

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE EMBASSY OF EL SALVADOR  
IN WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF  
MARYLAND TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO SALVADORAN NATIONAL VICTIMS OF  
ABUSE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ABUSE, STALKING AND HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING**

The Embassy of El Salvador in Washington, D.C., through its Consular Section ("the Consular Section") and the Secretary of State of Maryland, through the Maryland Safe at Home Address Confidentiality Program ("the Program"), hereinafter jointly referred to as "the Participants";

**CONSIDERING** that the Government of El Salvador regards the consular protection of its nationals living abroad a priority;

**BEARING IN MIND** that the Consular Section represents El Salvador before the authorities of the United States of America, in terms of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** that the Program is administered by the Secretary of State of Maryland pursuant to the laws of the State of Maryland for the purpose of providing address confidentiality and mail forwarding services to victims of abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking;

**RECOGNIZING** that supporting and empowering victims of abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking and raising awareness of these aggressions is a common need for a considerable number of Salvadoran nationals in the United States of America; and

**CONSCIOUS** of the importance of promoting respect for human rights and in particular to increase the scope and number of Salvadoran nationals who benefit from the services provided by the Participants,

Have reached the following understanding:

**PARAGRAPH I  
Objective**

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to establish a collaborative framework between the Participants in order to increase the protection and promotion of the rights of Salvadoran national victims of abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking who reside in the State of Maryland.

**PARAGRAPH II  
Scope of cooperation**

In order to achieve the objective of this MoU, the Participants intend, to the extent of their capabilities to:

1. Join efforts to identify opportunities for rendering comprehensive support to Salvadoran national victims of abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking.
2. Organize and coordinate educational workshops, courses and seminars for the Salvadoran community, to inform them about the Program available to assist victims of abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking who qualify for it under valid laws and regulations of the State of Maryland
3. Collect and share information about the resources provided for victims of abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking, and other agencies and institutions that provide free or low-cost services to Salvadoran nationals, regardless of their immigration status.
4. Build collaborative networks to refer victims of abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking who seek assistance to maintain a safe and secure home.

### **PARAGRAPH III Responsibilities of the Participants**

The Consular Section intends, to the extent of its capabilities, to:

1. Refer Salvadoran national victims of abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking who reside in the State of Maryland to the Program to apply for address confidentiality and mail forwarding services.
2. Provide, after consulting with the victim, the contact information of the Program, in order for the victim to apply to become a participant.
3. Observe strict confidentiality of the contact information obtained under this MoU and not address the media regarding the victim, unless the Program participant provides prior written consent.
4. Provide translation into Spanish of certain Program materials as requested by the Maryland Safe at Home Program.

The Program intends, to the extent of its capabilities, to:

1. Provide its services with due diligence to victims referred by the Consular Section, in accordance with the laws of the State of Maryland, and provide address confidentiality and mail-forwarding services to victims who meet the eligibility criteria set forth in the Family Law Article, § 4-522, and State Government Article, § 7-302 and any applicable rules or regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State to administer the Program.
2. Observe strict confidentiality of the information referred under this MoU and, unless prior written consent of the Program participant, it will not share any information with the media.
3. Provide and coordinate subject to the expertise and knowledge of the Maryland Safe at Home Program, training courses for the Consular Section's staff.

4. Register Consular Section staff who complete the application assistance training provided by the Program and submit a signed application assistance agreement. Application assistant training shall equip Consular Section staff with information necessary to identify potential participants among Salvadoran national victims and initiate their application process to the Program.
5. Provide referrals to appropriate service providers as the Program becomes aware of additional needs of any Salvadoran national victim referred by the Consular Section.

#### **PARAGRAPH IV General provisions**

For the purpose of this MoU, the Consular Section designates its address as the one located at: 926 Philadelphia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, and the Program designates its address as the one located at: Secretary of State, 16 Francis Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

The Participants intend, to the extent of their capabilities, to notify the other Participant, within a term no longer than five (5) calendar days, any change of address, telephone number or email.

#### **PARAGRAPH V Coordination and Monitoring Mechanism**

To achieve the objective of this MoU, each Participant intends to designate a coordinator who will be jointly responsible for formulating the procedure for referring victims, registering application assistants, and complying with the decisions of the Participants under this MoU. Coordinators may assemble whenever they consider it appropriate to discuss any aspect of the referral procedures addressed by this MoU.

The Consular Section appoints the Minister Counselor, and the Program appoints the Director of Special Projects, as coordinators for this MoU.

#### **PARAGRAPH VI Use of Information**

Neither Participant, without the prior written consent of the other Participant, will use any information it receives from the other Participant under this MoU for purposes not directly related to the exercise of the MoU.

#### **PARAGRAPH VII Dispute Resolution**

The Participants may consult with each other, at any time, to address any issue regarding the interpretation or application of this MoU.

**PARAGRAPH VIII  
Legal Effect**

The Participants act in good faith in the implementation of this MoU, which does not create legally binding rights and/or obligations, nor financial commitments.

This MoU does not preclude either Participant from entering into similar arrangements with any other entity.

**PARAGRAPH IX  
Final Provisions**

This MoU becomes effective on the date of its signing, for a period of three (3) years.

Either Participant may end its participation in this MoU at any time, by providing written notification to the other Participant with at least thirty (30) days in advance.

This MoU may be modified by mutual written consent between both Participants.

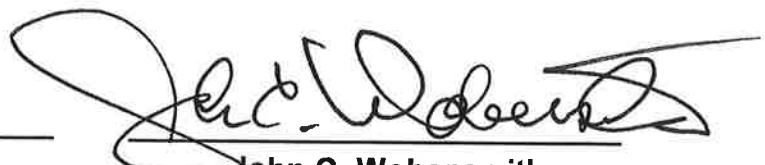
Signed in Annapolis, Maryland, on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021, in duplicate, in the English and Spanish languages; both texts being equally valid.

**FOR THE EMBASSY OF EL  
SALVADOR IN WASHINGTON,  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
OF MARYLAND**

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**Milena Mayorga  
Ambassador**



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**John C. Wobensmith  
Secretary of State**