

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 22ND SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON
THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW – STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE
DELEGATION OF GHANA AT THE SECOND CYCLE REVIEW OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA MONDAY 11TH MAY 2015**

I thank you Mr. President for giving me the floor.

Ghana welcomes the distinguished delegation from the United States of America and commends them for a well prepared report and for their commitment to the UPR process.

Ghana recognises the enviable position of the United States as a forerunner in democracy and its desire to promote and protect the human rights of all persons. Ghana notes with satisfaction the steps taken by the US to address racial profiling and excessive use of force which appears to be systemic in its law enforcement agencies. Ghana recommends that the US conducts in-depth examinations into how race-related issues are affecting law enforcement and the administration of justice. Ghana also recommends that the definition of racial discrimination in federal and state legislation be in line with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

Ghana wishes to acknowledge the positive steps taken by the Department of Justice under the Shepard-Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act which seeks to address violent crimes motivated by religious, racial or national origin bias among others.

Ghana recommends that the US considers issuing standing invitations to special procedures and institute legislative measures to ensure women are paid equally as men for the same work.

Ghana further wishes to recommend that the US ratifies the following treaties:

- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (**CRPD**)
- Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (**ICRMW**)
- International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (**ICPPED**)
- Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (**CEDAW**)
- The Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court (**ICC**)

We also recommend that the US withdraws its reservation to the Convention against Torture (**CAT**) and the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (**ICCPR**)

Thank you Mr. President.