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**US Human Rights Network Statement
Item 5: General Debate on Minority Rights**

Good Morning Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates.

Last year, police killings and profiling of black people highlighted the need for comprehensive action in fighting racial discrimination in the United States. Many of us heard about the killings by law enforcement of Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and 12 year old Tamir Rice. For every victim whose name we know, many more go unnamed. The killing of black women and girls - transgender and cisgender - remains nearly invisible.

This year alone, at least 7 Trans women have been killed, most of them Black. Trans women of color make up about 3 out of every 4 hate crimes. Furthermore, it is legal to deny employment to trans people in 39 U.S. States. With this form of economic exclusion, it is no surprise that Trans people experience disproportionate rates of poverty. Almost all transgender people (97%) have experienced harassment or discrimination on the job, including about 50% who report being referred to with the wrong pronoun, repeatedly and on purpose. Unfortunately, even here at the United Nations, a member of the security staff issuing badges also referred to a transgender member of the US civil society delegation with the wrong pronoun even after she had seen her passport.

The situation of Trans women of color highlights the fact that vulnerability to violence and discrimination is inextricably linked to the enjoyment of economic and social rights. We therefore call on state parties, including the U.S. Government, to adopt comprehensive national plans of action that explicitly recognizes economic, social, cultural, civil, political, sexual and environmental rights to combat racism, racial discrimination and protect minority rights. Thank you.