

# A Critical Look at the Contradictions in American Society

Key observations from USA Human Rights Report released by CDPHR

Lekshmi Parameswaran



भारत नीति प्रतिष्ठान  
India Policy Foundation

[www.ipf.org](http://www.ipf.org)

# **A critical look at the contradictions in American society**

Key observations from USA Human Rights Report  
released by CDPHR

**Lekshmi Parameswaran**



भारत नीति प्रतिष्ठान  
**India Policy Foundation**

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher.

Published by:

**India Policy Foundation**

D-51, Hauz Khas,

New Delhi -110016 (India)

Tele: 011-26524018

Email: [info@ipf.org.in](mailto:info@ipf.org.in), [indiapolicy@gmail.com](mailto:indiapolicy@gmail.com)

Website: [www.ipf.org.in](http://www.ipf.org.in)

© India Policy Foundation

Edition:

First: June, 2022



**CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY,  
PLURALISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS**



**USA  
HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
REPORT**



For several decades, the United States of America (USA) has been at the forefront of calling out events and incidents that it perceives as human rights violations across the globe, and reprimanding the non-white world for their alleged poor record in protecting human rights. Yet it is surprising that a nation which voluntarily took on such a huge responsibility of being the moral guardian of the world have done very little introspection till date. It took a report by the Centre of Democracy, Pluralism and Human Rights (CDPHR) titled, 'USA Human Rights Report' to bring out the magnitude of the double standards practiced by the American policymakers, think tanks and media.

The CDPHR report, authored by Arvind Kumar, civil rights activist and writer based in USA and Perna Malhotra, faculty at University of Delhi, India has done a comprehensive study on the human rights violations taking place across USA in different spheres. It is a startling account of how the self-appointed global watchman has been trying to hide the blatant human rights violations that has been happening within the country for centuries.

It is impossible to study the history of USA without understanding the dichotomy that has always been present. The report has called out the widespread narrative which has portrayed American history as the fight for freedom ignoring all the crimes against humanity that were committed for centuries. It can be categorically stated that the history of the nation captures the narrow view of Protestants fleeing Europe to escape persecution by the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England, but conveniently ignores the grave injustices that were done against the Native Americans and the African slaves. While the former were systematically exterminated, the latter were kidnapped and transported to work as slaves on plantations. They were denied a life of dignity and were only seen as property. The American Constitution, even though it does not use the word 'slavery', has through several clauses institutionalised the system. The Three-Fifths Clause which treated Black people as property and the Fugitive Slave Clause which did not permit people escaping slavery to gain freedom but required such

persons to be returned to the owner are examples of how the nation's founding fathers had legitimised the practice of slavery.<sup>1</sup>

### **Ethnic discrimination against Native Americans**

The barbarism inflicted on the Native population led to the extinction of 90 per cent of the indigenous people. Even now, the few remaining Native Americans lag behind on all other parameters. They have huge assets worth billions but they cannot utilise them for their use as all powers over their assets lie with the government.

The Native Americans' Reservation lands contain the country's 30 per cent coal; 50 per cent potential uranium; 20 per cent oil and natural gas reserves, with estimated total energy resources at nearly USD 1.5 trillion. The federal government has been working as a trustee of the land of indigenous people, which is the biggest reason for their poverty.

Series of political and legal decisions perpetuated the poverty of Native Americans. An example of this can be seen in the 1831 Supreme Court decision given by Chief Justice Marshall in the *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia* which made the Indian tribes, the Native Americans “domestic dependent nation” and their relationship with the federal government was established as that of a ward to his guardian.

As per the statistics given by Hoover Institution, in 2015, the annual income of the Native Americans, the people living on Reservation lands, was 68 per cent below the USA average, and 20 per cent of their households were earning less than USD 5000 annually, as compared to the national average of 6 per cent; the rape rate of native women was 2.5 times higher than the national average, and the child abuse rate was also double.<sup>2</sup> Native Americans reported frequent discrimination, harassment, and being the target of slurs.

---

<sup>1</sup> New York Case Spotlights Gun Laws, Race History: Explained, Bloomberg Law, 3

November 2021, <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/new-york-casespotlights->

[gun-laws-and-race-history-explained](#)

<sup>2</sup> The Campus Sexual Assault (CSA) Study (ojp.gov)

The identity of Native Americans has been appropriated by White politicians for their own advancement. The report states the case of Elizabeth Warren, a White US Senator of the Democratic Party from the state of Massachusetts who falsely claimed to be a Native American for many years and benefited from affirmative action policies that were meant to benefit Native American people. She went on to become a professor at Harvard University and later got elected to the Senate. Despite her fraud, she was never criminally charged for her actions. On the contrary, the supposedly liberal media and academicians tried their best to provide her cover. This was clearly a case of the law not being applicable to those who are powerful and no efforts were made to safeguard the history and identity of the Native Indians.<sup>3</sup>

It is also interesting to note that the US is a signatory of The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which was adopted in 2007. As a comprehensive international instrument on the rights of indigenous people, it aims to ensure survival, dignity, and well-being of the indigenous people the world over. However, USA remains a grave violator of its provisions.

