



Florida Action Committee, Inc.
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November 14, 2022

**SENT VIA REGISTERED
UNITED STATES MAIL
AND VIA EMAIL TO
ohchr-cp@un.org**

Office of the United Nations
Volker Türk, High Commissioner for Human Rights
Human Rights Council Branch
Complaint Procedure Unit
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

**RE: PETITION TO THE UNITED NATIONS TO INVESTIGATE
THE UNITED STATES' PUBLIC SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY
AS A VIOLATION OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

Dear Commissioner Türk,

I am President of the Florida Action Committee, Inc. (FAC), a 2500+ member, U.S.-based, non-profit organization that advocates for public safety and laws based on empirical research.

Our organization includes persons who are required to register as “sex offenders” and their families. We are victims of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, acting in good faith and in accordance with the principles of human rights. Our reason for initiating this Complaint is not politically motivated. It is in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. We have direct and reliable knowledge of the violations concerned.

The United Nations expressly prohibits cruel or degrading treatment or punishment. The prohibition can be found, among other places, in Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Our Complaint arises under these provisions.

In support of and in supplement to our complaint, FAC launched a Change.org petition requesting you investigate what has become a grievous human rights issue; the public sex offender registry in the United States. As of this date, our petition (which can be found at [https://www. Change.org/FAC-humanrightsforall](https://www.Change.org/FAC-humanrightsforall)) has collected more than three thousand signatures.

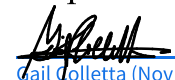
Despite decades of research showing the sex offender registry is ineffective at achieving its intended goal, the United States forces approximately one million people to be publicly shamed by this debilitating label, which causes, among other things, stigmatization, isolation, chronic unemployment, loss of housing and physical violence from vigilantes. Numerous persons forced to register, and their family members have been killed because of it.

The act of placing human beings on a public shaming list for life and subjecting them to the crippling and dehumanizing consequences, when that list has been proven through empirical research to be ineffective at preventing recidivism or reducing sexual offending, is cruel and degrading.

Our organization has been fighting against these human rights violations for more than 10 years. Not only have domestic remedies been exhausted but seeking such remedies has been ineffective and unreasonably prolonged.

We respectfully request the assistance of the United Nations in initiating this Complaint and investigating and addressing these human rights violations. FAC can provide you with the information and materials to assist in your investigation.

Respectfully attested to and submitted,



[Gail Colletta \(Nov 13, 2022 09:05 EST\)](#)

Gail Colletta, President
Florida Action Committee, Inc.

Commissioner Volker Türk
November 14, 2022
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Enc. Copy of Change.org Petition

Public Sex Offender Registration is Violation of Universal Declaration of Human Rights



Florida Action Committee (FAC) started this petition

To: The High Commissioner for Human Rights, Office of the United Nations, Complaint Procedure Unit, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Petition to Declare Public Sex Offender Registration in the United States a Violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

The Florida Action Committee, Inc. (FAC) is a 2,500+ member non-profit public safety organization that advocates for the rights of all persons. Included in our membership are people forced to register as sexual offenders in the United States.

Today, approximately one-million people in the United States are forced to register as "sex offenders". It is a debilitating label that elicits a very negative social reaction and causes extreme harm to the person wearing the label and anyone associated with them.

3,039 have signed. Let's get to 5,000!



At 5,000 signatures, this petition is more likely to get picked up by **local news!**



Florida Action Committee (FAC) signed this petition



[Redacted signature]



[Redacted signature]

Sign this petition

First name

Last name

Email

Display my name and comment on this petition

Sign this petition

By signing, you accept Change.org's [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#), and agree to receive occasional emails about campaigns on Change.org. You can unsubscribe at any time.

In Florida, all persons forced to register are required to do so for life, and all are broadcast on a State sanctioned, publicly accessible and Google indexed website along with their name, picture, address, and other identifying information. They remain on the public registry even if they move out of the state, move out of the country, or die. Two-thirds of the people on Florida's sex offender registry do not even live in Florida communities!

The publicly broadcast label leads to stigmatization, separation from society, loss of employment, loss of housing and even exposure to violence at the hands of vigilantes. The stigmatization extends to the spouses, children, family, friends, employer and anyone that associates with the registrant. The isolation, shame, stress, fear of violence, loss of income and other psychological effects are experienced by the entire household.

It would be one thing if the registry was effective at reducing sexual offenses, but it is not. A meta-study analyzing more than 25 years of research found that the registry does not reduce sexual or non-sexual recidivism at all (Zgoba, K.M., Mitchell, M.M. The effectiveness of Sex Offender Registration and Notification: A meta-analysis of 25 years of findings. J Exp Criminol (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-021-09480-z>

The United Nations expressly prohibits cruel or degrading treatment or punishment. The prohibition can be found, among other places, in Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The act of placing human beings on a public shaming list for life, when that list has been repeatedly proven through empirical research to be ineffective at reducing sexual offending, is grievously cruel and degrading.

We respectfully request The High Commissioner of Human Rights to investigate this practice and take appropriate action.