

2021 Current Fiscal Year Report: Department of State Commission on Unalienable Rights

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1. Department or Agency

Department of State

2. Fiscal Year

2021

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Department of State Commission on Unalienable Rights

3b. GSA

Committee No.

84576

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

07/08/2019 07/08/2021

6. Expected Renewal Date

01/14/2021

7. Expected Term Date

Yes

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

8b. Specific Termination Authority

Memorandum of Termination

8c. Actual Term Date

01/14/2021

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Terminate

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority

22 U.S.C 2656

13. Effective Date

07/08/2019

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

National Policy Issue Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open

0

17b. Closed

0

17c. Partially Closed

0

Other Activities

0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The purpose of the Commission was to provided the Secretary of State informed advice and recommendations concerning international human rights matters. The Commission examined matters pertaining to human rights and proposed reforms of human rights examining where it had departed from our nation's founding principles and the internationalization of those principles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Other interested experts, advisors, parties, agencies, and interagency committees and groups of the United States Government, foreign governments, and with national and international private sector organizations and individuals were consulted by the Commission, as the Department of State decided were necessary or desirable. The Commission was composed of no more than fifteen qualified members with backgrounds in international law, human rights, and religious liberties. The membership was a bi-partisan, diverse group of men and women.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

There were no meetings in FY 2021 as the Committee terminated January 14, 2021.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The recommendations from the Commission's membership were gathered from expert witnesses and from the public. Because it was not bound by specific policy considerations, it was allowed to operate at the level of principle.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

NA

21. Remarks

The committee did not meet in FY 21 due to termination.

Designated Federal Officer

Duncan H. Walker Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
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Anderson, Kenneth	12/10/2019	12/09/2020	Professor	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Berkowitz, Peter	09/18/2019	01/14/2021	Director, State Department Policy Planning Staff	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Berman, Russell	09/18/2019	01/14/2021	Professor, Stanford University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Carozza, Paolo	09/18/2019	01/14/2021	Professor of Law and Concurrent Professor of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Glendon, Mary	09/18/2019	01/14/2021	Learned Hand Professor of Law, Harvard University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hanson, Hamza	10/23/2019	01/14/2021	Professor and Dean	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Lantos-Swett, Katrina	09/18/2019	01/14/2021	President of the Tom Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Pan, David	09/18/2019	01/14/2021	Professor of German, University of California, Irvine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Soloveichik, Meir	09/18/2019	01/14/2021	Director of the Zahava and Moshael Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought at Yeshiva University and Rabbi of Congregation Shearith Israel	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

			Distinguished	
			Professor and	Special
			Chairman of the	Government
Tollefsen,	09/18/2019	01/14/2021	Department of	Employee
Christopher			Philosophy,	(SGE)
			University of South	Member
			Carolina	

Number of Committee Members Listed: 10

Narrative Description

The Commission met six times in FY2020: October 23, 2019, November 1, 2019, December 11, 2019, January 10, 2020, and February 21, 2020. An meeting, scheduled for for March 26, 2020, was listed in the Federal Register Notice but cancelled due to COVID19 lockdown. The Commission met a final time July 16, 2020 in Philadelphia. Committee Terminated Jan.14, 2021

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

The Commission's findings addressed major principles underlying U.S. human rights policies. These principles may or may not be used by policy makers in the form of fresh thinking and additional context.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Unable to Determine	<input type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

N/A

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

0

Number of Recommendations Comments

While no specific policy recommendations were made, the Commission's Report was divided into five sections, ending with twelve "concluding observations": 1. It is urgent to champion human rights in foreign policy. 2. The power of example is enormous. 3. Human rights are universal and indivisible. 4. The universality and indivisibility of human rights do not mean uniformity in bringing them to life. 5. A degree of pluralism in respecting human rights does not imply cultural relativism. 6. Nation-states have some leeway to base their human rights policy on their own distinctive national traditions. 7. Although human rights are interdependent and indivisible, certain distinctions among them are inherent in the Universal Declaration itself, as well as in the positive law of human rights that follows from the UDHR. 8. Freedom, democracy, and human rights are indissolubly linked. 9. Social and economic rights are essential to a comprehensive foreign policy. 10. New claims of rights must be carefully considered. 11. National sovereignty is vital to securing human rights. 12. The seedbeds of human rights must be cultivated.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

N/A

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or

will be Partially implemented by the agency?

%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

N/A

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒

Agency Feedback Comments

N/A

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

The final Report of the Commission issued findings on the sources the U.S. and global human rights traditions as they relate to U.S. foreign policy. The Commission's findings addressed major principles underlying U.S. human rights policies.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

N/A

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>

Online Committee Web Site

☐

Online GSA FACA Web Site

☒

Publications

☐

Other

☐

Access Comments

N/A