### **Racism and discrimination are entrenched in American society**

It has been many years since the abolition of slavery but racism as well as gender discrimination are still deeply entrenched in the American society. The country was plunged into civil war in 1861, at the end of which slavery was abolished. However, many states responded by creating the “Jim Crow laws” which resulted in the segregation of Blacks and excluded them from participating in the mainstream. While the civil rights movement of the 1960s aimed to remove these laws and ensure that Blacks were treated as equals, that goal has been achieved only on paper.

---

<sup>3</sup> Bill Clinton & Prince Andrew Could Be Facing New Trouble Over Jeffrey Epstein's

Flight Logs, Louisa Ballhaus, Yahoo News, 28 January 2021,  
<https://www.yahoo.com/entertainment/bill-clinton-prince-andrew-could-143408605.html>

[com/entertainment/bill-clinton-prince-andrew-could-143408605.html](https://www.yahoo.com/entertainment/bill-clinton-prince-andrew-could-143408605.html)

The historical injustices against the Blacks have been highlighted in the CDPHR report. But more importantly, it throws light on how residues of the thought process that existed centuries ago are still hampering the American society.

The legal system and judiciary had strongly contributed to institutionalising the practice of slavery. The report reminds everyone that the abolition of slavery was strictly conditional as slavery and involuntary servitude were permitted as punishment for crimes.<sup>4</sup> One of the earliest examples of how the judiciary had connived with the social system that was in place was the Dred Scott v. Sandford decision in which the USA Supreme Court ruled that the rights and privileges listed in the USA's Constitution did not apply to Black people.

It is well-known that women and Blacks had to fight for their rights, including the right to vote. Even though Blacks were granted voting rights in 1870 and women in 1920, many laws were created to exclude Blacks from registering as voters. Blacks also faced violence from lynch mobs who killed them and hung them from trees. It was only after the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that Blacks were given full rights to vote.

There have been concerted efforts to keep Blacks out of businesses. An example cited in the report is that of how marijuana was first criminalised and then decriminalised which kept out most Blacks from owning the marijuana farms.<sup>5</sup>

After analysing multiple judgements, the report finds that the judiciary has been repeatedly creating precedents that ensure that Black people are placed in an inferior position compared to White supremacists. The sentencing of Blacks is much harsher

---

<sup>4</sup> A \$5 Children's Book vs. a \$47,000 Jail Cell -- Choose One, Steve Cohen, Forbes, 25

December 2010, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/stevecohen/2010/12/25/a-5-childrens-book-vs-a-47000-jail-cell-choose-one/?sh=4fb1a236615b>

<sup>5</sup> billion-dollar industry, a racist legacy: being Black and growing pot in America, The

Guardian, 15 June 2017, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/jun/15/legalmarijuana-industry-racism-portland-jesse-horton>

than that of Whites. It is believed that such unfair incarceration of the Blacks has a direct correlation with the prisons in USA being privately run and the owners putting pressure on the government to make prisons profitable.<sup>6</sup>

The USA also forbade the immigration of Asians into the country. While the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed in 1882, the judiciary was used to deny citizenship to immigrants from India and also persecute Indian freedom fighters based in the US who were fighting for the freedom of India from British rule.

Racism is institutionalised in political parties too. It needs to be noted that despite the loud rhetoric, none of the parties have framed a comprehensive policy to eradicate racism. Both Democrats and Republicans have often come together to keep Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans, and other minorities away from the courts. The report quotes that although Whites form only 36.5 percent of the population, they occupy close to 65 per cent of the judgeships in California, and although Hispanics are 39.4 per cent of the population, only 11.2 per cent of judges are Hispanic clearly proving that the state's judiciary is racially skewed.<sup>7</sup> It has also been revealed that the judges of the United States Supreme Court have consciously denied clerkships on the court to Black people.

At the presidential level too, racism was a prevalent factor. In 1976, Jimmy Carter, had advocated segregated neighbourhoods and used the term “ethnically pure neighbourhoods” to describe Whites neighbourhoods.<sup>8</sup> Even Bill Clinton had made a comment

---

<sup>6</sup> Profile of Appellate and Trial Judges, As of 1 September 2020, <https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1449683/judge-profile-sept-2020.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Activists denounce lack of minority law clerks Protesters to demonstrate outside

Supreme Court today as term opens, Baltimore Sun (originally published in Los Angeles Times), 5 October 1998, <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/bs-xpm-1998-10-05-1998278028-story.html>

<sup>8</sup> 7 facts about Black Americans and the news media, By Sara Atske, Michael Barthel, Galen Stocking and Christine Tamir, Pew Research Center, 7 August 2019,

about Barack Obama when the latter became President that “a few years ago, this guy would have been getting us coffee.”<sup>9</sup>

Government policies of social justice and development are also deeply discriminatory in nature in America. Poverty is widespread among Blacks which makes it clear that there is no equitable distribution of resources. A study by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and Duke University found that the median net worth of White people in Boston was more than a quarter-million dollars but for the US Blacks in Boston, the median net worth was just USD 8. According to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Blacks account for 13 per cent of the US population but 40 per cent of all homeless people and 51 per cent of homeless people with families.<sup>10</sup>

Immigration laws are also based on racial considerations. While citizens of several European countries do not require a visa to visit the USA, a person from Latin America, Africa or Asia must go through a stringent process to obtain a visa.

