The Human Rights & Freedom Program works to protect and advance individual rights and freedom around the world in this new era of great power competition against autocratic adversaries.

**Combatting Human Trafficking and Forced Labor:**
Freedom from slavery is an essential human right, but millions continue to be trapped in exploitation globally. We continue efforts to prevent exploitation and hold perpetrators accountable by working with policymakers, survivors, and other key stakeholders to identify better policies and push for more effective enforcement.

**Countering Authoritarian Repression:**
Human rights around the world are under threat from an Axis of Autocracy that represses their own citizens and seeks to export their abuses and flawed values frameworks. We are working to protect the fundamental rights and freedoms, including core political freedoms, that are at risk from these repressive regimes, and ensuring America succeeds in preventing China, Russia, Iran, and their autocratic allies from reshaping the global order.

**Improving Business & Human Rights Practices:**
Businesses play an important role in safeguarding the rights of workers throughout their supply chains. We develop tools and resources to provide businesses better information on how to prevent human rights violations from occurring, while also advocating for stricter regulations to ensure businesses are held accountable for abuses that occur.

"A WORLD WHERE THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MORE PEOPLE IN MORE PLACES ARE SECURE IS NOT ONLY A MORE JUST WORLD, IT’S A SAFER WORLD."

- The Restless Wave, 2018
We are focused on engaging with American policymakers to ensure human rights and freedom remain a core part of America’s foreign policy.

In The News

“Much of the seafood being exported to the U.S. and Europe from Chinese plants is processed by Uyghur workers.”

There’s something fishy about your seafood. China uses human trafficking to harvest it.

USA Today

“The world remains a dark, brutal place, and the principle of inherent dignity remains under threat. And we have no other choice but to fight to protect it.”

Dignity and Darkness: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 75

The Hill

“The reality is that China, Russia, and Iran pose a connected threat and must be addressed collectively. Authoritarian aggressors connect the dots, even if not all Western strategists do. ‘Pivoting’ away from one region only invites aggression, as the U.S. has now seen in both Europe and the Middle East.”

How the U.S. Can Deter and Defeat the Axis of Autocracy

National Review

“An international team of reporters revealed a systematic pattern of human rights abuses, including debt bondage, forced and captive labor, excessive working hours, physical abuse, denial of medical care, and even deaths from violence or neglect on Chinese ships or in Chinese seafood processing factories.”

The Seafood Industry is a Dangerous Mess, and China is Largely to Blame

Fast Company

“American foreign policy should protect and advance American values, and that these are not the same values all other countries—particularly our chief competitors—seek to protect and advance. While the United States has been guilty at times of a flawed application of its values, the values of Xi, Putin, Iran’s leaders, and Hamas are simply fundamentally flawed. We are better.”

What It Means To Be Better

Commentary

Incubating Tools:

Our program develops and incubates practical tools to prevent and address human rights violations. With support from the Rockefeller Foundation and in collaboration with Google, Bridgewater, and Dun & Bradstreet, we have been building the Forced Labor Open Risk Estimation Tool to better inform investors of the risk of forced labor within various supply chains.

Convenings:

We regularly bring together policymakers, practitioners, experts, civil society, journalists, and human rights leaders to identify best practices and develop innovative policy solutions. Through our Global Consortium on Prosecuting Human Trafficking, we convene prosecutors from 18 different countries to collaborate on more effective prosecutions of human traffickers.