



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 4, 2025

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**SPRING INSTITUTE FOR INTERCULTURAL LEARNING CONDEMNS CUTS TO
FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS**

**INTERCULTURAL COMMUNITY INSISTS THAT EXTENDING HUMANITARIAN AID AND
WELCOMING REFUGEES ARE RESPONSIBLE AND COMPASSIONATE INVESTMENTS**

Denver, CO—Spring Institute is deeply concerned about the Trump administration’s continuing attacks on U.S. humanitarian foreign assistance programs and the refugee resettlement program. These inhumane and irresponsible policy moves undermine U.S. humanitarian and diplomatic standing worldwide while threatening health, safety, and security around the globe.

This week the Trump administration halted all foreign assistance spending and effectively shut down the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), locking doors to offices and putting numerous senior officials on administrative leave from doing their work to promote global development. After publicly disparaging USAID as a “criminal organization,” eccentric businessman Elon Musk, who has been appointed to head the administration’s anti-federal spending task force—known as the “Department of Government Efficiency” (DOGE)—shared on social media that USAID would be dismantled.

Additionally, DOGE gained access to the U.S. Treasury Department’s payment systems late last week and issued derogatory social media posts equating payments to charities, such as Lutheran Family Services and Catholic Charities, with “money laundering operations” and vowing to stop those payments. The previous week, the Trump administration had already halted funding of the U.S. Resettlement and Placement program through the U.S. Department of State. Lutheran Family Services and Catholic Charities are two of the nation’s long-standing [refugee resettlement agencies](#), organizations that provide basic reception and integration support for those being forced to flee war, violence or persecution and who have undergone an extensive application and screening process to be granted refugee status and given permission to enter the U.S.

While the Trump administration suggests that their immigration deterrence tactics are grounded in economic and security concerns, the facts about refugee admissions do not align with those claims. Refugees undergo the most extensive security screening of any individuals provided visas to the U.S., often waiting over a year to receive clearance to travel to the U.S. to start new lives. Under decades of previous Republican and Democratic leadership since the U.S. Refugee Act was signed in 1980, the U.S. typically resettled between 100,000 to 200,000 refugees a year. Prior to Trump’s crackdown, the U.S. was one of many countries working with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees in resettling approximately 1% of the world’s 43+ million refugees. Our commitment to embracing refugees has strengthened our humanitarian and global diplomatic standing while boosting our economy, as [investments in refugee resettlement are shown to have net economic benefits](#).

“There is nothing wasteful about deterring international conflicts and reducing the likelihood of more forced human displacement,” said Paula Schriefer, Spring Institute President and CEO. “The United States spends less than 1% of its overall budget on foreign assistance, yet that funding has immeasurable impacts in terms of helping other nations combat disease, build democratic institutions, and uphold human rights. Moreover, the U.S. has both the capability and moral responsibility as one of the world’s wealthiest countries to provide democratic safe haven for some of those fleeing violence and persecution elsewhere. Extending humanitarian aid and welcoming refugees are complementary investments with invaluable returns on a global scale.”

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Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning is a nonprofit organization with a mission to build a thriving intercultural community through learning, language access, and advocacy. To find out more, visit our website at www.springinstitute.org and follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#).