

Ambassador Susan Rice
Director, Domestic Policy Council
The White House
Washington, D.C.

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RE: Creating a federal commission to study establishing a national human rights institution

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_____ that monitor and promote the implementation of their international human rights obligations. Some do so by giving individuals the right to bring claims that may be resolved by the NHRI. Some provide a public forum for the investigation of alleged violations and a platform for recommendations to improve human rights compliance.

obligations including under the Universal Declaration and ratified treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

An American effort to establish an NHRI could also reinforce the priorities President Biden on Gender Equity and Equality, demonstrating that what the United States asks of others is what we also demand of ourselves. We were heartened that the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in its Concluding Observations following the United States review earlier this year, [welcomed](#) advisement the recommendations favoring the creation of an NHRI.

In keeping with the U.S. government's stated commitment to evaluate human rights recommendations, we urge the Biden administration to establish a presidential commission to thoroughly explore the creation of an NHRI in the United States. We stand ready to support you in your efforts to launch such a process and take the first steps toward bringing human rights home.

For further questions, please contact Professor David Kaye, UC Irvine School of Law, at dkaye@law.uci.edu, or Mr. Jamil Dakwar, AmeriCenter for Law and Justice.

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Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance
Project on Government Oversight
Promise Institute for Human Rights, UCLA School of Law
Repeal Mental Health Laws
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Society of the Flora, Fauna and Friend
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Truah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
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