

AMERICAN CRISIS

TEACH HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CLASSROOM!

The United Nations is constantly reviewing human rights around the world. Their Universal Periodic Review issues a kind of report card of human rights for every country. And this year they are reviewing the United States of America.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL have made a written submission to the UPR Working Group, titled:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: ROLLING BACK OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS

This November 9th, starting at 2:30pm New York time, you can watch the Working Group debate what grade America deserves. It offers a perfect opportunity for teachers to discuss human rights with their students. Whether teachers or their students agree with Amnesty International or not, no one can ignore these issues.

And, since America was founded on HUMAN RIGHTS, no American student can ignore the role that country plays in defending them or letting them die. Find links and materials at amnestylewes.org!



Philanthropy imploring America to release the Slave and revive Liberty.



Image courtesy of Tom Paine Press, Lewes

These are
the times
that try
men's souls

In the winter of 1776, America's experiment in self government was under threat and Tom Paine, author of COMMON SENSE, wrote a pamphlet to strengthen the resolve of the new country and set them back on the path of DEMOCRACY and CIVIL LIBERTY. He named it

AMERICAN CRISIS

Today HUMAN RIGHTS in America are once again threatened.

- ☛ Refugee children have been **STOLEN** from their parents
- ☛ Men languish in **GUANTANAMO BAY** without trial
- ☛ Teenagers are jailed for **LIFE** or given the **DEATH SENTENCE**
- ☛ Black men are **SHOT** and **SUFFOCATED** at the hands of police.

If America turns her back on such rights as **HABEAS CORPUS** and **TRIAL BY JURY**, how will people win them in countries like China or Russia? The fight for civil liberties in America is everyone's!

The Amnesty International Group of Lewes in the United Kingdom is running **AMERICAN CRISIS**- a year of **TALKS, CONCERTS AND FILMS** to help stop human rights abuses in America. We want to help Americans pressure their government to once again protect liberty.

As a one-time home of Tom Paine, Lewes has a unique connection to America's original cause of **FREEDOM**. We shall use it! Turn the page to our new leaflet - a summary of Amnesty International's upcoming report to the **UNITED NATIONS**. We shall mail these pamphlets to American schools and law-makers and ask: *What happened?*

REVIVE AMERICAN LIBERTY! amnestylewes.org

AMERICAN CRISIS

Addressed to the Inhabitants
of America Whose Own Country
Was Founded on the Rights of Man

A NEW EDITION, being a Summary of the AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Submission for the UN Universal Periodic Review, 36th Session of the UPR Working Group, 9th Nov 2020.

THE DEATH PENALTY

Since executions resumed in 1977, there have been more than 1,500 executions in the USA. At the end of 2018, 2,654 prisoners remained on DEATH ROW in 33 jurisdictions.

Analysis of 2019 data by the Death Penalty Information Centre consistently found RACIAL DISPARITIES in the capital punishment process: from policing and charging practices; to jury selection and verdicts; to which cases result in executions. About half of all murder victims are black; yet, in 2019, nearly 80% of new death sentences were imposed in cases involving victims who were white.

More than 160 INNOCENT PRISONERS have been released from death row since 1977, and there was serious doubt in cases where executions went ahead, often as a result of inadequate legal representation. People with serious MENTAL AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES are subject to the death penalty, in violation of international law.

The US Federal Government plans to KILL TWO MORE PRISONERS this year. Orlando Hall is set to be executed on 19th November, and Lisa Hall is due to be executed on the 8th of December. After a 17 year hiatus, the U.S. Department of Justice has carried out seven executions since only July 2020.

POLICE VIOLENCE

Nearly 1,000 people have been KILLED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS using firearms during 2018, with African Americans appearing to be disproportionately affected. The government does not effectively report and track these incidents, despite 2014 legislation requiring this.

Since the Amnesty report was drafted, the killing of GEORGE FLOYD by a police officer in Minneapolis has triggered international protests. Amnesty supports Black Lives Matter and have been tracking police violence against protesters.

