**UPR Intervention for South Africa, 13th Session May 31, 2012**

The United States welcomes **[head of delegation]** of South Africa and **his/her** delegation.

We commend South Africa for its principled, just and forward-leaning position on the rights of all people and the prevention of discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation.  However, LGBT people in many communities continue to suffer from violence and prejudice based on their status, and we are concerned at ongoing reports of so called corrective rapes and other such violence.

We recognize the Government’s efforts to combat human trafficking, including drafting a bill which will comprehensively prohibit and punish trafficking in persons, as well as its conviction of sex trafficking offenders.

We note the continued debate around the Protection of State Information Bill. The South African press plays a critical role in advancing democracy, exposing corruption and defending the constitutional rights of citizens. We are concerned that the Bill could have a significant dampening effect on freedom of the press.

The United States offers the following recommendations:

1. Pass the “Combating and Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Bill” currently under deliberation in the National Assembly, and move swiftly to implement it once passed;
2. Engage civil society, activists, NGOs and media to seek common ground on the Protection of State Information Bill; and
3. Increase advocacy for freedom from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity through public education and awareness building and address violence targeting LGBT persons through training for police, first responders, and justice system officials.

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