



First Lady Melania Trump and Under Secretary Shannon pose with the 2017 International Women of Courage Awardees in Washington, D.C., March 29, 2017. Department of State

including at the United Nations, U.S. national interests would not be protected. U.S. leadership ensures that these partnerships remain healthy bidirectional relationships.

U.S. senior officials also engage publicly and privately with citizens in countries eager for progress and those burdened by oppressive governments. The U.S. Government pushes back on attempts to dismantle institutions, and works with like-minded governments. The Department also engages regional mechanisms to advance our ideals and to deter backsliding by governments.

Diplomatic and Consular Programs

Twenty-first century diplomatic and development challenges demand new approaches to meet our goals. As information can be globally disseminated instantly, our ability to engage quickly and effectively with the multitude of stakeholders, customers, and audiences is a core competency for our high-performing, motivated professionals. Meeting these challenges requires a flexible and efficient support platform for our global staff. As the Department adapts how it delivers on mission, our ability to keep personnel safe from physical and virtual threats is a top priority. By ensuring that only

the right people are allowed on systems with a sophisticated cybersecurity infrastructure, the Department and USAID can carry out the mission while maintaining security. State and USAID are also striving to ensure that all personnel, whether they are diplomats, development professionals, security agents, or family members, receive the right training at the right time so that everyone is a contributor to overall security in both the real and digital worlds.

A significant component of the Department's work is directly tied to defending our borders. We help to prevent the abuse of the U.S. immigration system by continually improving the visa system. Our work ensures that the United States remains the destination of those "yearning to breathe free" and that the *American Dream* can be more than just a dream.

Administration of Foreign Affairs

In the 21st Century, effective engagement with international partners, stakeholders, customers, and audiences requires data-informed decision making and risk-based investments that apply new technologies and innovative approaches for strengthening collaboration, ensuring coordinated and integrated strategic planning linked to budget priorities,