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

**29th Session, January 17, 2018**

The United States welcomes the Bahamian delegation to the UPR Working Group.

The United States is disappointed that many of the issues noted in the previous review remain unaddressed, such as the restrictions on the human rights of women and of members of marginalized communities.

We are also concerned about the backlog in the criminal justice system, such that pretrial detainees languish for years in overcrowded jails with poor physical conditions.

Bearing in mind these concerns, we recommend that the Bahamas:

1. Pass legislation that would criminalize marital rape;
2. Pass comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that would protect the human rights of all, including LGBTI persons and members of ethnic minority groups; and
3. Create an accurate and transparent online case tracking system, in order to ensure that all criminal defendants are afforded fair trial guarantees and equality before the courts consistent with the Bahamas’ international obligations, and consider release from custody and alternatives to pretrial detention.