**U.S. Statement on Iceland**

**at the Universal Periodic Review 40th session**

**As Delivered by Patrick Elliot, Human Rights Officer**

The United States warmly welcomes the Icelandic delegation to Geneva.

1. We recommend that Iceland further strengthen efforts to counter and prevent trafficking in persons, including by, where appropriate, prosecuting traffickers.
2. We also recommend that Iceland extend explicit protections in hate crime laws to include crimes against LGBTQI+ persons on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.
3. Finally, we recommend that Iceland conduct robust consultations with religious groups and civil society when developing laws and policies with implications for religious practice.

We commend Iceland on its longstanding commitment to protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms.