



Statement by H.E. Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi, Permanent Representative of the Holy See to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva
at the United Nations Human Rights Council –
22nd Session of the Universal Periodic Review
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Geneva, 11 May 2015

Mr. President,

The Holy See welcomes the Delegation of the United States of America on the occasion of the presentation of the second National Report to the Universal Periodic Review.

My Delegation acknowledges the United States of America for its efforts to protect and enhance human rights, particularly in the challenging areas of migration, racial discrimination, and the right to health. A special concern are the thousands of unaccompanied minors entering the United States, who need special protection and assistance, and also those women and children who are exploited in various forms of trafficking.

My Delegation wishes to present the following recommendations:

1. To continue efforts on the federal and state levels aimed at overcoming racial discrimination, especially through the implementation of the Priority Enforcement Program to guard against racial profiling of immigrants and other forms of racial discrimination.
2. To consider introducing on the federal level a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its permanent abolition.
3. To ensure the rights of migrant workers, especially in the sector of agriculture where the use of child laborers is a common practice.
4. To uphold a consistent and robust protection of religious freedom, including religious speech and conscientious objection, and to provide for accommodation of religious views and actions regarding social issues.

Thank you Mr. President