



Franciscans International
A voice at the United Nations

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Franciscans Denounce U.S. Decision to Withdraw from UN Human Rights Council

As people of faith and in keeping with the tradition of peacemaking, inclusivity and encounter handed down to us by St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, we denounce the decision of the United States to withdraw from the United Nations Human Rights Council.

The United States was once one of the most influential nations in the world on human rights issues. In the cowardly act of withdrawing from the Human Rights Council, the United States has not only given away any semblance of leadership but is reneging on global efforts committed to creating and sustaining a peace-filled world where all people of God can live with dignity. This decision will further the idea that the United States is now a country that suppresses human rights and will be a disappointment to nations who used to look to our country to protect and promote human rights around the world.

We endorse the inspirational [words of Pope Francis](#) *“From a Christian perspective, there is a significant relation between the Gospel message and the recognition of human rights in the spirit of those who drafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.”*

“This decision undermines the protection of human rights worldwide. It sets a dangerous precedent for countries that commit or allow human rights abuses and empowers countries that seek to undermine the UN human rights mechanisms.” - Franciscans International Executive Director, Markus Heinze, OFM

“Without the US's participation in the Human Rights Council, China will likely fill the gap in leadership and work toward an agenda that could make things worse for human rights.” - FAN Executive Director, Patrick Carolan

Franciscans will continue to pray for the United States as a country and work to ensure all people are afforded basic human dignity.



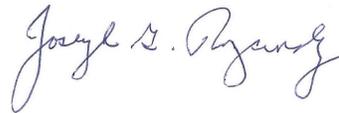
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