

THE LIGHT OF EXAMINING THE INTERPRETATIONS  
AND RESERVATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES

**TAKÁCS, IZOLDA**  
**PHD STUDENT**

*Eötvös Loránd University*

*Academic supervisor: Prof. Dr. Gábor Kardos univ. professor and Dr. habil Gábor*

*Kajtár associate professor*

*Research field: International law*

*E-mail: izolda.t@hotmail.com*

The first part of my presentation I will provide a short introduction to the concept of torture and describes it as both a jus cogens human right and a criminal act. I will also address the specific interpretation of the United States regarding its reservations towards the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT). Despite being a signatory to the convention, the United States has a unique interpretation of the definition of torture and has made reservations to certain aspects of UNCAT.

In the second part of my presentation, I will focus on the accountability of member states in preventing and addressing instances of torture. Specifically, I will compare and contrast two commonly used methods – the Convention against Torture (CAT) and its Optional Protocol (OPCAT) – for surveying and preventing infringements, as well as the challenges and problems that arise from these different approaches and accountability systems. It is important to note that although the USA has ratified UNCAT with reservations, it has not joined the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture or other regional human rights conventions. Additionally, I will briefly touch on the analysis and comparison of relevant international court cases related to the definition of prohibited treatment in conjunction with the definition of torture.

*Keywords:* Human Rights, prohibition of torture, absolute rights, different approaches and accountability systems, jus cogens