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

**43rd Session, May 1, 2023**

**Delivered by Ms. Kelly Billingsley, Deputy Permanent Representative, U.S. Delegation to the HRC**

Thank you, Mr. President.

The United States welcomes the delegation of France.

The United States commends France’s longstanding commitment to the promotion of democracy and human rights and its support for UN agencies. We welcome France’s commitment to advancing gender equality and implementing new laws to protect the rights of LGBTQI+ persons.

We recommend that France:

1. Expand efforts to counter crimes and threats of violence motivated by religious hatred such as antisemitism and anti-Muslim hate, including cases of harassment, vandalism, and assault.
2. Strengthen initiatives to protect members of marginalized or vulnerable communities, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees, persons of African descent, and individuals facing repression internationally.
3. Adopt a National Action Plan to combat all forms of human trafficking with a defined timeframe, dedicated budget for implementation, and monitoring indicators.

I thank you.