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

**46th Session, May 6, 2024**

**Delivered by Kelly Billingsley**

Thank you, Madame Vice-President.

The United States welcomes the delegation from Slovakia.

We are honored to serve on the troika for Slovakia’s UPR this cycle.

We appreciate the steps Slovakia has taken to address hate-based crimes against members of marginalized groups, and we encourage further progress in this area. We are concerned about Slovakia’s continued commitment to addressing corruption and protecting independent media.

In the spirit of constructive engagement, we recommend that Slovakia:

1. Promptly investigate acts of violence, harassment, and intimidation against journalists; ensure that the public broadcaster can operate independently and without government pressure; and strengthen the Platform for the Promotion of Press Freedom and Safety of Journalists.
2. Uphold and enhance the independence of law enforcement and the prosecution service and ensure a robust legal framework to combat corruption is in place.
3. Improve access to justice and equal rights for members of marginalized groups and actively prosecute hate-based crimes against Roma and LGBTQI+ persons.

I thank you.