### **Universities being used as means to perpetuate racism**

Academia is a field that should be ideally without any biases. Unfortunately, racism is most pronounced in the American universities. Many facts of history are deliberately hidden to further the agenda of the White supremacists. The school textbooks do not have any reference to Malcolm X<sup>11</sup>, the civil

---

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/08/07/facts-about-Black-americansand-the-news-media/>

<sup>9</sup> Harry Reid apologizes for ‘no Negro dialect’ remark about Obama, Lisa Mascaro, Las

Vegas Sun, 9 January 2010, [https://lasvegassun.com/news/2010/jan/09/harry-reidapologizes-](https://lasvegassun.com/news/2010/jan/09/harry-reidapologizes-light-skinned-remarks-about/)

[light-skinned-remarks-about-/](https://lasvegassun.com/news/2010/jan/09/harry-reidapologizes-light-skinned-remarks-about/)

<sup>10</sup> Editorial: A racist relic blocks affordable housing in California. It must go, Los Angeles

Times, 14 March 2022, <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2022-03-14/editorial-racist-california-article-34-public-affordable-housing>

<sup>11</sup> White NAACP boss in Arizona weighs in on race flap, The Republic, 6 December 2015,

rights leader in what is seen as effort to systematically build a narrative favouring the majority community.

Only minority members who embrace the political agenda of White supremacist people are given faculty positions. An example cited by the report is that of Harvard University Professor Cornel West who has been labelled by other Blacks as an “Uncle Tom.”<sup>12</sup> It goes on to add that the Harvard University's Kennedy School, one of the country's political power centres, is one of the biggest culprits in keeping out Blacks from joining the faculty. This is consistent with the aim of ensuring that political power is concentrated in the hands of the Whites.<sup>13</sup>

It is also interesting to note that Whites are at the helm of institutions that have been established with the stated goal of working for the interests of the Blacks. One such organisation cited by the report is the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP). Established in 1909, White people have been calling the shots in this organisation. Its first President was Moorfield Storey, who was a White. He was followed by Joel Spingarn, Arthur Spingarn and Kivie Kaplan, all of whom were Whites. It was only in 1975, sixty-six years after the founding of NAACP, that a Black man, Dr. Montague Cobb, was allowed to become the President of the organisation.<sup>14</sup> Similar is the story of the movement that recently

---

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/phoenix/2015/06/12/maricopacounty->

[naacp-chief-take-race-flap-rachel-dolezal/71162076/](https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/phoenix/2015/06/12/maricopacounty-naacp-chief-take-race-flap-rachel-dolezal/71162076/)

<sup>12</sup> Letter to the Editor from Ryan Ford of Placerville, Mountain Democrat, 29 June

2020, <https://www.mtdemocrat.com/letters/we-should-have-listened/>

<sup>13</sup> Malcolm X makes this point in his speech “Message to the Grassroots” delivered in

Detroit in 1963. For a full transcript of the speech, see

<https://www.Blackpast.org/african-american-history/speeches-african-americanhistory/>

[1963-malcolm-x-message-grassroots/](https://www.Blackpast.org/african-american-history/speeches-african-americanhistory/1963-malcolm-x-message-grassroots/)

<sup>14</sup> AAI Conference in Maseru, 2 December 1976, Cable 1976MASERU01478\_b,

[https://www.wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/1976MASERU01478\\_b.html](https://www.wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/1976MASERU01478_b.html)

gained global popularity, “Black Lives Matter.” It was also started by a person named Shaun King whose birth certificate lists both his parents as Whites. The creation of such movements and organisations acts as hindrances to Blacks forming their own political parties and fighting for their rights in an independent manner.<sup>15</sup>

Another organisation that has been controlled by White people but has been working against the interests of Blacks is Planned Parenthood which targets Blacks and performs abortions. A study in 2015 by the Centre for Urban Renewal and Education confirmed that “Black women have the highest abortion ratio in the country, with abortions per 1,000 live births.”

It is evident that the White Saviour Complex has been used throughout the world to subjugate the native or minority population. In America too, it is no different with charitable organisations using the façade of helping Black population with the aim of transferring the tax payers money to the White population.

Universities have been using affirmative action programs which are purportedly for the benefit of Whites but have in effect been used to keep the Blacks out of academic institutions. Even though the universities claim that their admission process is a transparent one, the granting of legacy admissions negates any claims of it being so.

