



THE PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
IN GENEVA

June 19, 2019

Surya Deva  
Working Group on the Issue of Human Rights and  
Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises

Ivana Radacic  
Working Group on the Issue of Discrimination  
Against Women in Law and in Practice

Joseph Cannataci  
Special Rapporteur on the Right to Privacy

Dubravka Simonovic  
Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women,  
its Causes and Consequences

Dear Chairpersons and Mandate Holders:

Thank you for your letter of March 28, 2019 regarding the Absher application.

Please find the response of the United States enclosed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Mack". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing 'J' and a cursive 'Mack'.

Jason R. Mack  
Human Rights Counselor

**SUBJECT: U.S. Response to UN questionnaire on the Absher App**

The United States thanks the Working Group on the Issue of Human Rights and Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises, the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Privacy, the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences, and the Working Group on the Issue of Discrimination Against Women in Law and in Practice for their March 28, 2019 letter to Secretary of State Pompeo about the Absher app. We welcome the opportunity to offer the following comments.

The United States affirms our support for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights to freedom of movement and from arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy for all individuals, both women and men. We also affirm our commitment to implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Pursuant to this commitment, we regularly engage with U.S. businesses to discuss human rights due diligence and to highlight heightened risks of human rights violations or abuses in various countries and regions. We urge the Government of Saudi Arabia to adhere to and promote these human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as equal and individual liberties, opportunities, and choices for women and men without distinction, and to refrain from measures that may not only impair enjoyment of human rights, but also severely limit women's economic potential and contributions.