

efforts across USAID and State Department policies and programs must be continued and should not be seen as duplicative but rather as critical to the success of the U.S. Government's efforts.

This work must be complemented by the use of specific Special Envoys or offices committed to breaking down silos and working across USAID and State Department offices and bureaus, and with other U.S. Agencies. Not all development and diplomatic professionals understand the importance of working with vulnerable or marginalized populations and eliminating or demoting senior positions focused on these populations would harm U.S. efforts to address the needs and rights of these populations, as well as U.S. national interests.

People living in countries that do not have immediate strategic influence and/or importance to U.S. national interests must not be ignored. The development of societies that truly achieve gender equality requires long-term investment given that gender discrimination is at the heart of poverty and that dismantling discrimination requires sustained, holistic investment. Stable societies, in terms of security, health, and economics, require the full and free participation of all people, including women, and stable societies are necessary for US national security. This has long been a central value of the United States; backing away from this tenet would upend decades of U.S. commitment to democratic, inclusive principles.

Transparency and accountability: Foreign assistance must be delivered with the highest levels of transparency and accountability. Civil society provides a critical accountability measure to government efforts. It is vital that a broad range of civil society organizations and experts in foreign assistance are meaningfully consulted during redesign efforts and on an ongoing basis as part of development programming and diplomatic efforts. The redesign should encourage State Department and USAID staff posted domestically and overseas to seek out feedback and input from diverse civil society stakeholders. Furthermore, the redesign should outline space for civil society engagement and cooperation in the future efforts of the State Department and USAID. We also encourage the Administration to work with Congress throughout the process given the role of oversight and budget appropriation of Congress.

Please reach out with any questions; we are happy to consult further.

Sincerely,

1. Advancing Girls' Education in Africa
2. Advocates for Youth
3. Amnesty International USA
4. CARE USA
5. Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities
6. Catholics for Choice
7. Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)
8. ChildFund International
9. Educate Girls
10. Free the Slaves
11. Futures Without Violence