Legacy admissions are admissions given to students who had a family member graduate from the university and who have paid a large sum of money to the university. A study in 2019 found that the admissions of 43 per cent of White students admitted to Harvard University were legacy students, children of faculty and staff, athletes, or on the dean's interest list admissions. The same study found that 75 percent of these White students would have

---

<sup>15</sup> Sakharov Hearings in U.S., 5 August 1979, Cable 1979STATE203987\_e, [https://www.wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/1979STATE203987\\_e.html](https://www.wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/1979STATE203987_e.html)

60. AAI Conference in Maseru, 2 December 1976, Cable 1976MASERU01478

been rejected had they been considered for admission in a fair process.<sup>16</sup>

Another form of racial segregation practiced by the government is to label universities run by Blacks using disparaging terms such as “Historically Black universities” which diminish the focus on their academics and reorients it towards racial identity.

Asian students who are viewed as competition by the Whites are also kept out of the race using the same argument that all the steps are taken for the benefit of the Whites. The report gives the example of University of California used standardized tests as one of the criteria for admissions. But this resulted in a large number of students of Asian descent and other minority students getting admitted and fewer Whites being offered admission. So, they did away with these tests and made the process arbitrary. Another way, they denied admission to Black was by inventing many categories of “oppressed” people such as women, homosexuals, transgender people, and so on which helped them to give admission to more Whites.<sup>17</sup>

### **Religious discrimination**

USA is a nation that has taken it upon itself to analyse religious freedom across the globe and come out with regular reports on how the other nations are treating its minorities. The double standards that have become most visible are in the area of religious rights. The way the Native Americans were annihilated by terming their religious beliefs as barbaric remain the darkest chapter of American history. Over the years, the schism between

---

<sup>16</sup> GOP Senate candidate T.W. Shannon targets ‘racist’ Planned Parenthood in ad: ‘True

face of White supremacy,’ Brian Flood and Nikolas Lanum, Fox News, 28 April 2022,

<https://www.foxnews.com/media/gop-senate-candidate-t-w-shannon-plannedparenthood>

<sup>17</sup> The Effects of Abortion On The Black Community, June 2015, Center for Urban

Renewal and Education, <https://www.congress.gov/115/meeting/>

house/106562/witnesses/HHRG-115-JU10-Wstate-ParkerS-20171101-SD001.pdf

Roman Catholics and Protestants widened resulting in perpetual conflict between these two sects. By the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Jews faced systemic discrimination, known as anti-Semitism at the hands of dominant Christians, occupying most of the high positions socially and politically. Churches in the USA are organised along racial lines and have been used to control Black people and have been instrumental in aggravating the racial problem.

It is interesting to note that the First Amendment to the Constitution mandated the federal government to consider persons of all religions equally. USA is also a signatory of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The report states that religious freedom is available to members of the majority of Christians who as per the 2011 data from Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion and Public Life, the USA has the largest Christian population, which is 11.3% of the world's population, almost two-thirds of them being Protestants. Non-Abrahamic religious constitute less than one per cent of the country's population and they face maximum religious discrimination.<sup>18</sup>

A common method that is used to repeatedly harass the minorities is by means of zoning laws. Citing these, permission to build places of worship are often rejected and these laws are also used to interfere in the activities of the places of worship that have already been built. The report gives the example of the Spirit of Aloha temple in Hawaii where permission was denied by government officials to conduct weddings on its property stating that it will create traffic problems. When the temple sued the country, the judge gave them an unfavourable ruling even though many non-Hindu establishments have been granted permission to conduct weddings on their properties.<sup>19</sup>

---

<sup>18</sup> New York State Senate Bill S 6648, <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2019/s6648>

legislation/bills/2019/s6648

<sup>19</sup> Maryland House Bill 1418, <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021RS/bills/hb/hb0418f.pdf>

bills/hb/hb0418f.pdf

A new form of attack against Hindus, Jains, and Buddhists that has come up recently is to get the government to criminalise the use of the Swastika as a symbol by Hindus, Buddhists, and Jains.<sup>20</sup>

The middle school curriculum in US forces the students into accepting the Bible as the historical truth and it coerces the Hindu students to give up their religious beliefs saying that their religion has no divinity in its origin as it was manufactured by a racist group of people called the Aryans. This belief is reinforced by making the students write against their religion in their school assignments. This takes the form of nothing but religious indoctrination. Two state policy documents, known as the California History-Social Science Standards and the California History-Social Science Framework how Hinduism should be taught to children in a derogatory manner. When the Hindus challenged this in court, the court opined that equal protection under the law was not applicable in cases related to education, and the state officials had the authority to apply the education codes in a selective manner. The precedent used by the court to reach this conclusion, was a prior ruling, *Monteiro v. Tempe Union*, that had legitimized the use of the disparaging slur “nigger” in the school curriculum and had given immunity to school districts when they used the slur to target Blacks.<sup>21</sup>

