# UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON EXTREME POVERTY & HUMAN RIGHTS

### **UNITED STATES COUNTRY VISIT – DECEMBER 1-15, 2017**

### WHO IS THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR?



The Special Rapporteur (SR) is an independent human rights expert appointed by the UN to monitor, report, and advise on extreme poverty and its relationship with human rights around the world. NYU Law Professor Philip Alston is the current SR on extreme poverty and human rights.

#### **TERMS TO KNOW**

as defined by the SR

**HUMAN RIGHTS** are rights that belong to all people, regardless of their gender, race, national origin, economic status, or other factors.

**POVERTY** includes a lack of income, a lack of access to basic services and social exclusion. Poverty can be both a cause and a consequence of human rights violations.

### THE VISIT -

At government invitation, the SR examines laws, policies, and practices that cause or perpetuate poverty, and their impacts on human rights. The SR then works to identify good practices and makes recommendations to advance human rights.

WHAT IS A COUNTRY VISIT?

# WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE VISIT?

The SR will meet with federal, state, and local decision-makers, national and local organizations, and community members.

Through a series of consultations, local civil society groups and interested individuals will share concerns related to the human rights of those living in poverty, and recommend ways to address current challenges.

#### WHAT INFORMATION IS COLLECTED?

The SR has already received written submissions and will continue to collect stories and testimony about poverty and human rights in the US during the visit.



# WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE VISIT?

At the end of his visit, the SR will hold a press conference and announce his preliminary findings and recommendations.

In June 2018, the SR will release a final mission report that highlights his main concerns and recommendations.

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## HOW CAN YOU ENGAGE WITH THE VISIT?

- Attend public meetings with the SR.
- Follow the SR on Twitter (@ Alston\_UNSR) and Facebook (AlstonUNSR).
- Submit a written statement.

Your engagement can raise the visibility of human rights concerns and lived experiences, ignite policy discussions, advance advocacy goals, build coalitions, and influence UN recommendations to the United States.







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