



HIGHLIGHTS

Office of Inspector General
United States Department of State

ISP-I-21-10

What OIG Inspected

OIG inspected the Office of Global Women's Issues' executive direction, policy implementation, foreign assistance, and administrative operations.

What OIG Recommends

OIG made 7 recommendations to the Office of Global Women's Issues.

In its comments on the draft report, the Office of Global Women's Issues concurred with 6 recommendations and disagreed with 1 recommendation. OIG considers 6 recommendations resolved and 1 recommendation unresolved. The Office of Global Women's Issues' response to each recommendation, and OIG's reply, can be found in the Recommendations section of this report. The office's formal written response is reprinted in its entirety in Appendix B.

January 2021

OFFICE OF INSPECTIONS
DOMESTIC OPERATIONS

Inspection of the Office of Global Women's Issues

What OIG Found

- A new Ambassador-at-Large began leading the Office of Global Women's Issues in January 2020, after the position had been vacant for 3 years.
- Under the office's new leadership, stakeholders from the Department of State and other Federal agencies described the Office of Global Women's Issues as reasserting a lead role on women's issues and greatly increasing its influence in the interagency process.
- The office's organizational structure did not align staff roles, priorities, and responsibilities with operational needs, which could limit the office's effectiveness in its pursuit of foreign policy goals and objectives.
- A lack of clarity on the bureaucratic status of the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Unit generated confusion about the new unit's status and its relationship with the Office of Global Women's Issues.
- The office lacked a public diplomacy strategy for external messaging.
- Oversight of foreign assistance management, including documentation of monitoring and timely close out of grants and cooperative agreements, needed improvement.
- The office did not adhere to requirements regarding unliquidated obligations, resulting in \$300,000 in FY 2019 funds being returned to the U.S. Department of the Treasury and putting an additional \$3.5 million in FY 2020 funds at risk.
- During the inspection, leadership from the Office of Global Women's Issues took action to address an office space ventilation system problem that had generated health concerns among the staff.