GUN VIOLENCE

The US government's failure to protect individuals from persistent gun violence is denying people their civil and political rights, including the rights to LIFE, SECURITY OF PERSON AND FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION. In 2017, some 39,773 individuals died from gunshot injuries, and nearly 134,000 people were shot and injured.

Firearm homicides disproportionately impact young black men and are the LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH for black men and boys aged 15-34 - they are at least 10 times more likely to die from gun violence than white men and boys of the same age group.

GUANTANAMO BAY - 18 YEARS NO TRIAL

The GUANTANAMO BAY DETENTION CENTER continues to operate in violation of international law, with 40 individuals still detained there, including five prisoners cleared for transfer since at least 2016. None have access to adequate medical treatment, and none of those who survived torture by US agents have been given adequate rehabilitation. In 2010, 26 men were designated as "forever prisoners", held without charge or trial in violation of international human rights law.

Trials by MILITARY COMMISSION of civilians at Guantanamo Bay are inconsistent with international standards and violate the principle of Equality Before the Law. Seven detainees face a possible DEATH SENTENCE if convicted by Military Commission. Execution following unfair trial violates the right to life under international law.

Systematic human rights violations including RENDITION, SECRET DETENTION AND TORTURE were conducted by the CIA from 2001-2009. The full report to the US Senate Committee on Intelligence is still being kept secret, and needs to be released in full, to ensure accountability and access to justice for those who endured abuses.

FAMILIES SEPARATED AND IMPRISONED

In 2018 and 2019, FAMILIES WERE FORCIBLY SEPARATED, inflicting extreme suffering. Asylum seekers have been arbitrarily detained for indefinite periods, extending to years in some cases, without opportunities to request or receive parole.

This includes the PROLONGED AND INDEFINITE DETENTION OF CHILDREN at sites such as the Homestead facility in Florida, rolling back the "Flores Settlement Agreement" of 1997, which set a court monitored limit of 20 days. Children from 12-17 years old have been detained at Homestead for an average of 52 days and in one case for eight months. This separation and imprisonment continues to cause psychological damage to children.

The USA is failing to meet its human rights obligations to refugees and asylum seekers. Resettlement of refugees to the USA has plummeted from an average 95,000 per year in 1980-2018 to approximately 30,000 in 2019, and a target of 18,000 for 2020.

This places asylum seekers at unnecessary risk of harm. REFOULMENT, which is prohibited in international law, is defined as: "the forcible return of refugees or asylum seekers to a country where they are liable to be subjected to persecution". In June 2020 the Supreme Court approved a "Fast Track" removal of undocumented immigrants, without recourse to the courts.

TURNING ITS BACK ON HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2018, the USA withdrew from the UN Human Rights Council and unilaterally created its own "Commission on Inalienable Rights" which in the view of Amnesty International UNDERMINES the international human rights framework.

America refuses to ratify NUMEROUS TREATIES on human rights and has not responded to numerous UN communications relating to human rights, nor accepted requests for official visits since January 2018.

LEWES CALLS AMERICA BACK TO THE FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



STOP THE EXECUTIONS

Almost all countries in the world have outlawed the death penalty. It is irreversible and mistakes do happen. It does not stop crime. It is discriminatory and often used as a political tool.



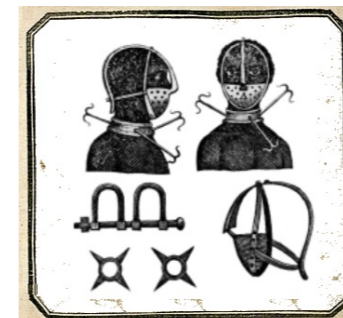
FREE THE REFUGEE CHILDREN

A federal judge has ordered that children still in detention centres be released. But the authorities are separating them from their parents. Petition on our site to #FreeThemAll.



CLOSE GUANTANAMO BAY

This year we intend to write to all of the 40 men held without trial in Guantanamo to show them they have not been forgotten. To be part of this project and be allocated prisoners to contact, sign up on our website.



STOP POLICE BRUTALITY

The PEACE Act (HR 4359), establishes a national standard to prevent police officers from using lethal force unless nonlethal methods have been exhausted.

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