American Universities have also been known for sponsoring conferences to attack Hinduism. Almost in all such cases, the key organisers of the conference are Christian missionaries and evangelists with a history of making anti-Hindu statements.<sup>22</sup>

The state-sponsored movement against Hindus and Buddhists have resulted in violent attacks against their temples. There are instances of a Hindu Temple in New Jersey getting firebombed

---

<sup>20</sup> Sixth grade History-Social Science textbook for California’s school students by

Glencoe McGraw Hill, page 202, <http://www.capeem.org/docs/>

[glencoe\\_Mosesvoice.pdf](#)

<sup>21</sup> Mission of Christian Theological Seminary, <https://www.cts.edu/about/>

<sup>22</sup> History of Anti-Hindu Bias and Hinduphobia in the United States, <https://www.hinduamerican.org/hinduphobia-history>

in 2001 to a temple in Kentucky getting vandalised with Christian supremacist graffiti in 2019. Muslims have also been subject to brutal attacks. For example, a beer bottle was thrown into a mosque in San Francisco.<sup>23</sup>

One of the major tools used by the US State Department to create strife in other countries is the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) which uses religious tests while hiring its personnel and views the world through the lens of religion.

Evidence of USCIRF's prejudice can clearly be discerned from the fact that despite the ban on Muslim women and girls wearing headscarves by several European countries which has been upheld by the Court of Justice of the European Union<sup>255</sup>, and the ban on minarets by Switzerland, USCIRF singled out India to be the country which is dangerous for Muslims.

The most visible case of religious hatred by the United States occurs in the form of the routine bombing of Islamic countries, particularly Shia Muslim countries or those countries headed by leaders who want to make peace with Shia Muslims. Iran is attacked for no other reason than that it is populated by Shia Muslims.

### **Gender violence and discrimination**

According to the report, the United States is in violation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women as it treats women in an inferior manner, especially in the political sphere and the media.

Some of the facts of various studies related to gender violence in the USA are highly distressing. The American Association of University Women (AAUW) had published a report on sexual violence against schoolgirls and their experiences in school, parties, cars, buses, and playgrounds. It had startling revelations. It conducted a survey of 1965 students in grades 7-12 in May - June 2011 and had gathered data on harassment. Nearly 48 per cent of students had faced some form of sexual harassment during the year 2010-11; 87 per cent said it had a negative

---

<sup>23</sup> The Wealth Of (Indian) Nations | Hoover Institution

impact on them; 30 per cent had faced cyber harassment in addition to many of them abused physically too; 56 per cent of the students had witnessed sexual harassment more than once in the year. All this data was startling and disturbing as most of the cases were unreported. More disturbing was the fact which emerged that 44 per cent of the students who had sexually harassed others thought that it was 'no big deal' and 39 per cent thought that they were trying to be funny.<sup>24</sup>

The report states: It cannot be more upsetting than the fact that sexual violence has been normalised as a part of life and even is not reported. The lack of safe spaces even for dialogue is alarming and no support from authorities is further shocking.

The greatest danger to women in America is their sexual exploitation by those in power which is a matter of grave concern. Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that nearly 1 in every 5 American women has been the victim of rape or attempted rape.

Women are treated in an inferior manner by the government as well as the American media. At Reuters, the top ten wage earners are all men, the Los Angeles Times in a court settlement agreed to retroactively adjust the salaries of women as they were paid lesser than men.

The report adds that women have also been used by the American government to advance their political agenda. It is well known that the feminist icon of the 1960s and 1970s, Gloria Steinem, was, in fact, a CIA agent. The feminist movement in the USA is really controlled by men in power who instruct women on what issues are important for them and act as their puppeteers. American feminist organisations are controlled by the political establishment run by men.

According to a report of the State of Nevada's Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children published in 2014, there are an estimated 42 million survivors of child sexual abuse in the United States. However, the recommendations made in the report

---

<sup>24</sup> Tara Reade: What are the sex attack allegations against Joe Biden?, BBC, 3 May 2020,

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-52462113>

follow the time-tested American formula of focusing more on using the issue to seek funds instead of ensuring the safety of children.

Sexual abuse against children is also routinely covered up by members of law enforcement and other government agencies. Paedophilia is especially rampant among US State Department officials, and the US State Department is a major cause of the abuse of young children around the world.

As per a study 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men experienced physical violence by an intimate partner. Further, 1 in 10 women was raped by an intimate partner. 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men have been raped in their lifetime.

Roughly 4 in 10 (42 per cent) working women say they have experienced gender discrimination at the workplace, as per a PEW study<sup>25</sup> 25 per cent of working women were paid fewer wages as compared to men for the same work; 23 per cent were treated as if they were incompetent. In another study published by Brookings, women of colour face more challenges in the workplace.

