

State Department On The Hill



"Their cause is our cause. Women's issues, as we know, are more than just women's issues. They're families' issues, they're economic issues, they're security issues, they're justice issues. And they matter to all of us, men as well as women, boys as well as girls, those of us who live in free countries as well as those of us who don't. That's why, including with the work of Secretary Clinton and Ambassador Melanne Verwee, the Obama Administration has put advancing the status of women and girls right at the center of America's foreign policy."

From Secretary of State John Kerry's [Remarks](#) at the International Women of Courage Awards on March 8, 2013.

Department Press Releases and Headlines

Latest Department Press Releases

Empowering Young People as Economic and Civic Actors



"In his first major [address](#) as Secretary of State, John Kerry spoke about young people acting as a "global cohort." He spoke about a generation proficient with technologies that keep them connected in ways no prior generation has ever been, and the opportunities that this presents all of us.

On his [inaugural trip](#) overseas, Secretary Kerry [engaged](#) this generation during #YouthConnect, a special [event](#) at the high-tech, coffee shop Basecamp in Berlin. The Secretary and more than 100 young people discussed foreign policy and global issues. The participants demonstrated a keen sense of global citizenship by asking questions about a broad range of topics and regions. This event illustrated that young people do want to engage with U.S. diplomats and policymakers to find solutions to issues of global concern."

From Secretary Kerry's Special Adviser on Global Youth Issues and Director of the Office of Global Youth Issues, Zeenat Rahman's [DipNote blog post](#), from March 6, 2013.

Latest Statements From Dept

Shoulder to Shoulder: Delivering Real Results for Women and Girls



"Working to promote [gender equality and women's empowerment](#) around the world can be a challenge. There are difficult days when you wonder if your efforts are having a real impact on the lives of women and girls facing violence, deprivation, discrimination and disempowerment on a daily basis. But when you have the opportunity to meet individuals fighting to create a better life for themselves, their families, and their communities, it makes it all worthwhile.

Yesterday was one of those days.

Yesterday, USAID was proud to host the [International Women of Courage awardees](#). These remarkable women put themselves at risk every day to make a difference not only for themselves but for women and girls everywhere."

From Ambassador Donald Steinberg, Deputy Administrator of USAID's [DipNote blog post](#), from March 8, 2013

STATE DEPARTMENT FELLOWS FOR CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES

For more than 25 years, the Pearson Fellows Program has placed hundreds of Foreign Service Officers (FSOs) in House and Senate offices and committees. Members of Congress benefit from the foreign policy perspective and overseas experience of a Fellow, who in turn becomes reacquainted with important domestic issues as they affect international affairs.

Sixteen new FSO Pearson Fellows are available for placement this summer for a one year period. The Pearson Fellows are considered rising stars in the Department for the depth of their professional expertise and the caliber of their performance exhibited during a variety of overseas and domestic posts. All have considerable overseas experience, strong interpersonal skills, excellent analytical and writing abilities, and a Top Secret security clearance. They seek their own placements based on their background and interests, and their political independence is the key to the most authentic and successful experience possible.

Fellows typically do the same work as a Legislative Assistant with specific responsibility for foreign policy issues. On a personal staff, the Fellow is typically asked to take on responsibility for a range of issues, including some domestic areas. When on a Committee staff, the FSO normally has a specific area of expertise and responsibility, depending upon the work of the Committee. Congressional offices are not responsible for salary costs, but by statute, Fellows are considered Congressional employees for payment of travel and other expenses.

The Pearson Fellows for the 2013-2014 timeframe are actively looking for placements. Congressional offices interested in benefiting from the Pearson Fellows' firsthand knowledge of foreign affairs and diplomacy, should contact the State Department's Congressional Liaison Office at 228-1603 in 189 Russell or at 226-4644 in B330 in the Rayburn House Office Building for additional information.

Spring Break Travel Overseas: Get Smart. Get Enrolled. Get Insured.

The Department of State's highest priority is protecting U.S. citizens abroad. It's the time of year when many of your young constituents will be heading somewhere sunny and exotic for spring break. Here are a few tips we ask you to pass on to help them enjoy a safe and memorable trip:

- Get Smart:** Check out studentsabroad.state.gov. This website serves as a one-stop shop with useful safety and travel information, and should be the first place students visit when considering a trip. There you can find out what to do before traveling abroad. Get information about specific countries, visa requirements, local laws, crime and safety issues, precautions to take, and contact numbers for the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.
- Get Enrolled:** Sign up for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov/step/> so the State Department can better assist in an emergency.
- Get Insured:** Check whether current health insurance provides coverage outside the United States, including hospitalization and medical evacuation. If not, invest in your parents' peace of mind and get added insurance protection for your trip.

Remember, the Department of State is here to help. Contact us in an emergency at 1-888-407-4747, if calling from the U.S. or Canada, or 202-501-4444, if calling from overseas. *Get Smart. Get Enrolled. Get Insured.*

This Week's Hearings

Wendy Sherman, Under Secretary for political Affairs, "Strategic Counterterrorism: Meeting Current and Emerging Challenges (Closed)" *Senate Foreign Relations Committee*, March 13, 2013

Ambassador Robert Ford, "Oversight Hearing: Syria (Closed)", *House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs*, March 13, 2013

Recent Travel Warnings and Alerts

RECENTLY-ANNOUNCED TRAVEL WARNINGS ([FOR FULL LIST CLICK HERE](#)):

- [LIBYA](#)
- [SYRIA](#)
- [IRAQ](#)

RECENT TRAVEL ALERTS ([FOR FULL LIST CLICK HERE](#)):

- [KENYA](#)
- [EGYPT](#)
- [ALGERIA](#)

NOTE: Travel Warnings are issued to describe long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable, while Travel Alerts are issued for short-term conditions that pose imminent risks to the security of U.S. citizens.



Department of State Contacts

- [State Department Telephone Directory/Country Offices](#)
- [Bureau of Consular Affairs Congressional Website](#)
- [U.S. Embassy Websites and Key Officers at Posts Abroad](#)
- [Country Specific Information](#)
- [Foreign Embassies and Consulates throughout the U.S.](#)
- [United States Agency for International Development \(USAID\)](#)

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Please pass this along to your friends and colleagues on the Hill. Feedback to AnselmanBE@state.gov is welcome and encouraged.

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