



U.S. Embassy Budapest, Hungary

May 2022

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Department has started to take action as the result of a [May report](#) on the recruitment and selection process for Foreign Service Selection Boards (FSSBs). This report was initiated after OIG received a whistleblower complaint alleging that the Bureau of Global Talent Management’s Office of Performance Evaluation had placed friends and family members as public members on FSSBs. As part of the report, OIG identified several deficiencies in the selection processes for public members. The Department agreed with all of OIG’s recommendations and has taken action on some of them, such as updating the qualifications on its solicitations, broadening the scope of solicitations, and implementing a scoring rubric when interviewing public members.

In May 2022, Kentey Ramone Fielder was [sentenced to 40 months](#) in federal prison, followed by a 3-year term of supervised release, and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$14,220. Five months earlier, Fielder pled guilty to wire fraud and aggravated identity theft in connection with a fraudulent scheme he manufactured while debarred from federal contracting. OIG and other federal partner law enforcement agencies determined Fielder posed as a government contracting official and sent fake contracts to vendors to perform work. Fielder received payment after he fraudulently induced the government to award a contract to his company, Clean Contracting Services.

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

Consular Engagement Allowed Intercountry Adoptions to Continue During COVID-19-Related Restrictions (*Inspection of Embassy Sofia, Bulgaria, [ISP-I-22-18](#)*)

When strict COVID-related entry restrictions for non-citizens were enacted in 2020 and threatened to disrupt dozens of adoptions by prospective adopting parents from the United States, Embassy Sofia’s Consular Section took prompt action. The embassy proactively engaged with Bulgaria’s Ministry of Justice, which oversees its intercountry adoption process, to ensure that incomplete adoptions could be finalized. The

RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS

as of May 31, 2022

1,031*
Open
Recommendations

15
Recommendations
Closed During May

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*This total also includes 45 recommendations associated with IBWC.

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embassy obtained travel pre-clearance for adoptive parents and negotiated a way to complete adoption proceedings for adoptive parents who could not travel to Bulgaria. The embassy successfully facilitated 39 adoptions June through September 2020 despite COVID-19 restrictions, providing vital family reunification services.

CodeGirls Program Helped Address Tech Sector Gender Gap (*Inspection of Embassy Athens and Constituent Post, Greece, [ISP-I-22-14](#)*)

To help close Greece’s gender gap in the technology sector, Embassy Athens’ Public Diplomacy Section partnered with a Greek nongovernmental organization to launch CodeGirls, a computer programming course intended to educate, inspire, and equip 10- to 16-year-old girls with job skills. What started in 2015 as a \$24,000 pilot project has become one of the mission’s most prominent programs, with steady requests from schools and local governments to expand the program to their communities. As of October 2021, CodeGirls trained more than 500 girls across eight Greek cities. During the inspection, the mission expanded the program to the Greek island of Syros and broadened the initiative with a new “CodeMoms” set of courses, thanks to a \$200,000 contribution from a major U.S. technology company.

NEW WORK STARTED

- *Audit of the International Cooperative Administrative Support Services' Furniture and Appliance Pool Program Fees*
- *Audit of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, U.S. Section, FY 2022 and FY 2021 Financial Statements*
- *Audit of the U.S. Agency for Global Media FY 2022 and FY 2021 Financial Statements*

REPORTS ISSUED

- *Audit of Department of State Actions To Prevent Unlawful Trafficking in Persons Practices When Executing Security, Construction, and Facility and Household Services Contracts at Overseas Posts* ([AUD-MERO-22-28](#))
- *Audit of the Department of State Management and Monitoring of Federal Assistance Awards to For-Profit Organizations* ([AUD-CGI-22-26](#))

- *Review of the Recruitment and Selection Process for Public Members of Foreign Service Selection Boards* ([ESP-22-02](#))
- *Inspection of Embassy Sofia, Bulgaria* ([ISP-I-22-18](#))
- *Review of Department of State Evacuations from Wuhan, China in Response to COVID-19* ([ISP-I-22-19](#))
- *Inspection of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's Diplomatic Courier Service* ([ISP-I-22-13](#))
- *Inspection of Embassy Budapest, Hungary* ([ISP-I-22-12](#))
- *Inspection of Embassy Athens and Constituent Post, Greece* ([ISP-I-22-14](#))
- *Classified Inspection of Embassy Budapest, Hungary* (ISP-S-22-12)
- *Operation Enduring Sentinel/Operation Freedom's Sentinel, Lead Inspector General Report to the United States Congress, January 1, 2022-March 31, 2022*
- *Operation Inherent Resolve, Lead Inspector General Report to the United States Congress, January 1, 2022-March 31, 2022*



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