Even in an industry like media which is at the forefront of advocating for equality and justice, it is surprising to note that only 7 per cent of newsroom employees are Black and only 6 per cent of news directors of local TV newsrooms are Black.<sup>26</sup>

### **Political discrimination**

The USA's 'representative democracy' is not inclusive. Access and participation in democratic processes are limited and blatantly exclude some. The United States of America is in direct

---

<sup>25</sup> Sanders campaign, New York officials cry foul after New York voters report issues,

Gregory Krieg, CNN, 20 April 2016,  
<https://www.cnn.com/2016/04/19/politics/newyork-primary-voter-problem-polls-sanders-de-blasio/index.html>

<sup>26</sup> Convention on the Rights of the Child, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights,  
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instrumentsmechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>

contravention of Article 25 of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights which requires every citizen to have the right to participate in public affairs, to vote, and be elected through universal and equal suffrage guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors, and to have access to public service.

The system of primary elections is manipulated through an elaborate process of making it impossible for candidates who are not part of the ruling clique to win the primaries. It is also a common practice for officials of the political parties to ensure that their favoured candidate is provided the support of the local counties and their names are given a prominent place on the ballot. An example given by the report was the purging of voters supporting Bernie Sanders.<sup>27</sup>

Political parties in the USA have resisted all efforts to provide voter identification cards to Black American citizens. Several states including New York, California, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Oregon refuse to ensure that there is electoral integrity and do not require any form of identification by voters who wish to cast their votes. Instead of ensuring that every voter regardless of his or her race has a voter ID card, an extremely troubling argument used by members of the Democratic Party which opposes the verification of voters using photo IDs is that Black people neither possess photo IDs nor have the competence to obtain photo IDs. Politically aligned Judges too have abused their power in the judiciary and used this argument to strike down laws requiring voter ID. The lack of voter IDs has allowed party workers to harvest unused ballots and stamp them in favour of the party establishment's candidate.<sup>28</sup>

---

<sup>27</sup> N.C. Judges Strike Down A Voter ID Law They Say Discriminates Against Black

Voters, Associated Press via NPR, 17 September 2021, <https://www.npr.org/2021/09/17/1038354159/n-c-judges-strike-down-a-voter-id-law-they-saydiscriminates-against-Black-voter>

<sup>28</sup> Delaware Defends Judicial Balance Rule at Supreme Court, Alexandra Jones,

Another method used by state officials to rig elections is to openly abuse their power and intimidate candidates. Blatant cheating and fraud are the tools used commonly during the electoral process and to impose predetermined decisions. As of May 2022, the Heritage Foundation's database of voter fraud contained 1357 instances of voter fraud in recent years.

One form of cheating that is prevalent in the two major political parties is to take voice votes and assert, "In the opinion of the chair, the Ayes have it" or words to that effect even when such an assertion flies in the face of truth and overrules the will of the majority.<sup>29</sup>

American political system suppresses the expression of independent ideas and their representation in politics using multiple methods. People are forced to choose between one of the two political ideologies – Republican and Democrat – approved by the government, and consequently, only politicians belonging to one of the two political parties become elected representatives. The "liberal" or "progressive" ideology of the Democrats, as well as the "conservative" ideology of the Republicans, are manifestations of the politics of the White people. Specifically, while the "liberals" comprise a coalition of White Supremacists, Roman Catholics and European racist Jews, the "conservatives" represent the White Protestants. The other groups such as the Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asians are accommodated only as junior partners, and that too only if they embrace the political ideologies of the Whites.

Despite Roman Catholics being only 20 percent of the USA's population, they comprise 30 percent of the Senators and members of the House of Representatives, while Jews, who are 2.5 per cent of the population, comprise an additional 7 per cent of the two legislative bodies. Together, they have stitched up a

---

Courthouse News, 5 October 2020,  
<https://www.courthousenews.com/delawaredefends-judicial-balance-rule-at-supreme-court/>

<sup>29</sup> The Kosovo refugee crisis, Astri Suhrke, Michael Barutciski, Peta Sandison, Rick

Garlock, UNHCR Evaluation and Policy Analysis Unit, February 2000,  
<https://www.unhcr.org/3ba0bbeb4.pdf>

majority by controlling and using Blacks, Hispanics, and Sunni Muslims as pawns who are permanently kept in a state of despair and fear that they would lose whatever little political representation they have if they abandoned the specific political affiliation.

A civil rights organization, More Equitable Democracy, has pointed out that the two-party system contributes to structural racism and has called for replacing it with a multi-party system.

### **Role of USA in creating humanitarian crisis**

By starting many unprovoked wars, the United States is in violation of Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as well as the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and is guilty of war crimes.

The Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs estimates that there were a total of 9.2 million displaced people as a result of the American war on Iraq, 5.9 million in Afghanistan, 4.3 million in Somalia, 4.6 million in Yemen, 1.2 million in Libya, and 7.1 million in Syria.<sup>30</sup> In each of these countries, the United States is culpable of starting illegitimate wars, supporting terrorist groups, bombing civilian populations, and either using or aiding those who used chemical and biological weapons.

