

Four Freedoms Forum is a people centered strategic and sustainable think tank based on the foundation of freedom with an emphasis to restore responsibility and realize human rights in the United States of America.

The Universal Periodic Review is an opportunity to encourage the United States of America to reengage with the international human rights machinery to guarantee fundamental freedoms in the daily living conditions of its citizens.

Four Freedoms Forum has been concerned during the last nine years with human rights education and empowerment in the United States of America through a human rights training course entitled Human Rights on the Hill allowing all citizens to attend a free week long course at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law along with two conferences for the last five years at the site of the creation of the UN Charter in San Francisco and the spirit of freedom at the Liberty Bell with the National Constitution Center. Through these exercises, the citizens of the United States of America are alarmed at the record of ratification of international instruments especially since the US played such a prominent role in the creation of the UN human rights instruments. Also the lack of initiatives to educate citizens to realize their human rights is a common concern.

The Four Freedoms Forum believes the United States must fully participate in the international human rights machinery. The current ratification of only three international instruments with consistent tardy reporting is unacceptable to the citizens of the United States of America.

Four Freedoms Forum recommends that the United States immediately ratify the following five international instruments – the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The United States must immediately ratify these five international instruments and begin to participate in the implementation of these human rights with the timely submission of the reports for these human rights instruments and chart a new direction not replicating the tardy performance of late submissions. The US should also regularly engage civil society

in the reporting process of the international human rights instruments to strengthen its national reports to implement the articles to realize rights in the United States of America. While ratification of the core international human rights instruments is important, the recognition of the rights for individual citizens to directly approach the committees after exhausting domestic remedies is essential. The US must also accept the optional protocols as well as the specific articles in the international instruments that allows for individual submission of cases concerning human rights violations.

The United States must also work toward the creation of a schedule of meetings along with a mechanism to create a continuous conversation across the country on the implementation of international human rights in the daily living of its citizens beginning with education that results in personal empowerment and political engagement to realize human rights. There must be a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles. The current commission on civil rights could be amended to include human rights and meet the mandate to be a fully fledged body that emerges to be the official national human rights institution in the United States of America. This body could facilitate the national dialogue following the UPR review in November 2010.

Four Freedoms Forum also encourages the United States of America to create a national human rights education curriculum in the Department of Education. Beginning with the wide distribution of the international human rights instruments being printed for the people to read and comprehend, there must be popular materials created to teach the important principles of dignity and equality at the heart of human rights covenants and conventions.

Four Freedoms Forum remains committed to the philosophy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt that has been exemplified by American leaders from the presidency before and after along with the people working daily to make democracy work in the United States and the world.