

# FORTUNE/U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE GLOBAL WOMEN'S MENTORING PARTNERSHIP



## EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Fortune/U.S. State Department Global Women's Mentoring Partnership, a public-private partnership between the U.S. Department of State and Fortune Most Powerful Women, provides women with the skills and experience to become leaders in their businesses, communities and countries. This international exchange program pairs senior women executives in the United States with emerging leaders from around the world to advance the status of women in business. Vital Voices Global Partnership has worked with the State Department and Fortune to implement this exchange program since 2006.



VITAL VOICES  
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP



## "When women do better, countries do better."

Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs **THOMAS SHANNON**

Following the 2016 Fortune/U.S. State Department Global Women's Mentoring Partnership, 100% of alumnae implemented changes to their business organization as a result of participating in the program, and mentored someone inside their organization.

### EMPOWERING WOMEN LEADERS

With the goal of providing the international women with the skills and experience to support growth and prosperity in their countries, the program begins in Washington, D.C., where they meet with senior women in government, business, and the non-profit sector. Their two-week professional mentorships in cities across the United States give them the opportunity to observe best practices, develop management skills, and cultivate a valuable network of global professionals. The program also features media training and leadership seminars with senior women executives in New York City.

### BUILDING GLOBAL NETWORKS

For both the American businesswomen and international mentees the professional and personal ties that grow out of the mentoring relationships extend well beyond the program, and enable them to see their sectors and countries in a new light. In 2016, over 83% of participants continued to receive useful business advice and encouragement from their mentors that strengthened their businesses after the conclusion of the program. Some examples include:

**ELSAMARIE from India** created the Dot Foundation (Safecity), a virtual crowdmapping platform for victims of sexual violence and abuse to anonymously document these events. Communities in India, Cameroon, Kenya, and Nepal use this data to track and respond to gender-based violence. She was awarded with the 2017 Vital Voices Light of Freedom Award. – 2016

**FLORENCE from Nigeria** saw the importance of stepping into the public eye and becoming an advocate for important causes after her participation in the program when she joined the leadership of the #BringBackOurGirls Campaign. – 2014

**TIDINGS from Zimbabwe** started Mothers Are Geniuses, an economic empowerment and mentoring platform providing micro-loans and business training to women after her mentor encouraged her to pay forward her experience. In 2015, she won the Goldman Sachs and Fortune Global Women Leaders Award granting her \$25,000 to continue to grow the program. – 2014

**LARA from Jordan** credits the program with giving her the confidence to co-found an organization called SADAQA that advocates for the provision of daycare centers in the workplace to increase women's economic participation. – 2010

**MARIA from Guatemala** created new strategies to expand her efforts in connecting local weavers and artisans to national and international markets through her mentorship. As a result, Maria's company, Kiej de Los Bosques, has crossed borders, founded new partnerships, and brought prosperity to rural communities in Guatemala. – 2006