

THE DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 11, 2023

Dear Sexual Assault Advisory Council:

Thank you for the time and expertise you dedicate to the Sexual Assault Advisory Council (SAAC), and for your work to develop the [2022 Peace Corps SAAC Annual Report](#). The observations and recommendations outlined in this year's report provide objective feedback critical to the agency's institutional commitment of a trauma-informed and survivor-centered approach to sexual assault prevention and response. The SAAC's thorough review of Peace Corps' Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) program, including trainings, policies, and documentation, helps the agency to continually improve its systems; strengthen its accountability to communities and to Volunteers, past and present; and to contribute to the global movement working to end sexual violence.

I appreciate the SAAC's recognition of the progress we have made to address recommendations offered in the 2021 SAAC Report, as we integrate best practices into our SAPR program and throughout the agency's work. The agency takes note of the report's findings and is actively reviewing the six recommendations around deploying a confidential reporting resource; differentiating between sexual assault and sexual harassment in policies and procedures; reviewing staffing within our Office of Victim Advocacy (OVA); extending tenure of key SAPR staff and the SAAC; and promoting broader representation through the SAAC member selection process.

With the receipt of this report and these key recommendations, on behalf of staff worldwide, I reaffirm our steadfast commitment to strengthening and consistently implementing SAPR training, programming, and response systems to equitably deliver quality care for Peace Corps Volunteers, staff, and the community members they work alongside regardless of one's background or identity.

At the Peace Corps, each day of the year is an opportunity to create change for the future. I am so grateful for the support of the SAAC to guide our efforts toward broadening our approach to sexual assault prevention and response. We look forward to a continued partnership as you work to assess and recommend further cross-cutting improvements to the SAPR program.

Sincerely,



Carol Spahn
Director