The foreign policy of the United States is driven by an aim to control all the resources of the world, all the politics of the world, and control the opinions of everyone in the world. This is achieved through various means including persuasion, inducements, creation of strife, and use of force. To implement its goals, an elaborate infrastructure consisting of American government agencies, universities, non-profit groups, media outlets, and international institutions has been set up. The US pressures other countries to adopt policies through its diplomats

---

<sup>30</sup> US diplomat in row over 'skin dirty & dark like Tamilians' remark, The Times of India,

13 August 2011, [https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/us-diplomat-in-rowover-](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/us-diplomat-in-rowover-skin-dirty-dark-like-tamilians-remark/articleshow/9590178.cms?from=mdr)

[skin-dirty-dark-like-tamilians-remark/articleshow/9590178.cms?from=mdr](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/us-diplomat-in-rowover-skin-dirty-dark-like-tamilians-remark/articleshow/9590178.cms?from=mdr)

or its proxies in international institutions, universities, media, and non-profit groups. It also uses its armed forces if needed and also funds subversive forces to destabilise other nations. Underlying all these actions is one fact that is undeniable – its goals are strongly tied to its own racial and religious identity and its choice of allies is also based on racial and religious identity.<sup>31</sup>

The USA routinely makes false accusations against other countries, accusing them of being either violent or oppressive.<sup>7</sup> Through the years, the USA has used NATO as a pawn in spreading conflict and violence in many countries. 241,000 persons including 71,000 civilians were killed in the Afghan war initiated by the US in 2001 using the false pretext that the war was in response to the terrorist attacks against the USA carried out on 11 September 2001. None of those terrorists were Afghans, and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan itself was a creation of the US government. The number of deaths between 1990 and 2000 is estimated to be 1,000,000.<sup>32</sup>

The US is responsible for creating a civil war in the former Yugoslavia by exploiting religious divisions and then relentlessly bombing Belgrade in 1999, and creating a massive refugee problem. At least 130,000 people lost their lives in the wars in former Yugoslavia.

The Ukraine war has resulted, as of 5 May 2022, in 5.7 million refugees leaving their homes and going to other countries while another 6.5 million people are displaced within the country. The US was aware that the expansion of NATO would lead to war because it had been warned by its own ambassadors and politicians.

---

<sup>31</sup> Deaths in Wars and Conflicts in the 20 th Century, Milton Leitenberg, Cornell

University, 2003, [https:// www.clingendael.org /sites/default/ files/pdfs/20060800\\_ cdsp\\_occ\\_leitenberg.pdf](https://www.clingendael.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/20060800_cdsp_occ_leitenberg.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> Taliban enter Afghan capital as US diplomats evacuate by chopper, Reuters, 15

August 2021, <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/us-troops-arrive-afghancapital-assist-evacuations-2021-08-14/>

The American invasion of Iraq by the George W. Bush administration in 2003 was based on two falsehoods. The first falsehood was to lead the public into believing that the war was retaliation against the terrorist attacks on the USA on 11 September 2001. Subsequently, in order to justify its war, the US made another false claim that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. According to the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, “between 184,382 and 207,156 civilians have died from direct war related violence caused by the U.S., its allies, the Iraqi military and police, and opposition forces from the time of the invasion [in 2003] through October 2019.” The United Nations estimated in 2021 that at least 350,000 people had died in Syria as a result of the war that began in 2011.

During the years between the second world war and the collapse of the Soviet Union, what was termed a 'cold war' was a 'cold war' only for Europeans and Americans. The rest of the world faced violent wars and coups.

### **Erosion of free speech**

In spite of the guarantee provided by the Constitution and the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the USA government has tried to curb it not only for citizens of the USA but even manipulate it globally through digital media and the Internet.

The United States claims to be the land of free speech, but these rights merely exist on paper. Opposing views have been banned even from university campuses.

The government spends a lot of resources to ensure that its voice is so loud that it drowns out the opinions of individuals. It is for this purpose that the United States has established a Disinformation Governance Board (DGB) which will police opinions and become an official authority to certify truth.

US State Department cables on Wikileaks clearly prove that the US attempts to shape opinions in other countries. The case of targeting Julian Assange for setting up Wikileaks is the most prominent example of the crackdown on free-speech rights by the US government. Newspaper editorials routinely publish endorsements of political candidates. Political donations by

media houses and persons are not something ethical and they cannot assure the neutrality of media, which is considered the fourth pillar of democracy.

The American government has opposed free speech on the internet without controls and has indulged in online surveillance from the earliest days of the internet. It has also made false accusations of surveillance by other countries.

Various departments in American universities dealing in topics broadly termed “Area Studies” were set up in order to serve the military during the second world war. The National Defense Education Act became law in 1958 and resulted in the government providing massive funding to educational institutions. As a result, American universities have lost their freedom and have become subservient to the interests of the US government's policies. It should surprise no one that the universities in the USA are the loudest proponents of politicians in Washington DC.

