

UPR - USA - 11 May 2015

**STATEMENT by BULGARIA**

Bulgaria welcomes the distinguished delegation of the USA.

We acknowledge the strong commitment of the US to the protection of human rights and welcome the Government's efforts to supporting a free and engaged civil society.

We note the dedication of the US to eliminating racial discrimination and prosecuting the hate crimes. At the same time, we **recommend** that comprehensive measures be taken to address the use of excessive force by the police and ensure the investigation and the prosecution of all such acts.

In view of the significant implications of the US accession to major international human rights instruments, Bulgaria **recommends** that the USA consider ratifying the ICESCR, CRC and CEDAW.

We welcome the fact that the number of states that have death penalty, executions, and death row have continued to decline. Bulgaria **recommends** continuing the efforts on the progress towards the abolishment of the death penalty, based on the Department of Justice's review of how it is being applied in the country.

Thank you!