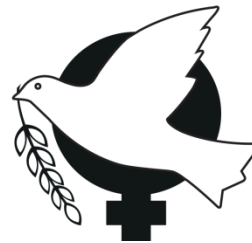


Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Ligue Internationale de Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté

Liga Internacional de Mujeres por la Paz y la Libertad

Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC, UNCTAD and UNESCO; Special Consultative Relations with FAO, ILO, and UNICEF



Suggested recommendations by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) for the second Universal Periodic Review of the United States of America – 22nd session of the UPR Working Group

Labour Rights

Corporations have erroneously been given personhood rights since the misinterpretation of an 1886 Supreme Court Decision. In accordance with the Fourth Amendment of the Bill of Rights, corporations have been found to have the same right as persons in regard to needing prior notification of inspections, giving businesses under investigation of labour violations the opportunity to prepare and cover any possible evidence of compromised labour practices, thus violating the rights of individual workers. The staff is then prepped on how to answer questions, undocumented staff are told not to report to work during said inspections, and some are threatened with firing if suspected of being whistleblowers.

Therefore, WILPF suggests the following recommendations for the UPR of the United States:

- To remove Fourth Amendment protections from corporations, as they are not individuals;
- To take appropriate legislative and practical measures to ensure that corporations found guilty of wage theft be subject to financial penalties, including reparations.

Food Contamination and the Human Right to Health

Tens of thousands of chemicals come to the market every year with most never being tested for toxicity levels. Of major concern are chemicals used in herbicides and pesticides applied to genetically modified crops that can disturb the development of a fetus and cause hormone disruption. Exposure to trace amounts of these chemicals, especially in food and water, can lead to birth defects, disrupt normal brain and nervous system development and function, harm our reproductive systems, and cause behavioral and development problems in children. Industrial and agricultural corporations regularly violate the human right to health and to safe food and drinking water, through toxic contamination of air, land water and produce, without risk of prosecution. Corporations have no right to harm individual or collective public health.

In this context, WILPF suggests the following recommendation:

- That the U.S. enact a Federal Human Right to Health Law that makes clear that corporations have no right to harm the health of the developing fetus and persons, and ensure this human right is recognized by law and enforced.

Rights of Undocumented Migrants

The current militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border has caused a surge of unjust treatment of immigrants. The United States spends more on enforcing border militarization than on all other federal law enforcement agencies combined, including efforts to combat the trafficking of drugs and arms. The wall along the U.S.-Mexico border will cost \$49 billion dollars for a 25-year building and upkeep plan. These high costs include the increasing detention rates of undocumented immigrants, which supersede the national incarcerations costs in the United States. The current zero-tolerance policies, making illegal entry a felony, funnel these non-violent offenders into the for-profit prison industry.

WILPF therefore suggests the following recommendations for the UPR of the United States:

- To guarantee that the jurisdiction of and between the different federal and state institutions concerned be delineated and enforced when apprehending, detaining, or investigating undocumented migrants;
- To take appropriate federal measures to enforce transparency of any cases of death of an immigrant by arms or excessive violence brought against the Department of Homeland Security;
- That "contingent country" policies be removed from the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, allowing fair due process to unaccompanied children from Mexico and Canada.

Ratification of International Human Rights Conventions

The U.S. currently lacks accountability for its infringement on its' citizens' rights. This is obvious in its enactment of its own policies addressing similar rights violations with borrowed language while removing itself from a system of review. The U.S. is not a state party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. It has also not ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Additionally, though the U.S. is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the U.S. has yet to ratify this convention.

In this context, WILPF suggests the following recommendation for the UPR of the United States:

- The United States must ratify the Rome Statute, CRC, and CEDAW

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