



## For Immediate Release

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## The Advocates for Human Rights Decries U.S. Withdrawal from UN Human Rights Council

*Advocates deeply disappointed by U.S. withdrawal from key international human rights mechanism.*

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (June 19, 2018)

The Advocates for Human Rights is deeply disappointed by today's announcement by the Trump administration withdrawing the United States from membership in the UN Human Rights Council.

The Human Rights Council, formed in 2006, is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. It is the primary diplomatic forum for global human rights engagement.

The Human Rights Council is made up of 47 UN Member States elected by the UN General Assembly. By withdrawing, the U.S. reverts to the observer status held by countries that are not Council members, a status that allows governments to take the floor, but not vote. The Trump Administration is forfeiting the United States' ability to offer and vote on resolutions.

"This announcement, made at the very moment when the U.S. is violating international refugee protections at our southern border, is confirmation that the administration has turned its back on international human rights obligations," says Robin Phillips, executive director of The Advocates for Human Rights. "The move further undermines the U.S. government's already waning credibility on the international human rights stage."

The United States has been a leader in building respect for internationally recognized human rights since playing a central role in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights seventy years ago.

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