### **Economic bullying by USA**

Another area that the report has analysed in an in-depth manner is the global economic bullying carried out by USA. The USA continues to devise economic schemes in order to have unfair advantages over the resources of other people. The entire scheme of the Climate Change policy is to ensure that the Whites of the Western world are the sellers of such permits while other countries like India and China are the buyers of such permits. This would generate a massive transfer of wealth from countries like India to the US and the European Union. The report says that it is clearly not an environmental policy but a financial policy.

The US Government also lobbies on behalf of corporations like Monsanto (now Bayer). Many of the policies they attempt to impose on the world will result in a few large corporations controlling the food supply of the world.

Similarly, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank were created in such a manner granting an edge to the United States and its allies over control of the global economy. The US

Dollar was made the global reserve currency giving an unfair advantage to the USA.

In the early 1990s, the United States was the driving force behind the creation of the World Trade Organization (WTO), yet another organization that has been used to bully weaker countries around the world. One of the effects of WTO has been that farmers in various countries such as Haiti, lost their market to American multinational corporations.

A report published in 2018 by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) titled “Shared Interest: How USAID enhances US Economic Growth” admits the motives behind American aid programs.<sup>33</sup> The report admits that “[t]he primary objective of United States Government (USG) foreign assistance is to promote U.S. and international security and prosperity” and that over “the past 10 years, almost two-thirds of the growth in US goods exports were to major USAID partners.” One statement in the report admits that USAID is involved in sucking money out of Africa to support tens of thousands of American jobs.

### **Racial discrimination and global profiteering during pandemic**

In a display of complete disregard for human life, the USA also used the Covid pandemic to blackmail countries like Brazil and Argentina and held them to ransom by demanding that they give their military bases and other assets in exchange for COVID vaccines.

Talking about the racial discrimination against Blacks, and African-Americans, Sandra L. Shullman, the President of the Psychological Association, rightly mentioned that the Blacks of the country are living in a 'Racism Pandemic'. Apparently, the

---

<sup>33</sup> Photos show bodies piled up and stored in vacant rooms at Detroit hospital, Ryan

Young, Jake Carpenter and Paul P. Murphy, CNN, 14 April 2020,

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/13/health/detroit-hospital-bodies-coronavirustrnd/index.html>

Covid-19 pandemic has taken a toll on the mental health of people but it is aggravated due to racially violent happenings.<sup>34</sup>

Among the structural problems described in the study as the reasons for the higher death rate of Blacks were the fact that Blacks lived in densely populated areas with poor lighting and fewer green areas, and that Blacks lived in such areas due to segregationist policies, and above all the systemic racial bias. Physicians David A. Asch and Rachel M. Werner revealed that the reason for the number of deaths of Blacks being higher than the deaths of Whites was the structural racism in which doctors and hospitals in the United States are effectively paid less to take care of Black patients than they are paid to take care of White patients.<sup>35</sup>

The stock prices of the manufacturers of various vaccines skyrocketed and the beneficiaries were the American oligarchs and at least 75 lawmakers who bought and sold the stocks of the vaccine makers and tests.

According to a report in the New York Post, the United States has been complicit in funding the Wuhan Institute of Virology's research on the Coronavirus which leaked from a lab in Wuhan.

USA has often used developing nations for their clinical trials. In 2013, the Indian Parliament investigated the activities of the Bill

---

<sup>34</sup> Ivermectin, 'Wonder drug' from Japan: the human use perspective, Andy Crump and Satoshi Omura, Proc Jpn Acad Ser B Phys Biol Sci. 2011 Feb 10; 87(2): 13–28. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3043740/>, <https://dx.doi.org/10.2183%2Fpjab.87.13>

<sup>35</sup> As the pandemic raged, at least 75 lawmakers bought and sold stock in companies that make COVID-19 vaccines, treatments, and tests, Camila DeChalus, Kimberly Leonard, Warren Rojas, and Madison Hall, Business Insider, 13 December 2021, <https://www.businessinsider.com/lawmakers-bought-sold-covid-19-relatedstocks-during-pandemic-2021-12>

and Melinda Gates Foundation in India and found that they had been using Indians as guinea pigs for their clinical trials.

In view of the above observations, the report by the Centre of Democracy and Human Rights on USA Human Rights is a comprehensive work that needs to be discussed and debated further.

*(Excerpted from USA Human Rights Report 2022. Access the full report at <https://www.cdphr.org/>)*

**Lekshmi Parameswaran** is a Research Associate at India Policy Foundation. An alumna of Jawaharlal Nehru University, she has been writing on policy issues in South Asia for more than a decade.



भारत नीति प्रतिष्ठान  
**India Policy Foundation**

D-51, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016 (India)

Tele : +91-11-26524018 Fax : +91-11-46089365

E-mail : [info@ipf.org.in](mailto:info@ipf.org.in), [indiapolicy@gmail.com](mailto:indiapolicy@gmail.com)

Website: [www.ipf.org.in](http://www.ipf.org.in)