

Institute for the Advancement of Justice & Human Rights

info@iaj.institute · <https://www.iaj.institute>

Date: 25 August 2026

To: Equality Now

Via: info@equalitynow.org

Subject: The U.S. Universal Periodic Review record — a procedural request before 10 November

Attachments: Letter to the Office of the High Commissioner (stakeholder window); Letter to the President of the Human Rights Council (non-cooperation mandate)

Dear colleagues,

Equality Now co-authored the factsheet and joint materials presented at the August 2025 pre-session on the United States. We write on a procedural point affecting that work: the rescheduled review of 10 November 2026 will rest on the stakeholder record as it closed in early 2025. Alone among the States at the fifty-third session, the United States had no 2026 window; organizations not admitted then have not been admitted since.

The Institute has written to OHCHR and to the President of the Human Rights Council asking that the window be reopened, or the basis for the restriction stated in writing. Both letters are attached.

Equality Now's standing as an international organization engaged across many States' reviews gives it a distinct voice here: this is not one country's grievance but a question of whether the mechanism treats States — and their civil societies — equally. Would you consider raising it independently, in your own name?

Respectfully,

Cyrus Hazari

Director, Institute for the Advancement of Justice & Human Rights

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IAJ email to Equality Now Subject: The U.S. Universal Periodic Review record — a procedural request before 10 November

Attachments:

IAJ_Letter_OHCHR_Stakeholder_Window.pdf → <http://iaj.institute/publications/IAJ-COM-20260825-002-PUB.pdf>

IAJ_Letter_HRC_President.pdf → <http://iaj.institute/publications/IAJ-COM-20260824-002-PUB.pdf>

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