

# Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- On December 10, 1948, forty eight countries, led by the United States of America, came together at the United Nations held in Paris and signed by UDHR.
- ARTICLE 4. “No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.”

## Title 8 U.S. Code § 1481 - Loss of nationality by native-born or naturalized citizen; voluntary action; burden of proof; presumptions

- There are only a few ways in which an American can lose their citizenship: (1) formal verbal or written renunciation of citizenship, (2) accepting a post with a foreign government or military and swearing an oath to them, and (3) conviction by trial for treason or sedition.
  - Paragraph (a) A person who is a national of the United States whether by birth or naturalization, shall lose his nationality by voluntarily performing any of the following acts with the intention of relinquishing United States nationality:
    - (7) committing any act of treason against, or attempting by force to overthrow, or bearing arms against, the United States, violating or conspiring to violate any of the provisions of section 2383 of title 18, United States Code, or willfully performing any act in violation of section 2385 of title 18, United States Code, or violating section 2384 of said title by engaging in a conspiracy to overthrow, put down, or to destroy by force the Government of the United States, or to levy war against them, **if and when** he is convicted thereof by a court martial or by a court of competent jurisdiction.



# Compliance and Contradiction

- For 69 years, the U.S. has not honored its commitment as a signatory to the 1948 U.N. Declarations of Human Rights agreement
- U.S. Citizens who are convicted of crimes do not lose their citizenship, nor their Constitutional rights.
- Reform of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment is needed to (1) bring the U.S. into compliance with the UDHR, and (2) reconcile the contradiction of the ongoing system of convict slave / servitude labor system in the U.S.

# Constitutional Reform...The Way Forward

- Change the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to read: “Slavery and servitude, in any form, are forever abolished within the United States and its territories.”
- Change State Constitutions to be in aligned with the new Amendment
- Reform Federal and State laws, policies, and procedures to comply with new Constitutional language