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

**46th Session, May 2, 2024**

**As delivered by Kelly Billingsley**

**Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Human Rights Council**

Thank you, Mr. President.

The United States welcomes the delegation from North Macedonia.

We commend the government for updating its penal code to align with the Istanbul Convention.

In the spirit of constructive engagement, we recommend that North Macedonia:

1. Address corruption and promote transparent and accountable governance by fully implementing the recommendations of the Council of Europe’s Group of States Against Corruption.
2. Improve the treatment of detained and convicted persons and reduce severe overcrowding in prisons, including by implementing the recommendations made by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture.
3. Enforce laws that criminalize gender-based violence, including domestic violence, as well as violence and discrimination against members of marginalized groups, including LGBTQI+ persons, and Roma.

I thank you.