

**Human Rights Council - 46th Session
Outcome of the Universal Periodic Review - United States of America
Action Canada for Population and Development**

Madam President,

Action Canada delivers this statement on behalf of the Sexual Rights Initiative.

We welcome reversals in various draconian policies of the previous administration, yet we must still hold those responsible to account. The severe impacts of these policies and actions were not only seen domestically. They affected multilateralism and the international human rights system itself, including within the context of this Council. Examples include withdrawal of funds for operation of UN agencies, and articulation - at an official level - of hostile anti-NGO sentiment from top US officials (including from a former UN Ambassador).

To attain commitments inherent in the UPR process, there *must* be accountability for violations of rights related to life, dignity, and freedom from torture. We must not forget caged migrants and children stolen from families, and also the alarming increase in federal executions.

The current administration has begun to repeal and undo harmful previous policies, some of which are noted in current UPR recommendations. We welcome:

1. **Renewed commitment to sexual and reproductive health and rights**, including the reversal of the cruel Mexico City Policy.
2. **Acceptance of recommendations related to sexual orientation and gender identity.** Implementation of these must address the unique and intersectional experiences of lesbians, trans people, gay men and bisexual people.

However, undoing previous policies isn't enough.

We note silence about rights of sex workers, including in relation to harmful SESTA and FOSTA policies which incorrectly conflate trafficking with consensual sexual activity, and about violence against Black trans people.

While we acknowledge the commitment to taking steps to “**legislatively end the federal death penalty**,” we look to its *complete abolishment* and engagement with states to follow suit.

We are dismayed by the government's **reluctance to support the ICC's Rome Statute and accept its jurisdiction**. The US should eliminate sanctions against the ICC, and defend its engagement with Palestine and Afghanistan.

The US government, even in its current iteration, cannot be above international law.

Thank you.