**U.S. Statement at the Universal Periodic Review of Estonia,**

**24th Session, January 19, 2016**

The United States warmly welcomes the entire Estonian delegation to the UPR Working Group. We congratulate Estonia on the submission of its National Report and its demonstrated commitment to the UPR process.

The United States commends Estonia for its continued efforts to promote a tolerant and integrated society. Estonia’s implementation of anti-trafficking in persons -specific legislation in 2012 was a necessary step to facilitate the prosecution of trafficking offenders. We applaud the Estonian government for the adoption of the Civil Union Act and Partnership Act. We likewise commend the establishment of a Gender Equality Council and the amendments to the Penal Code to address domestic violence.

We urge the government to take further steps to counter prejudice and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex persons. Further progress should also be made to combat discrimination against new immigrants, asylum seekers, refugees, and members of ethnic and religious minorities.

Bearing in mind these concerns, we recommend the Government of Estonia:

1. Increase efforts to investigate, prosecute, and convict trafficking offenders under Article 133 of the penal code.

2. Combat discrimination on account of nationality, ethnic or religious affiliation, and sexual orientation or gender identity.

3. Establish measures to promote tolerance of ethnic and religious diversity in society.