

Where We Are

The Human Rights Watch World Report 2026 finds that the past year in the United States was marked by a “blatant disregard for human rights and egregious violations” and states that the country has taken a “decided shift toward authoritarianism.” Philippe Bolopion, the group’s Executive Director, said, “You see an organized, relentless, determined assault on all of the checks and balances that are meant to limit executive power in US democracy – a system designed to limit power and protect rights.”

In particular, the HRW report emphasizes immigration, health, the environment, labor, disability, gender, criminal justice, and freedom of speech as areas of human rights in which the Trump administration has taken "significant steps backward." A few examples:

Immigration: ‘Terrorizing entire communities’

HRW says that Trump’s second term effort to carry out the largest deportation effort the U.S. has ever seen has employed racial profiling in immigration enforcement; arrested and summarily deported an increasing number of primarily Black and Brown immigrants without due process; and extended immigration raids to previously off-limits “sensitive locations” such as schools, hospitals, and places of worship: “Many raids were violent and abusive, terrorizing entire communities.” In addition, it cites the “inhuman and degrading conditions” in CECOT, the maximum-security prison in El Salvador to which many have been illegally sent, as well as in the immigration enforcement camps in the United States.

Structural Racism: ‘Drastic backsliding’

The report discusses the “drastic backsliding” on racial justice and “dismantling of civil rights mechanisms” including the elimination of federal diversity, equity and inclusion efforts (DEI). The Trump administration in 2025 “aggressively sought to erase Black history, including Harriet Tubman’s legacy, and to downplay or obscure racial injustice and resist accountability.”

Foreign Policy: ‘Extrajudicial killings’

“Beginning in February, the administration abruptly terminated nearly all US foreign aid, including funding that supported human rights defenders, local civil society groups, and life-saving humanitarian assistance for

populations facing conflict, displacement, or famine,” the report says. “Those cuts are having widespread impacts around the globe, including limiting human rights organizations’ ability to operate and undermining access to health services and emergency care, including for LGBT people, women, children, and older people.”

HRW also called the Trump administration’s strikes on small boats in the Caribbean “brazenly unlawful extrajudicial killings under international human rights law.”

Democracy and the Right to Vote: ‘Silence critics’

“The administration launched sweeping measures to weaken core pillars of civil society it associates with opposition to its policies, including executive orders cutting university research funding over purported ideological disagreements, restricting government access for law firms engaged in certain legal work, threatening the tax-exempt status of some nongovernmental organizations and misusing the Federal Communications Commission and Department of Justice in attempts to intimidate and silence critics,” the HRW report says.

Gender, Sexuality, Reproductive Rights: ‘Escalated attacks’

“The current administration blocked Planned Parenthood from receiving reimbursements from Medicaid, the public health insurance program for people with low incomes,” the report says. “As a result, more than a million people lost insurance coverage for health care they were receiving from the nonprofit organization, the single largest provider of reproductive health care in the U.S.” It also argues that 2025 saw “escalated attacks” on the rights of transgender and LGBTQ+ people as a whole in the U.S.

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2026/feb/04/trump-us-china-russia-democratic-recession-peril-human-rights-watch>;

<https://time.com/7366302/human-rights-trump-2026/>

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END U.S. Wars and Occupations

REMOVE the Trump Regime

Resist fascism now (before it’s too late.) Resist this endless war.

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<https://newhavensundayvigil.org>

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