**Health & Healthcare:**

**Environmental Justice:**

**Disabilities Rights:**

**Poverty:**

**Racial and Ethnic Discrimination:**

**Right to Food & Food Justice:**

**Right to Housing:** Despite receiving findings and recommendations on its failure to fully uphold the right to housing from numerous descendants of Sapelo Island, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources nor the McIntosh County Board of Commissioners has taken no specific steps toward addressing the concerns raised by these individuals. While they both dedicate significant resources to supporting preservation of other cultural and heritage resources, and homeownership and

private development, these investments have hampered rather than furthered the human rights obligation of meeting the housing needs of all.

**Right to Water:**

**Sacred Sites:**

**Voting Rights:**

**Worker's Rights and Labor:**

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## **II. SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS**

With regard to the right to adequate standards of living:

1. ensure that public resources are used wisely to meet urgent needs by implementing the already-authorized programs to improve the quality of life
2. the US should consider a nation Community Land Trust Strategy  
these are our issues