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

**46th Session, April 30, 2024**

**As delivered by Kelly Billingsley**

The United States welcomes the delegation from the Republic of Cyprus [led by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_].

We commend Cyprus’s work to improve anti-trafficking efforts, including convictions of perpetrators and victim protection.

We are concerned, however, by the rise in crimes involving violence or threats of violence against members of national or ethnic minority groups, including asylum seekers.

In the spirit of constructive engagement, we recommend that the Republic of Cyprus:

1. Assist and protect refugees and asylum seekers and adhere to its obligations under international refugee law, including with respect to non-refoulement.
2. Permit nongovernmental organizations working to protect the rights of migrants to utilize the banking system without restriction.
3. Take steps to reduce discrimination in employment, housing, education, and access to public services and health care against members of racial and ethnic minority groups, including Roma, as well as against refugees and asylum seekers, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQI+ persons.

I thank you.