Madam President,

This statement is made in consultation with the Human Rights Campaign. We welcome the United States government's positive response to the recommendations relating to non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity made by Belgium, France, Iceland and Malta.

We applaud the recent executive order on Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation which broadly applies existing sex nondiscrimination laws to protect LGBTQ individuals consistent with the 2020 Supreme Court ruling in *Bostock v Clayton County*. In addition, we applaud the Presidential Memorandum on Advancing the Human Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Persons Around the World. We urge the United States to do all it can to live up to the promise of these executive actions.

Despite significant steps by some U.S. states and the Supreme Court ruling in *Bostock*, LGBTQ individuals in the United States still lack basic legal protections in many jurisdictions. The lack of federal explicit, codified LGBTQ civil rights protections leaves millions subject to uncertainly and potential discrimination that impacts their safety, their families, and their daily lives.

We urge the United States to take all possible steps, including the enactment of the Equality Act, to codify and expand nondiscrimination protections on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in its domestic and foreign policy. These must include protections in credit, education, employment, housing, jury service, public spaces and services, and taxpayer funded programs.

Madam President,

The epidemic of violence against transgender people, particularly Black and Brown transgender women in the United States, is a national crisis. 2020 was the most deadly year on record with 44 transgender people losing their lives to violence.

Across the country, crimes against the LGBTQ population remain at disturbingly high levels. Hate crimes affect not only the victims and their families, but the entire community that they target. The United States should devote more resources at the state and federal level to combating violence and hate crimes, including education and training, and outreach to communities.

Thank you, Madam. President.